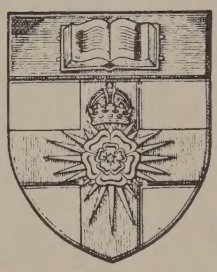
REFERENCE

vl. Papers.



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
LIBRARY

REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

SEVEN VOLUMES.

—(3.)—

DISTRESS FROM WANT OF EMPLOYMENT (*continued*).

SESSION 1.—5 *February* 1895——6 *July* 1895.
SESSION 2.—12 *August* 1895——5 *September* 1895.

VOL. IX.

1895.

BIBL. LONDIN.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1895.

SEVEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

THIRD VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for the House of Commons.*

DISTRESS FROM WANT OF EMPLOYMENT—(*continued*).

365. Third Report from the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment, with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Index. p. 1

THIRD REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

DISTRESS FROM WANT OF EMPLOYMENT;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
2 *July* 1895.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

365.

Distress from Want of Employment.

Ordered,—[*Wednesday, 13th February* 1895]:—That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report as to—(*a*) The extent to which Distress, arising from Want of Employment, prevails; (*b*) The powers at present possessed by Local or Central Authorities in relation to such cases; (*c*) Any steps which may be taken, whether by changes in Legislation or Administration, to deal with the evils arising therefrom; and (*d*) To make an Interim Report to the House at the earliest possible date on what steps should be taken either by Parliament, the Departments of State, or Local Authorities, to meet the Distress this Winter.

Ordered,—[*Friday, 15th February* 1895]:—That the Select Committee do consist of Twenty-five Members.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. Boscawen.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Crean.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

That Seven be the Quorum of the Committee.

Ordered,—[*Tuesday, 12th March* 1895]:—That Mr. Griffith-Boscawen be discharged from the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment.

That Mr. Heywood Johnstone be added to the Committee.

REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE - - - - - - - - - p. vi
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 1
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 489
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 821

THIRD REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider and Report as to—

(*a*) The extent to which Distress, arising from want of Employment, prevails;

(*b*) The powers at present possessed by Local or Central Authorities in relation to such cases;

(*c*) Any steps which may be taken, whether by changes in Legislation or Administration, to deal with the evils arising therefrom; and

(*d*) To make an Interim Report to the House at the earliest possible Date on what steps should be taken either by Parliament, the Departments of State, or Local Authorities, to meet the Distress this Winter;

Have made further progress in the Matters to them referred; and have agreed to the following THIRD REPORT:—

YOUR Committee regret that owing to the sudden Dissolution of Parliament now impending they are unable to do more than present an incomplete Report on the evidence they have had before them.

They consider, however, that it is desirable to communicate the substance of the replies received in answer to the letter addressed to the Mayors of towns and Chairmen of District Councils in England and Wales, referred to in paragraph 2 of the First Report, in so far as they concern the nature and extent of prevailing distress.

This may be summed up by saying that out of 1,574 replies received from districts representing 26,591,394 persons: in 920 localities, representing a population of 10,291,600 persons, there was, at the time, no exceptional distress; in 475 localities, with a population of 11,792,527 persons, there was exceptional distress, due solely to the severity of the winter; and in 179 localities, with a population of 4,507,267, there was, apart from the want of employment due to the weather, an exceptional want of employment owing to slackness of trade, depression of agriculture, or to particular local or industrial causes. A more complete analysis of these figures will be found in an Appendix published with this Report, together with a special statement of the localities affected by slackness of trade, &c.

Your Committee have also heard the evidence of several witnesses since the issue of their First Report, among whom may be mentioned:—

(*a.*) Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, representing the Labour Department of the Board of Trade;

Mr. *Charles Booth*, merchant, who has conducted an inquiry into the social and industrial condition of the people of London;

with reference to the general question of "Unemployment."

(*b.*) Representatives of the following vestries and Poor Law Unions in London:—

1. Camberwell,
2. Islington,
3. Battersea,
4. Wandsworth,
5. St. Olave's (Southwark),
6. St. George's-in-the-East,
7. Whitechapel,

with reference to the methods of conducting, and the desirability of initiating, relief works for the unemployed, and to the present powers of guardians and vestries in respect of these matters.

(*c.*) Representatives of other large towns in which the question of the unemployed was keenly felt, namely, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Swansea.

(*d.*) Representatives of institutions and societies particularly interested in the treatment of those suffering from want of employment, namely :—

The Salvation Army.
The Church Army.
The Charity Organization Society.
The Mansion House Unemployed Committee.

Special attention was also directed to :—

1. *The Tin-plate Trade*, as it appeared from the Returns mentioned above that this was the most clearly-defined instance of a large industry suffering from trade depression.
2. *The Building Trade*, as representative of a large industry directly affected by any severity in the weather.

Further, several representative members of the working classes in touch with those who were the chief sufferers during the severe weather in the early part of 1895, were summoned before your Committee and asked to give their opinions as to the best methods of preventing or remedying the evils that arise from want of employment.

Your Committee also took evidence on the management and working of Dutch and Belgian labour colonies, and considered a project for the institution of farm colonies in England, for the preparation of which their special thanks are due to one of their colleagues, Mr. W. Mather, M.P.

For the reason already stated, it is impossible for your Committee to discuss in this Report the various preventive and remedial measures that have been suggested to them.

Having regard, however, to the second clause of their reference, whereby they are instructed to report as to—

(*b*) The powers at present possessed by local or central authorities in relation to the relief of distress,

and having noticed the uncertainty that seemed to be felt by some members of boards of guardians who appeared before them as to the exact nature of their powers, they have obtained—

A Statement from the Local Government Board setting forth these powers in full, with additional notes as to—

(*a*) Out-relief to aged poor.
(*b*) Relief on loan, and its recovery.
(*c*) Employment of the poor by Board of Guardians for wages.
(*d*) Expedition of loan sanctions.
(*e*) Labour tests for able-bodied out-door poor.
(*f*) Powers of Boards of Guardians as regards making grants in aid of work that will anticipate pauperism, and acceptance of sums to be used by them in the anticipation of pauperism.

This statement will be found in the Appendix, No. 30, to this Report.

Your Committee desire to point out that there exist statutory powers under which Boards of Guardians might set poor persons to work at wages, but that such powers cannot be used until rules are made by the Local Government Board.

Your Committee recommend that the Local Government Board should consider the application of such powers, and make rules for the use of Boards of Guardians in relation thereto.

Further,

Further, your Committee have received various complaints from some of the witnesses as to the effect of the existing law which deprives of his franchise rights any recipient of Poor Law relief. It is represented to your Committee that this provision frequently prevents deserving men who have been, through no fault of their own, temporarily thrown out of work, from seeking any relief, thus inflicting great hardship upon them. Your Committee believe that this provision may have a salutary effect as a check upon ordinary Poor Law claims, and may thus foster independence of character and prevent unnecessary burden falling on the rates. But in cases of exceptional distress they do not see why it should be difficult to discriminate between the deserving man forced to become dependent upon public aid and the ordinary claimant for parish relief. Your Committee, therefore, are of opinion that it would be both humane and wise to exempt the former class from the disability as regards the franchise, whether local or Parliamentary.

Again, sufficient evidence having been brought before your Committee of the desirability of encouraging continuity of employment, they are of opinion that orders for indoor repair work and for new work, where feasible, should be given out by public bodies with reference to what are now the slack months, generally January and February, in so far as this course is consistent with efficiency of execution and with reasonable economy.

A statement of the works that could be promoted by local authorities, with reference to this recommendation, has been prepared by the Local Government Board, and is herewith appended. (*See* Appendix, No. 31.)

As regards London, your Committee beg to make the following recommendation:—

> The Guardians of any Metropolitan Union should be empowered, with the sanction of the London County Council, to agree with any Sanitary Authority within their Union that, in consideration of the latter employing such number of persons and during such period as may be agreed upon, the Guardians will make a contribution to the Sanitary Authority of an amount not exceeding one-half of the cost incurred in the employment of such persons, such contribution to be a charge on the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund.

With the exception of these particular points, which may affect the condition of matters if next winter presents a renewal of the distress which prevailed this year, and on which therefore the Committee have felt it right to make recommendations which may be of immediate use, the whole of this great subject cannot now, as has been already said, be adequately considered. The schemes especially which have been laid before the Committee by Mr. Hills, Mr. Mather, the Salvation Army, the Church Army, and others, and which will be found in the Appendix to this Report, all of them evincing great care and thought in elaboration, as well as the most philanthropic and generous spirit and intention, must be left without the full consideration they deserve. But your Committee would express the hope that in another Parliament the House will renew this inquiry in order that the Legislature may be guided to the adoption of some palliative for the evils to which many of the best and most industrious among our people are at present exposed.

Your Committee have not been able to consider the special circumstances of Scotland or Ireland, or to make any recommendation affecting them.

2 *July* 1895.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Friday, 15*th March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Benn.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. ACLAND took the Chair.

Mr. *William Tagg* and Mr. *William F. Dewy* were examined.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 19*th March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Jackson.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Round.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. JACKSON and Mr. STUART-WORTLEY took the Chair.

The Rev. *C. T. Griffith* and Mr. *W. H. Edwards* were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 22*nd March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Acland.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. Crean.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Renshaw.

Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith* was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 26*th March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Renshaw.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Round.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Burns.	

Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith* was further examined.

Mr. *John Thomas Pilditch* was examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 29*th March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Whiteley.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. John Burns.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Billson.	Mr. Acland.

Mr. *Alfred N. Henderson* and Mr. *Thomas Mackay* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 2*nd April* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Whiteley.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Renshaw.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Billson.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Crean.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. ACLAND took the Chair.

Mr. *Thomas Mackay* further examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 5th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Acland.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Round.

Mr. *Thomas Mackay* further examined.

Mr. *Duncan Milligan*, F.R.A.S., Mr. *Augustus Shand*, and Mr. *E. Pitts Fenton* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 9th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Round.

Mr. *George H. Cox* examined.

[Adjourned till Friday 26th April, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 26th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Acland.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. JOHN BURNS took the Chair.

Mr. *Edward James Phillips* and Mr. *Philip Meadows Martineau* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 30th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Benn.

Rev. *W. Tuckwell* was examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 3rd May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Acland.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Stuart Wortley.

Mr. *John Theodore Dodd* was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 7th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Acland.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. BILLSON took the Chair.

DRAFT SECOND REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read the first time as follows:—

"Your Committee, in submitting their First, or interim Report, were unable to add to it the Returns they had received through the Local Government Board, from Local Authorities in England and Wales, in reply to a Circular Inquiry as to the extent of distress prevailing.

"While proceeding with the General Inquiry, they now submit to your Honourable House, Abstracts of these Returns as received up to date, together with certain other documents laid before your Committee."

Mr. *James Bell*, Lord Provost of *Glasgow*, and Mr. *James R. Motion* were examined.

Draft Second Report read a second time, and *agreed to*, without Amendment.

Ordered, To Report, together with an Appendix.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 10th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Whiteley.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Renshaw.	Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. John Burns.	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Billson.	Mr. Round.

Mr. *A. J. Hunter* and Mr. *Henry George Willink* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 14th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. John Burns.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Billson.	

Mr. *Henry George Willink* was further examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 17th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Round.	Mr. Mather.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.	Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Whiteley.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Renshaw.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.	Mr. Heneage.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Acland.	

Mr. *Mather*, a Member of the Committee, was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 21*st May* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Billson.	Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Logan.	Mr. Heneage.
Mr. John Burns.	Mr. Mather.
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Round.

Mr. *Mather*, a Member of the Committee, was further examined.

Mr. *Harold Moore* was examined.

[Adjourned to Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 24*th May* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Mather.	Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. Billson.
Mr. Logan.	Mr. Round.
Mr. David Randell.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. HENEAGE took the Chair.

Mr. *Thomas Phillips* was examined.

Mr. *Harold Moore* was further examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 28*th May* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Acland.	Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Heneage.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	Mr. Bolton.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. John Burns.
Mr. David Randell.	

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. ACLAND and Mr. BOLTON took the Chair.

Mr. *Bramwell Booth* was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, 11th June, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 11*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Acland.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Renshaw.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. JOHN WILSON (*Govan*) took the Chair.

The Rev. *W. H. Hunt* and Mr. *G. Lansbury* were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 14*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Acland.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Heneage.

Mr. *Charles Booth* and Mr. *W. Thorne* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 18*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Round.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. ACLAND took the Chair.

Mr. *E. Aves* and Mr. *James Morton* were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Friday, 21*st June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Round.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. Billson.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. ACLAND took the Chair.

The Rev. *Bolton Smart* and Mr. *Thomas Mansell* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 25*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Mather.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Jackson.	Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. Acland.
Mr. David Randell.	Mr. Round.
Mr. Logan.	Mr. Wootton Isaacson
Mr. Pickersgill.	

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. MATHER took the Chair.

Mr. *William Vallance* was examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at One o'clock.

Wednesday, 26*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Bolton.	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.	Mr. Billson.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Round.
Mr. John Burns.	Mr. Acland.
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. Benn.

The Committee deliberated.

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Chairman prepare a Report submitting the Evidence to the House, stating the inability of the Committee, owing to the pending Dissolution of Parliament, to consider that Evidence, and advise the House thereupon, and suggesting that in the new Parliament the question should be further considered by a Committee—(Mr. *Bolton*).—Amendment proposed, to leave out all the words after "That" in order to insert the following words, "The Evidence be printed and presented to the House, and that the Chairman prepare a Draft Report, to be considered on Monday next, embodying immediate and practical remedies, dealing also with disfranchisement and the powers of all local authorities in cases of exceptional distress, and that the Committee recommend Parlia-

ment to appoint a Committee to continue the present inquiry" —(Mr. *John Burns*). —Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 8.	Noes, 8.
Mr. Bolton.	Mr. Acland.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. Billson.
Mr. Renshaw.	Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Round.	Mr. Mather.
Mr. Whiteley.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).

Whereupon the *Chairman* declared himself with the *Noes*.

Words inserted.

Main Question, as amended, *agreed to*.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 2nd July 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN in the Chair.

Mr. Acland.	Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Burns.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Round.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Logan.	Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Heneage.	Mr. Bolton.
Mr. Randell.	Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.	Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read the first time, as follows:—

"1. YOUR Committee regret that owing to the dissolution of Parliament they are unable to do more than present an incomplete Report on the evidence they have had before them.

"2. They consider, however, that it is desirable to communicate the substance of the replies received in answer to the letter addressed to the Mayors of towns and Chairmen of District Councils, referred to in paragraph 2 of the First Report, in so far as they concern the nature and extent of prevailing distress.

"This may be summed up by saying that out of 1,574 replies received from districts representing 26,591,394 persons: in 920 localities, representing a population of 10,291,600 persons, there was, at the time, no exceptional distress; in 475 localities, with a population of 11,792,527 persons, there was exceptional distress, due solely to the severity of the winter; and in 179 localities, with a population of 4,507,267, there was, apart from the want of employment due to the weather, an exceptional want of employment owing to slackness of trade, depression of agriculture, or to particular local or industrial causes. A more complete analysis of these figures will be found in an Appendix published with this Report, together with a special statement of the localities affected by slackness of trade, &c.

"3. Your Committee have also heard the evidence of several witnesses since the issue of their First Report, among whom may be mentioned:—

"(*a.*) Mr. *Llewellyn Smith*, Chief of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade;

"Mr. *Charles Booth*, merchant, and author of an inquiry into the social and industrial condition of the people of London; with reference to the general question of "Unemployment."

"(*b.*) Representatives of the following vestries and Poor Law Unions in London:—

"1. Camberwell,

"2. Islington,

"3. Battersea,

"4. Wandsworth,

"5. St. Olave's (Southwark),

"6. St. George's-in-the-East,

"7. Whitechapel,

with reference to the methods of conducting, and the desirability of initiating, relief works for the unemployed, and to the present powers of guardians and vestries in respect of these matters.

"(*c.*) Representatives

"(*c.*) Representatives of other large towns in which the unemployed question was keenly felt, namely, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Swansea.

"(*d.*) Representatives of institutions and societies particularly interested in the treatment of those suffering from want of employment, namely:—

"The Salvation Army.

"The Church Army.

"The Charity Organization Society.

"The Mansion House Unemployed Committee.

"4. Special attention was also directed to:—

"1. *The Tin-plate Trade*, as it appeared from the Returns mentioned above that this was the most clearly-defined instance of a large industry suffering from trade depression.

"2. *The Building Trade*, as representative of a large industry directly affected by any severity in the weather.

"5. Further, several representative members of the working classes, in touch with those who were the chief sufferers during the severe weather in early part of 1895, were summoned before your Committee and asked to give their opinions as to the best methods of preventing or remedying the evils that arise from want of employment.

"6. Your Committee also took evidence on the management and working of Dutch and Belgian labour colonies, and considered a project for the institution of farm colonies in England, for the preparation of which their special thanks are due to one of their colleagues, Mr. W. Mather, M.P.

"7. For the reason already stated, it is impossible for your Committee to discuss fully in this Report the various preventive and remedial measures that have been suggested to them.

"8. Having regard, however, to the second clause of their Reference, whereby they are instructed to report as to—

"(*b.*) The powers at present possessed by local or central authorities in relation to the relief of distress,

and having noticed the uncertainty that seemed to prevail among members of boards of guardians who appeared before them as to the exact nature of their powers, they have obtained a statement from the Local Government Board setting forth these powers in full, with additional notes as to—

"1. Relief of the aged poor.

"2. Relief on loan, and its recovery.

"3. The acquisition of land by guardians for the purpose of setting the poor to work at wages.

"This statement will be found in the Appendix to this Report.

"9. Further, your Committee have considered various complaints that have reached them as to the effect of the existing law which deprives of his franchise rights any recipient of Poor Law relief. It is represented to your Committee that this provision frequently prevents deserving men who have been, through no fault of their own, temporarily thrown out of work, from seeking any relief, thus inflicting great hardship upon them. Your Committee believe that this provision may have a salutary effect as a check upon ordinary Poor Law claims, and may thus foster independence of character and prevent unnecessary burden falling on the rates. But in cases of exceptional distress they do not see why it should be difficult to discriminate between the deserving man forced to become dependent upon public aid, and the ordinary claimant for parish relief. Your Committee, therefore, are of opinion that it would be both humane and wise to exempt the former class from the disability as regards the Parliamentary franchise, while retaining it, as heretofore, in the matter of the election of Poor Law guardians.

"10. Again, sufficient evidence having been brought before your Committee of the desirability of encouraging continuity of employment, they are of opinion that orders for in-door repair work and for new work, where feasible, should be given out by public bodies with reference to what are now the slack months, generally January and February, in so far as this course is consistent with efficiency of execution.

"A statement of the works that could be promoted by local authorities, with reference to this recommendation, has been prepared by the Local Government Board, and is herewith appended.

"11. With the exception of these particular points, which may affect the condition of matters if next winter presents a renewal of the distress which prevailed this year, and on which therefore the Committee have felt it right to make recommendations which may be of immediate use, the whole of this great subject cannot now, as has been already said, be adequately considered. The schemes especially which have been laid before the Committee by Mr. Hills, Mr. Mather, the Salvation Army, the Church Army, and others, all of them evincing great care and thought in elaboration, as well as the most philanthropic and generous spirit and intention, must be left without the full consideration they deserve. But your Committee would express the hope that in another Parliament the House will renew this inquiry in order that the Legislature may be guided to the adoption of some palliative for the evils to which many of the best and most industrious among our people are at present exposed."

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1—3, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 4—6, *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 7—8, amended, and *agreed to*.

Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Report:—"Your Committee desire to point out that there exist statutory powers under which boards of guardians might set poor persons to work at wages, but that such powers cannot be used until rules are made by the Local Government Board"—(Mr. *Bousfield*).—Question put, That the proposed new paragraph be inserted in the Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 11.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Bolton.
Mr. Benn.	Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Bousfield.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Burns.	
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	
Mr. Logan.	
Mr. Mather.	
Mr. Pickersgill.	
Mr. Randell.	
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Report:—"Your Committee recommend that the Local Government Board should consider the application of such powers, and make rules for the use of boards of guardians in relation thereto"—(Mr. *Mather*).—Question put, That the proposed new paragraph be inserted in the Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 9.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Bolton.
Mr. Benn.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Burns.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	
Mr. Logan.	
Mr. Mather.	
Mr. Pickersgill.	
Mr. Randell.	
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	

Paragraph 9.—Amendment proposed, in line 1, to leave out the word "considered," and insert the word "received"—(Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*).—Question, That the word "considered" stand part of the paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That the word "received" be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 1, to leave out the words "that have reached them," and insert the words "from some of the witnesses"—(Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, to leave out from the words "It is represented," line 3, to the end of the paragraph, and insert the following words: "There was considerable difference of opinion among the witnesses, both as to the extent to which this disqualification operates, and as to the desirability of its removal, either absolutely or under conditions, and, as at present advised, your Committee are not able to make any recommendation thereon. They are, however, of opinion that the subject should be further considered with a view to any alteration which may be suggested becoming operative before the next revision of the voters' lists"—(Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*).—Question put, That the words "It is represented" stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 8.	Noes, 5.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Bolton.
Mr. Benn.	Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Burns.	Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Logan.	Mr. Round.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Pickersgill.	
Mr. Randell.	
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	

Another

Another Amendment proposed, to leave out from the words "Your Committee," line 5, to the words "the rates," line 7—(Mr. *Logan*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.	Noes, 5.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Bolton.	Mr. Burns.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Round.	Mr. Randell.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.	

Another Amendment proposed, in line 11, to leave out the word "Parliamentary"—(Mr. *Logan*).—Question put, That the word "Parliamentary" stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 8.
Mr. Bolton.	Mr. Acland.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Benn.
Mr. Round.	Mr. Burns.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.	Mr. Logan.
	Mr. Mather.
	Mr. Pickersgill.
	Mr. Randell.
	Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).

Another Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "while," line 11, to the end of the paragraph, and add the words "whether local or Parliamentary"—(Mr. *Acland*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Proposed words added.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 10, amended, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Report:—"As regards London, your Committee beg to make the following recommendation: The guardians of any metropolitan union should be empowered, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, to agree with any sanitary authority within their union; that, in consideration of the latter employing such number of persons, and during such period as may be agreed upon, the guardians will make a contribution to the sanitary authority of an amount not exceeding one-half of the cost incurred in the employment of such persons, such contribution to be a charge upon the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund"—(Mr. *Pickersgill*).—Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the Report.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out the words "Local Government Board," and insert the words "London County Council"—(Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*).—Question, That the words "Local Government Board" stand part of the proposed Amendment,—put, and *negatived*.

Proposed words inserted.—Question put, That the paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 8.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Acland.	Mr. Bolton.
Mr. Benn.	Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Burns.	Mr. Round.
Mr. Logan.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mather.	
Mr. Pickersgill.	
Mr. Randell.	
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).	

Paragraph 11, amended, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Report:—"Your Committee have not been able to consider the special circumstances of Scotland or Ireland, or to make any recommendation affecting them"—(The *Chairman*).—Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence, and an Appendix.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME OF WITNESS.	PROFESSION OR CONDITION.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days Absent from Home under Orders of Committee.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
C. T. Griffith	Clergyman	Pontypool	3	3 3 –	2 1 –	5 4 –
W. W. Edwards	Mayor of Swansea	Swansea	2	2 2 –	3 6 –	5 8 –
G. H. Cox	Gentleman	Liverpool	6	6 6 –	3 3 –	9 9 –
E. J. Phillips	Chairman of Board of Guardians.	Pontypool	2	2 2 –	2 13 9	4 15 9
Rev. W. Tuckwell	Clergyman	Waltham	2	2 2 –	2 7 4	4 9 4
J. Theodore Dodd	Gentleman	Oxford	2	2 2 –	– 14 7	2 16 7
James Bell	Lord Provost of Glasgow.	Glasgow	3	3 3 –	5 15 3	8 18 3
James R. Motion	Inspector of Poor	Glasgow	3	3 3 –	5 15 3	8 18 3
A. J. Hunter	Secretary of the United Trades Council.	Glasgow	3	3 3 –	5 15 3	8 18 3
Thomas Phillips	Secretary Tin Plate Workers' Union.	Llanelly	3	2 5 –	3 9 6	5 14 6
Thomas Mansell	Fruit Farmer	Adam-road, Bishop's Stortford.	1	– 15 –	1 – 8 (twice.)	1 15 8
James Morton	Chairman of the Unemployed Executive Committee.	Stratford	1	– 5 6	– 1 –	– 6 6
William Thorne	Secretary of the National Union of Gasworkers, &c.	144, Barking-road, Canning Town.	2	– 11 –	– 1 9	– 12 9
George Lansbury	Veneer Cutter	101, St. Stephen's-road, North Bow.	1	– 6 6	– 1 –	– 7 6
W. J. Clarke	Hon. Secretary Police Aid Institution.	Birmingham	1	1 1 –	1 18 6	2 19 6
					TOTAL £.	70 13 10

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

PAGE

Friday, 15*th March* 1895.

Mr. Charles William Tagg - - - 1
Mr. William Francis Dewey - - - 16

Tuesday, 19*th March* 1895.

The Rev. E. C. T. Griffith - - - 24
Mr. W. H. Edwards - - - - 39

Friday, 22*nd March* 1895.

Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith - - - 46

Tuesday, 26*th March* 1895.

Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith - - - 68
Mr. John Thomas Pilditch - - - 85

Friday, 29*th March* 1895.

Mr. Alfred Nicol Henderson - - 91
Mr. Thomas Mackay - - - - 99

Tuesday, 2*nd April* 1895.

Mr. Thomas Mackay - - - - 106

Friday, 5*th April* 1895.

Mr. Thomas Mackay - - - - 129
Mr. Duncan Milligan, F.R.A.S. - - 137
Mr. Augustus Shand - - - - 140
Mr. E. Pitts Fenton - - - - 150

Tuesday, 9*th April* 1895.

Mr. George H. Cox - - - - 151

Friday, 26*th April* 1895.

Mr. Edward James Phillips - - - 171
Mr. Philip Meadows Martineau - - 179

Tuesday, 30*th April* 1895.

Rev. William Tuckwell, M.A. - - - 186

Friday, 3*rd May* 1895.

Mr. John Theodore Dodd - - - 210

PAGE

Tuesday, 7*th May* 1895.

Mr. James Bell - - - - - 232
Mr. James Russell Motion - - - 246

Friday, 10*th May* 1895.

Mr. A. J. Hunter - - - - - 255
Mr. Henry George Willink - - - 270

Tuesday, 14*th May* 1895.

Mr. Henry George Willink - - - 278

Friday, 17*th May* 1895.

Mr. William Mather, M.P. - - - 292

Tuesday, 21*st May* 1895.

Mr. William Mather, M.P. - - - 312
Mr. Harold Edward Moore, F.S.I., F.R.H.S. 331

Friday, 24*th May* 1895.

Mr. Thomas Phillips - - - - 337
Mr. Harold Edward Moore, F.S.I., F.R.H.S. 341

Tuesday, 28*th May* 1895.

Mr. Bramwell Booth - - - - 358

Tuesday, 11*th June* 1895.

The Rev. W. H. Hunt - - - - 385
Mr. George Lansbury - - - - 401

Friday, 14*th June* 1895.

Mr. Charles Booth - - - - - 412
Mr. William Thorne - - - - 429

Tuesday, 18*th June* 1895.

Mr. Ernest Aves - - - - - 439
Mr. James Morton - - - - - 448

Friday, 21*st June* 1895.

Mr. Bolton Smart - - - - - 461
Mr. Thomas Mansell - - - - 474

Tuesday, 25*th June* 1895.

Mr. William Vallance - - - - 479

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Friday, 15*th March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Keir-Hardy.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ARTHUR HERBERT DYKE ACLAND, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. CHARLES WILLIAM TAGG, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

3278. You are, I believe, Clerk to the Vestry of Camberwell?—I am.

3279. Which is also the sanitary authority for the parish of Camberwell?—It is.

3280. Will you tell us what is the size and the population of the parish?—The area is 4,342 acres, and the estimated population on the 6th April 1894, calculated by the Registrar General for the purposes of the Equalisation of Rates Act, was 254,503. The rateable value is 1,063,234.

3281. Has the population increased since 1891?—Yes; at the 1891 Census the population was 235,344.

3282. Has the rateable value increased of late years?—It has slightly increased.

3283. But not very much?—Not in proportion to the population.

3284. What is the number of assessments?—The number of assessments is 39,135.

3285. Are they chiefly for small houses?—More than half are for rateable values of 20*l.* and under.

3286. Are there comparatively few large houses?—Comparatively few.

3287. Will you tell us how much the poor rates are in Camberwell, and the vestry rates?—The total poor rate is 4*s.* 1*d.* for the year ending 25th March.

3288. That is the whole poor rate?—Yes; it contains the whole of the amount levied under precepts by the guardians.

3289. What is the actual rate for the relief of the poor?—Two shillings and three pence.

3290. What are the vestry rates?—The actual amount levied by the vestry is 1*s.* 8*d.*; that is excluding the School Board precept.

3291. In your opinion has there been much exceptional distress this year in Camberwell?—Not beyond that caused by the severity of the weather.

3292. You think if you set apart the distress due to the frost, there has been nothing exceptional as compared with last year or the year before?—No.

Chairman—continued.

3293. Has there been any relief work offered by your vestry?—Yes; the vestry up to the present time have expended on relief work 1,546*l.* 5*s.*

3294. When did the relief work begin?—On the 31st January.

3295. After the frost had set in?—Yes.

3296. Would you say that it was in consequence of the frost; if there had been no frost would there have been no relief works?—It would not have gone on to the extent that it has; I could not say there would have been none.

3297. Will you tell us what kind of relief work was offered?—The work has been sweeping snow and sweeping the roads.

3298. Anything else?—No, nothing beyond the ordinary labourers' work: road sweeping and snow sweeping.

3299. What rate of remuneration did you offer?—Fivepence per hour for eight hours a day.

3300. How many days a week?—We had nearly 2,000 names on the register, and, for the week ending February 16th, the average daily number of men was 205, and the previous week 359; practically the men got about two days' work a week.

3301. That is to say, you did not offer them more than two days' work a week?—We were unable to give them more.

3302. You tried to spread the work you had among the applicants?—Yes; we tried to apportion it so that each man should get about two days' work a week.

3303. That is to say, you settled the sum of money which should be spent, or rather, I suppose, you settled the amount of work which should be undertaken?—No; that was left practically in the hands of the surveyor; he settled that. He had power from the Committee

Chairman—continued.

to take on as many men as he possibly could during the severe weather.

3304. And he was directed to divide the work among all the applicants?—Yes; We sent out postcards every day. We had lists of all the applicants arranged in alphabetical order, and we checked them so far as we could by the rate book; and in the case of men stating that they were lodgers we took the name of the landlord, and if that was correct we took them as being residents in the parish.

3305. Did you draw any distinction between men with families and men without families?—We endeavoured to do so; but it is a very difficult matter; we tried to discover whether they had families or not in some instances through the relieving officers, acting through the Guardians, and in any way we could.

3306. What was the kind of distinction that you were drawing; were you prepared to offer more work to a man with a family?—No; he would have the same proportion; but among the 2,000 we had so many boys of between 16 and 17 years of age, and our object was to exclude those where it was possible.

3307. It was not so much a distinction between grown-up married and grown-up single men?—No; we could not distinguish them so well.

3308. You were prepared to offer the same amount of relief to a grown-up man whether single or married?—Yes. The vestry passed a resolution to offer the work to married men first; but it was of course practically impossible to distinguish. There was no time to enquire; the postcards had to be sent for work to begin the next day.

3309. Those men whom you put on got 5*d.* an hour for eight hours a day?—Yes, 3*s.* 4*d.* a day.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

3310. If you put on each day 400 men out of the 2,000 on the list it would take five days to get through the list; but I thought you said the men would get two days' work a week?—It worked out to nearly two days a week; for you had cases where postcards were sent but the men did not attend at the depôts, because they overslept themselves, or for some reason, and extra men were taken on to take the place of those who did not turn up.

3311. So that you think the men got two days' work a week?—Yes; some may have got three days.

Chairman.

3312. I believe you set up a labour exchange?—We had one in 1892.

3313. Did you continue it in the winter of 1893–94?—No; we were advised it was an illegal expenditure. There was an answer given in the House of Commons on the subject.

3314. Was that the reason you gave it up in 1893?—For that reason, and because of the auditors surcharging the amount we spent upon it.

3315. What was the amount you spent upon it in 1892?—I should think it was under 250*l.* altogether, including the building. We had a building put up for it. But the amount the

Chairman—continued.

auditor surcharged was only 36*l.*, or something like that.

3316. He surcharged that because you had not the power to make such an expenditure?—Yes. There was an answer given in the House of Commons on the subject.

3317. The labour exchange involved certain clerical work, I presume?—Yes; we had a superintendent and a clerk.

3318. The object being to find employment for those out of employment by communication with employers of labour?—That was the object; but it was not a success.

3319. Can you give us any figures in regard to the persons registered in the labour exchange?—Yes. In the quarter ending the 25th March 1893 (that practically covers the period of the severe weather) the total number of persons registered, including 28 women servants, was 1,839. That, of course, does not include re-registering; they had to re-register every week. Out of that number work was found for 303, of whom 255 were employed in breaking the ice on the canal for the South Metropolitan Gas Company.

3320. That was only for a short time?—During the frost. During the same period the vestry engaged 2,246 men on various relief works throughout the parish.

3321. Is that 2,246 independent of the 1,839?—One thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine is the total number of persons registered; among the 2,246 there may be some duplicates.

3322. Then the labour exchange was practically given up because you were given to understand you had not the power to spend money upon it?—Yes; and beyond that practically the parish is a parish of workmen and not of employers; the workmen are employed not in the parish but in the city or the borough, or in various building operations round about, and employers will not come from those districts to a Camberwell Labour Exchange to engage men. Practically our parish is a parish of men who wish for work and not of employers; it is, so to speak, a dormitory parish; the men sleep in the parish but work elsewhere.

3323. Employers, you say, will not come to a labour exchange at Camberwell?—They will not come to Camberwell with the men working in Islington or the Borough.

3324. That exchange was not readopted this last winter, I understand?—No.

3325. What you spoke of as a registry of the names of applicants, was something quite different, was it not. That was merely making a list of those who told you they were out of employment?—The name and address of every man who applied was taken and entered in an alphabetical list.

3326. That was done with a view of giving them employment from the vestry?—Yes, actual relief work.

3327. Not with a view of bringing them into communication with employers?—No; we found that was not a success. We advertised it in every possible way; we had placards and bills put up throughout the parish, but there were no applications, or very few applications. The only applications I got were for domestic servants. I could

Chairman—continued.

could have supplied a great number of domestic servants.

3328. Can you give us any idea of the causes of the want of employment, or of the nature of the industries carried on in your district?—I had a list of all businesses in Camberwell which employ 20 men and upwards, made out by the 10 sanitary inspectors for their respective districts; and on going through that return you find that so far as the men employed in the parish of Camberwell are concerned, very few were out of employment for the winter months, excepting men employed in building and sanitary work, which was prevented by the frost. Practically it was about 800, I think; but the factories and our own works in the parish had very few men out of employment.

3329. They were going on with their work in spite of the frost, and were not affected by it?—That is so.

3330. What sort of industries are included in that list?—There are cart and van builders, and builders. Builders were all affected by the frost, and also the sanitary trades. Then there are ivory works and mineral water works. The number in mineral water works is always reduced in winter, it being a summer trade. Then sweet makers, coal merchants, lime wharf, whiting wharf, timber wharf, laundries, oil refining, saw mills, packing-case makers, bible factory, potteries, lime works, safe makers, iron works, haddock smokers, hand grenade, washing machine makers, and the the South Metropolitan Gas Company. The South Metropolitan Gas Company have usually a staff of 2,000 men, and they increase by 500 in the winter.

3331. So that that takes up a certain number of those who are out of employment in the winter?—Yes; but of course they are not all Camberwell men. Some of them live in Bermondsey and Deptford.

3332. Have you attempted to make any total of those who fell out of employment during the frost?—I have not got the total before me at the moment.

3333. Is your relief work still going on?—No, it has ceased.

3334. When did you bring it to a close?—On the 27th of February. Since that date we have had a few men, but nothing like the number we had previously.

3335. Practically you have brought your arrangements for employing these men to an end?—That is so; our ordinary weekly labour bill for the permanent employees of the vestry averages about 675*l.*

3336. Can you give us the figures for the weeks of frost, showing how much it was increased?—I have not got it in weeks; I have it in days.

3337. What is the total amount?—The total amount expended on relief and snow works this winter has been 1,546*l.* 5*s.*

3338. Between what dates would that be?—Between the 31st of January and the 27th of February.

Mr. *Jackson.*

3339. That is exclusive of what you call your permanent labour?—Yes; it is entirely relief works.

Chairman.

3340. So that in about four weeks you spent an additional 1,500*l.*, over and above your normal wage bill of 675*l.* a week?—That is so.

3341. Do you wish to call attention to the resolutions your vestry have passed on matters of this sort?—We have passed a great number of resolutions.

3342. Is there anything in them you specially want to point out?—No.

3343. Have you had any correspondence with any board of guardians?—With the Camberwell Board of Guardians we have had correspondence, and we have had conferences. We convened, in 1892, a conference of the guardians and vestries of London upon this subject. There was not a very large attendance. We convened that conference, I think, in the beginning of 1893.

3344. That is some time ago?—Yes. Delegates were appointed by the vestry to attend a conference of vestries, district boards, and boards of guardians of the Metropolis for the purpose of taking united action to obtain additional powers for relieving the unemployed. The following resolution was passed at that conference: "That this conference is of opinion that the London County Council should apply forthwith for statutory powers for dealing with the surplus labour in the Metropolis, by establishing colonies or centres away from the towns, whereby the unemployed workers may have opportunity for supplying their own necessities, the initial cost to be raised by a charge on London ground rents;" and it was resolved that a copy of that resolution should be sent round to the Local Government Board, the London County Council, and the various vestries, district boards, and boards of guardians of the Metropolis.

3345. As to your correspondence with your own board of guardians, did anything come of that?—Nothing beyond several resolutions.

Mr. *Jackson.*

3346. Was the conference you have referred to largely attended?—No, it was not largely attended; there were very few representatives there.

3347. You have not been communicating with the board of guardians during your arrangements for relief?—Only informally with the relieving officers; if the relieving officers knew of special cases of distress, we added those to our list.

3348. You would take from the relieving officer a list of names of those whom he knew to be specially needing work?—Yes. The difficulty was that the relieving officers at that time were so pressed with their own relief matters that they were practically unable to give us any assistance, they were so busy themselves in attending to the ordinary poor-law work.

Chairman.

3349. You were perfectly willing to accept any names they might bring before you?—Yes.

3350. Were there any special suggestions or offers of relief other than those you undertook?—Only the suggestions of the Local Government Board in their circular letter. Of course it is quite impossible to carry out those suggestions in London.

Chairman—continued.

3351. Have your vestry ever sent any special memorial on this subject to the Government?—Yes, we sent a memorial to the Government.

3352. What was the nature of that memorial?—There was a conference of Camberwell Vestry and the guardians held in November 1893, which passed certain resolutions which the vestry did not adopt when they came up to them for confirmation.

3353. You have nothing special to say about those resolutions?—No; I can only say they have passed a great many resolutions.

3354. Is it increased powers that they wish for, for instance?—Yes; for the Government to confer upon them increased powers.

3355. Are the powers which they wish for defined in any way?—I have not seen any definition of them.

3356. Can you define yourself, as clerk to the vestry, the further powers that are desirable?—No.

Mr. *Bartley.*

3357. Let us have that quite clear; do you say they were asking for increased powers, but did not define what powers they wanted?—Yes; there was a resolution passed by the conference of the vestry and the guardians of Camberwell, but, as the vestry did not approve of the resolution passed by the conference, I cannot bring it forward as the resolution of the vestry.

Chairman.

3358. Have the vestry passed any resolutions themselves asking for increased powers; you are not aware of any, I understand?—I do not see any.

3359. Was this the resolution of the conference which the vestry did not adopt: "That, in the opinion of this conference of vestrymen and guardians, the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians should at once purchase land outside London for the formation of labour colonies, and this conference strongly urges the Camberwell Guardians to commence operations in that direction without delay"; that is the 8th November, 1893?—The vestry resolved to receive that recommendation, and they received it.

3360. But they did not adopt it?—No, they only received it.

3361. I understand you to say that the men who have been relieved by you come from your own parish?—As nearly as we can possibly check them. This you will remember is really all emergency work, and it is very difficult to check it, but we have checked them by the rate-books as far as possible.

3362. You made a definite endeavour to check outsiders from coming?—We tried to do so, but I am afraid it was not a success, I am afraid men came from various parts of London and slept in lodging-houses in Camberwell. We have a number of cheap lodging-houses, and, beyond that, I believe they got addresses where they could get postcards sent, with the object of getting these postcards sent to them. Two years ago I used to go to the various vestry depôts in the morning, and there were crowds of men there, and it was so difficult to prevent the strongest men

Chairman—continued.

getting the work (it was a fight every morning) that the vestry adopted the suggestion that we ought to post the card the day before to the addresses given, and, on the production of the postcards the men got a day's work.

3363. The postcards were sent to men who were intended to be employed?—Yes, it was sent to the address they gave.

3364. The selection was made the day before?—Yes, from an alphabetical list.

3365. Only those that got cards were employed?—Yes; but several of the men got addresses in the parish where they could have postcards sent to them. I had cases of men giving different names and getting work two or three days a week under different names.

3366. You think that to some extent the offer of two days' work was an attraction to people living outside?—Yes, it was an attraction.

3367. As to the kind of work which was done, can you tell us how far this 1,500*l.* was remunerative expenditure; did you get fairly good work for the money?—The men were engaged eight hours a day, but the work depended a great deal upon the men. There is no doubt a great many of the men worked very hard and consistently the whole time; but in several cases I saw they did not.

3368. I suppose some were much more fit for work than others; they varied in physical capacity?—Yes; there were a great many cases of poverty where the men had not the stamina to do the work, where they practically had to come to work without food, and they were unable to carry out some of the heavy work. They were first put upon sweeping the pavements. In our parish we have 120 miles of roads, but with the exception of two main roads they are all flint and macadam roads. We have only two pitched roads, the Old Kent-road, the Peckham-road, and part of the Camberwell New-road. The surveyor says, after a thaw on macadam or flint roads, these men did a great deal of harm by indiscriminate sweeping; they practically swept the crown of the road away.

3369. When you say that some of these men came on to work without food, does that imply that there are not charitable agencies enough in Camberwell to provide food for men in destitution in periods of severe distress?—There are charitable agencies in Camberwell. For instance, I was secretary to a relief committee which distributed 150*l.* in three months in tickets for food; but I do not think it is the men whom that relief is intended for who always get hold of it. We distributed it through local committees, and it is very difficult to know that it gets into the right hands.

3370. You think that very often the men for whom it is intended, the most deserving men, do not apply for such help?—Yes; some of the people are better acquainted with the ways to get these tickets than others, and they know straight away where to go to, and a man who has not had the previous experience of getting relief tickets does not go straight away for a ticket as the man who gets them every year does, and by the time he reaches the goal the tickets have gone.

3371. And men of that sort may be undergoing

Chairman—continued.

going a considerable amount of privation?—Yes; I saw the whole of these men who came to the vestry hall for relief every day for a month, and I am quite sure a great number of those men were absolutely worthy of support, and absolutely without food and means.

3372. How far do you think your efforts really met the case of the deserving men?—I think really to a very slight extent.

3373. It was only a small alleviation?—Yes. We had about 200 to 250 men a day at work out of the 2,000; the others had to wait.

3374. Can you give us any figures about outdoor relief; or, perhaps, that is not within your power?—I believe it practically doubled in Camberwell. But that is a matter for the guardians.

3375. You think that, practically, the number receiving outdoor relief doubled during the severe weather?—Yes. The guardians of Camberwell gave outdoor relief; they gave a great deal of food away.

3376. Did they open a stoneyard?—No; they have no stoneyard; they gave no relief except food.

3377. That was outdoor relief given in kind?—In kind.

3378. And no money?—I cannot say as to money; but I believe their relief was in food chiefly.

3379. The additional amount of relief they gave in time of distress over and above the ordinary, you believe to be almost entirely in food?—Yes. I know they passed a resolution to say that there was exceptional distress, and they would give outdoor relief.

3380. They did not provide any test?—No test whatever.

3381. Were you employing some of those men on your relief work?—Doubtless.

3382. You might be employing some able-bodied men who were also receiving relief from the guardians?—Doubtless. The wives would go and get relief from the guardians and the men would get work on the roads. You cannot prevent that.

3383. You did not make any inquiry about them?—No. This is emergency work, you will remember, and we had not time; it is all in a rush.

3384. Of course that applied only to a certain number out of the 2,000?—Yes.

3385. Perhaps only a small portion were getting both kinds of relief?—Yes. I believe a large number of men will not receive relief from the guardians because of the disqualification from voting which it involves. There is really a very strong feeling among the men upon that.

3386. You think that a large proportion of the 2,000 would not receive relief from the guardians?—Not until they were pushed to the last extremity. We had two or three cases of deaths from starvation, I do not mean among the men on relief works, but we had three or four inquests in one week on people who died of starvation.

3387. You think the desire not to lose the franchise has a considerable effect on the minds of the men, in preventing them from applying to the guardians?—I am quite sure it does upon those men who are thrown out of employment

Chairman—continued.

from severity of the weather, builders, labourers and so on. We carry out a great deal of sanitary work through our inspectors, and all those men were thrown out.

3388. That would apply, would it not, to a very considerable number of men among the 2,000?—A very large number.

3389. Is there anything you wish to add to your evidence in chief which I have omitted to ask?—I only wish to point out that in my opinion, and in the opinion, I think, of the vestry, it is exceedingly hard that a parish like Camberwell, which has a large number of poor people living in it, should have practically to bear their relief and keep them when they are out of employment, their usual employment being in other parts of London. They only sleep in our parish; we do not get the fruits of their labour in our parish.

3390. Have you any suggestions to make to remedy that?—I think the relief works should be charged to the whole of London.

3391. You say a great number of your working people do work outside the parish altogether?—Yes.

3392. In places where the rateable value is higher, I suppose?—Yes, practically. When a man is out of work in the winter time, he stops at home because it is no good going to his work, and so he comes to the nearest parish to relieve him.

3393. Do you consider you have less industrial work in factories and other forms of employment going on in Camberwell than in most London parishes?—Not less than in most London parishes, but less than most poor London parishes.

3394. It is rather on that kind of ground that you would claim some relief, if you could get it, by some central arrangement?—Yes. The guardians get 8*d.* or 9*d.* a day for every indoor pauper under the Common Grant, but when they give outdoor relief in these times of distress they do not get relief from the Common Poor Fund.

3395. Is there anything else you wish to mention?—The only thing, so far as the vestry of the parish is concerned, is this: it is quite impossible in the winter time to give any other relief beyond that of clearing the snow and sweeping the roads. I mean that channelling and paving, and that kind of work, can only be done by skilled men; and it could not be done during times of frost, for the ground is too hard.

3396. Just at the time when the suffering is greatest, the kind of work you might otherwise enter upon is impossible owing to the weather?—Yes, work of that kind. At times when it can be done we can always get skilled men to carry it out at the ordinary rate of wages. If it were possible to do it through this unemployed labour, we should not get it done in a way that would be of service to us.

3397. You mean that some of your work would not be economically carried out if you employed some of the men whom you have been employing lately in sweeping the roads?—They scarcely could carry it out.

3398. For want of special skill?—Yes; they would have to be paviors to do the work properly.

Chairman – continued.

Then with regard to the suggestion in the Local Government Board Circular, the first is that we should carry out new street works. With regard to that, I may point out that these new street works are carried out at the expense of the owners of the property abutting on the road, and those owners claim that the vestry should employ skilled men, and practically carry it out at the least possible expense. We have a rate clause in all our contracts. Then, "cleansing of streets, not usually undertaken by the local authorities," is one of the suggestions in the Circular. The duty is thrown upon us to cleanse all streets; we have no option; we have to cleanse all streets. Then another suggestion is "laying out and paving of new streets, &c." That can only be done during weather suitable for it; not during frost. Then another suggestion is "paving of unpaved streets and making of footpaths in country roads"; that has to be done by skilled labour, and not in times of frost. Then there is "spade industry on sewage farms." We have no chance of doing that. Then as to "laying out of open spaces," and so on; all our open spaces are laid out.

3399. You understand that these suggestions are made not with regard to times of frost?—I quite understand that all I wish to say is that all the work we can carry out in Camberwell we are carrying out; and, in addition to the unemployed working men in Camberwell, we have an immense army of clerks earning very low incomes residing in the parish; and every increase of the rates comes very hard upon them, and upon the small shopkeepers. Practically, any money we expend in relief works has to be paid in the parish, and it comes very hard upon the small shopkeeper class and small clerks, who have to find the difference.

Mr. *Mather.*

3400. Among the 2,000 men who applied to you to have their names placed on your register, I suppose you would have men of all sorts, following various occupations when they were in full work?—Yes; I tested them one morning. I went through the applicants, taking a section of them and asking them their different trades, and out of 12 men, I think, we had seven or eight who described themselves as general labourers. One man was a stoker or a locomotive driver; and we had one man who called himself a builders' labourer; but a very large proportion, I should think quite 75 per cent., described themselves as general labourers.

3401. Do you think that in addition to this 2,000 there was a considerable number out of employment who did not apply for their names to be put on your register, and did not apply to the guardians for outdoor relief?—No doubt there were a considerable number of men out of employment who did not come to us at all.

3402. Who did not apply either to you or to the guardians?—Certainly; men who had saved a little money and were able to tide it over.

3403. You said you had 200 men employed daily, but each person only for two days per week?—Yes, as nearly as we could do so.

3404. You paid them *3s. 4d.* a day; so that each of the men who were employed would get between *6s.* and *7s.* a week?—Six shillings and eightpence a week.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

3405. Were any of these men, so far as you know, skilled men, working at regular occupations at other times when there was no distress?—Several of these men were skilled navvies and labourers that were thrown out by the severity of the weather.

3406. With regard to these men following the various occupations you have named as being peculiar to Camberwell, and being thrown out of work during the winter months, you said, for instance, that in mineral water manufacture the work became in the winter time very slack; would any of that class of men come to you?—Undoubtedly there would be some of them.

3407. Would these 200 men be men of such a class as would, from your observation, prefer to get relief by doing work, and would rather suffer, if that were not possible, than take money or food?—I believe a great number of these men preferred waiting for their work from the vestry rather than to go to the guardians; they waited as long as they possibly could.

3408. You said when those men came before you, you were struck by their earnestness and respectability?—Yes, that was so, no doubt, as regards a great number of them.

3409. The work you gave them did not disfranchise them?—No.

3410. Did the vestry make any provision for these men other than giving them money for their labour?—They made no other provision.

2411. You said that these men came to their work at times without food; was there no provision made to give those men a breakfast before they commenced the day's work?—No.

3412. To your knowledge those men came to work without food, and worked three or four hours without food?—Not from my own knowledge; but from the circumstances in which those men were placed I should certainly say so.

3413. I suppose they had an hour for dinner in the middle of the day?—Yes.

3414. How would they provide the food during that hour?—I do not know how they did that.

3415. But you know, as a positive fact, those men were working under those conditions without sustenance?—I do not know it as a positive fact; I can only say, judging from the rate at which some of these men were working, and the lack of energy they were putting into their blows, they evidently had not much stamina.

3416. Would any of those 200 men you employed be entitled to go to the depôts of relief established by the guardians and get food before they came on for the day?—No; I believe they had to get that relief through the relieving officers; and that would be practically during the same time that they were working.

3417. Was there any reason why the authorities of Camberwell, either the guardians or the vestry, should not have prevented such a terrible state of things as men working without food for many hours together, or these cases of starvation such as you have mentioned?—I consider the authorities of Camberwell took every precaution they could to prevent that state of things. The guardians

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

guardians said it was a time of exceptional distress, and they would provide food for everybody in a distressed state, and the vestry said they would take on as many men as they could to work upon the roads.

3418. The vestry could have established, could they not, in a couple of days, a place to give coffee or bread to the 200 men before they started work in the morning?—I do not know that the vestry have any power at present to establish a coffee stall, or anything of that sort.

3419. Are we to understand that neither by the charitable public, nor the guardians, nor the vestry of Camberwell, was any provision made for these men who were determined to work rather than receive relief or food from the guardians, and who altogether declined to work under the guardians, but came to you for employment?—The vestry provided the men with work and the guardians provided the men with food.

3420. So that these men who wished to earn their own living had no means of getting food, and came to your work after they had got to the lowest state of privation?—That is so in many cases; of course the circumstances varied. The men have no objection to working for the vestry at 3*s.* 4*d.* a day, beginning as early as they can in the day; but, of course, they had to take their turn. Our rates are limited; we have not an unlimited sum to spend upon that work.

3421. Your suggestion is, as I understand, that all these difficulties would be met if the guardians or vestry were to receive substantial assistance from the general funds of London?—I do not say that at all; I say it is not a difficulty that the vestry can solve at all; I say the vestry do the best they can under existing circumstances; but the hardship to a vestry or parish like Camberwell is that these men have to be relieved when they get out of work in the parish where they sleep, and we have to provide the money in a poor parish practically for that purpose; but I do not say that is going to solve or settle the question.

3422. You alluded to that as one means to help you in your administration?—I was only saying that it would be fairer if the share for London was spread over the whole; if, for instance, it came under a grant, like the Equalisation of Rates Grant, or something like that.

3423. Have you knowledge from your own observation that a large number of these unfortunate men of the regular working class object altogether to appeal to the guardians for relief in case of distress?—Yes, I believe that these men do. The really working classes do not wish to go to the guardians until they are pushed to the last extremity, that is my belief.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

3424. Are you aware that it has been given in evidence before this Committee that St. Olave's and Camberwell show an exceptional increase in the number of persons relieved this winter, far exceeding the increase shown in any other parish?—Yes.

3425. As regards Camberwell, you have told us that is partly due to the fact that it is what you call a dormitory parish; have you any other reason to assign for the great increase in Camber-

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

well; can you account for it in any other way: is there any additional cause you can name?—No, I do not think so. Most of the London parishes, or a great many of the London parishes, have given extra work during the frost to men out of employment.

3426. Camberwell is not contiguous with St. Olave's, is it?—No.

3427. What lies between?—St. George-the-Martyr and Newington. We are practically, I should think, two and a-half miles from St. Olave's. Bermondsey comes in between and a lot of other parishes.

3428. Does Camberwell include any suburban area?—Yes, it includes Dulwich. It extends from Bermondsey New-road to the Crystal Palace; we take in part of the Crystal Palace.

3429. There is a large villa population there, is there not?—Yes, in the Dulwich district; there are very large houses there. We go, roughly speaking, from Camberwell Gate to New Cross Gate.

3430. You say there were men who did not apply to the vestry for work, probably, in your opinion, because they had saved money?—No. The question was asked whether the 2,000 represented the whole of the unemployed in Camberwell, and I said, no, I should not think it did, because there are many skilled artisans and skilled workmen who are out of employment in in the winter who have, however, a little put by to stem the tide with, and who wait.

3431. I understand you to say in your opinion some do something out of what they receive in other times with which they do tide over the hard times?—Very few.

3432. Those who do apply to the vestry, you say, are mostly general labourers; there were some skilled artisans, were there not?—There were men describing themselves as painters and paper-hangers.

3433. Receiving what sort of wages?—They are paid at a rate per hour, and it would depend upon the number of hours they worked.

3434. Can you give us any estimate of the wages they are receiving in fairly good times?—I could not say.

Mr. *Jackson.*

3435. Do you not employ any of those men on your own work?—Yes; we pay all the men we employ the trades union rate; that is, a fixed rate.

3436. Does not that enable you to answer the honourable Member's question?—I can give you the rate per hour. Our painters we pay 30*s.* a week to, I think it is 8½*d.* or 9*d.* an hour; wheelwrights we pay 9*d.* an hour.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

3437. Do any men of that class come to you for employment on this relief work?—There are some of them.

3438. Would they form any considerable proportion of the 205 daily average?—No; two-thirds of that number, or more, would be the general labouring class, I should think.

3439. You say that men out of work show an

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley* – continued.

eagerness to come to get this relief work from the vestry?—Yes, they do.

3440. Is that the reason why you think there is a widespread objection to the disfranchisement resulting from accepting relief from the guardians? —No, I do not think that is the reason. I think the natural reason is that the men like to enjoy the privilege of having a vote.

3441. Is that conclusion founded upon anything more than a general *à priori* opinion of yours?—No.

3442. Have any men said anything about it to you; can you give the Committee any grounds for that opinion?—The workmen have told me distinctly the reason they object to going to the guardians is the disfranchisement.

3443. Have they told you that in sufficient numbers to lead you to the conclusion that it is a widespread opinion?—Yes, I have heard it from the secretaries of trades unions and different men that have spoken to me.

3444. But have you heard it from members of trades unions; have they told you so in at all large numbers?—No; a secretary, I take it, practically represents his union.

3445. Is that the ground upon which you form that opinion?—I think they object to it because they like to have their vote.

3446. They have, in some few isolated instances, said so to you, I understand?—I have heard it stated distinctly. I think I may say that is the general feeling among these men.

Mr. *Jackson.*

3447. That is your opinion?—Yes. I can give nothing more than an opinion. I can only say that is what I gather.

3448. You have no personal experience yourself in connection with guardians' work, have you?—No, not beyond the fact that the offices of the vestry and the guardians adjoin. I have not been engaged in guardians' work.

3449. You have not filled the office of guardian?—Not at all.

3450. You, I understand, represent the vestry of the parish?—That is so.

3451. Is that area co-terminous with the area of the guardians?—Exactly.

3452. As the rate of remuneration on this relief work, do I understand that the men receive 5*d.* an hour for eight hours a day?—Yes, 3*s.* 4*d.* a day.

3453. How does that compare with the rate you pay for ordinary labour?—We pay ordinary labourers 6*d.* an hour.

3454. Then it is one-sixth less?—Yes, a penny an hour less. I might supplement that by saying that our ordinary labourers on the road are graded; the old men receive less. There are three grades for actual road men.

3455. Is 6*d.* an hour the lowest?—Yes, I think so. They are paid weekly.

3456. And some receive more than 6*d.*?—Yes.

3457. The point of my question, as you will see, is whether you pay to the men engaged on the relief work a less rate of wages than you pay to the least efficient of the men you employ ordinarily?—They were paid at a less rate.

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

3458. You spoke of your district being a poor district; but is not that to some extent modified by the fact that you have a large population, more or less suburban?—No. I think the proof that it is practically a poor district is taken from the action of the Equalisation of Rates Act. We get a grant of about 5½*d.*

3459. That does not depend upon poverty, does it?—Yes; it is based on population and rateable value.

3460. But it is paid on population only, is it not?—No; on population and rateable value.

3461. Could you tell the Committee what the actual basis is of the equalisation of rates?—It is a calculation made upon the actual population as against the rateable value.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

3462. Let me put it this way: a rate of 6*d.* is collected upon the rateable value and it is distributed in proportion to population; the balance is paid or received; is not that so?—That is so.

Mr. *Jackson.*

3463. The reason you get a contribution from the fund is not because your rateable value is low, but because your population is high; is not that the reason?—No, not exactly; our contribution is governed by our rateable value but our receipts by our population.

3464. Your contribution to the fund is governed by your rateable value?—That is so.

3465. But the amount of relief given to you is based upon population?—That is so.

3466. Therefore the fact of your receiving from this fund is no proof that you are poor, but it is a proof that you are populous?—No; I take it rather the other way. We have 39,135 assessments, and more than half of those houses have a rateable value of under 20*l.*

3467. In what way does that affect it; that affects your contribution to the fund, not the receipts from it?—That affects our rateable value.

3468. Do you know how your rateable value per head compares with, say, Islington?—I do not know.

3469. Or any of the other adjoining parishes?—I have not the figures before me.

3470. Do you know what happens with regard to St. Olave's; do they receive from that fund?—The union of St. Olave's is made up, I believe, of three or four parishes; they are separate rateable parishes. I should think that St. Olave's pays to the equalisation of rates. They have a very large assessment and a very small population; they have large wharves in St. Olave's, which would have a very large rateable value, with a small population.

3471. Would you say that your population, taken as a population, is a poorer population than the average in St. Olave's?—I could not answer that.

3472. I suppose you would be inclined to think it was not?—It is very difficult to answer, because our population varies so much. We have several families living in one room, and then we have cases round the Crystal Palace of large

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

large mansions, so that it is extremely difficult to tell.

3473. You would not put it that St. Olave's contributes, and you receive under the Equalisation of Rates Bill, is any evidence, or may be taken as proof, that the residents in St. Olave's are better off than the residents, as a whole, in your district?—I could not say as to whether the residents were better off.

3474. I mean the population residing in the district?—Yes; but there is no doubt the rateable value in St. Olave's is far better than in Camberwell.

3475. I am speaking of the class of persons who live there?—I take it, a person who could afford to live anywhere in St. Olave's would possibly live in Camberwell or further out still in one of the large houses; but the people who live in St. Olave's are people who have to live there in order to be near their work. It is a poor district.

3476. It is a poorer district than yours?—It is a poorer district to reside in. In the Census Return of 1891 there was a table given showing the tenements with less than five rooms, distinguishing those occupied by various numbers of persons in the sanitary area of Camberwell, which would give some information upon your point. The columns are headed "Rooms in tenements, 1, 2, 3, 4" and "Number of tenements with less than five rooms"; and I see in Camberwell there are 4,650 with one room, 6,000 and odd with two rooms, 8,000 and odd with three rooms, and 7,711 with four rooms.

3477. Have you got the figures for St. Olave's?—No, I have only got the Camberwell figures.

3478. I rather gathered that you thought it would be better, so far as your district is concerned, if you received a contribution from other districts presumably better off?—Yes; what I said was practically that the districts where the men work and earn their money should contribute to keep them in any time of distress.

3479. Would you say that, because a man earns his money in one district and spends it in another, that is an additional reason why the district in which he earns it should contribute?—I do not know that he does spend it in the other district; I should say that he spends it between the two; but there is no doubt that the product of his labour, or his work, is benefiting the parish where he works; it is not benefiting our parish beyond the rent that he pays.

3480. Is it not benefiting the inhabitants of your parish if it provides him with his wages and food, and so on?—Yes, but it only provides him with wages as long as there is work going on; directly the work stops the man comes back to our parish to keep him.

3481. Then directly the relief work stops would you stop the contribution from that district; how would it work?—I should think it would work in the same way as the contribution now works for indoor paupers or the equalisation of rates.

3482. I understand you have a great many builders in your parish?—Yes.

3483. They may be working, let us say, in St. Olave's, or Chelsea, or in Westminster, upon

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

building operations going on there; but would you say that was a sufficient reason why those districts should contribute towards your rates?—I should say it is one of the chief reasons why it should be equally distributed. It is unfair for one parish to have to sustain and keep these men during the time they are out of work.

3484. Would you say that because a man living in your parish works at the Docks, therefore the Docks district should contribute towards your rates?—Yes; I think there should be one common charge for London for this purpose.

3485. That is rather another question; but would that really benefit you?—It would benefit us.

3486. Are there no districts poorer than yours?—Yes.

3487. Might you not have to contribute to them if there was a general rate?—We might have to; but that would not alter the idea I have that it should be a common charge for this extra work.

3488. But it would very much alter the result, would it not?—I am not afraid of the result so far as Camberwell is concerned.

3489. You mean you might not have to contribute?—I do not mean that; I mean that as regards this relief work the payment for the work should be spread over the whole of London, and not fall on the unfortunate parishes where the men happen to sleep.

3490. How would that affect your parish?—I do not know how it would affect it. We probably might gain slightly over it.

3491. At the present time, on the balance, do you receive or pay to the Common Poor Fund?—I think we receive from the Common Poor Fund. That is a question for the guardians, but I believe, as a matter of fact, we do receive.

3492. You receive from the Common Poor Fund, and you receive also from the equalisation of rates?—Yes.

3493. Do you know what you do receive from the equalisation of rates?—Yes; the amount we receive is equal to just over a 5*d.* rate on our district for the year, about 5½*d.* I think it comes out on the calculation for this year that the amount for Camberwell is about 23,000*l.*, and a penny rate is, roughly speaking, 4,000*l.*

Mr. *Bartley.*

3494. Then by the equalisation of rates you are relieved to the extent of 5½*d.*, and the adjoining parish of St. Olave's has to contribute?—I am not sure whether that is so in St. Olave's; I think so.

3495. We had it in evidence it was so; do you think that is a satisfactory arrangement?—Yes.

3496. For Camberwell, anyway?—It is, because St. Olave's comprises very large warehouses and places of very large rateable value; whereas ours is very small.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

3497. You have the South Metropolitan Gasworks in Camberwell, have you not?—Yes.

Mr. *Bartley.*

3498. And the Crystal Palace?—Only a portion of the Crystal Palace. That is very small.

3499. But there are large houses round the Crystal Palace, are there not?—The large houses round the Crystal Palace are not of a large rateable value; the rents there are reducing very much.

3500. Still all the rates in Camberwell are reduced by the Equalisation of Rates Act?—Yes.

3501. With regard to your system of relief at Camberwell, do you say that everybody applying was put on to the list?—Yes.

3502. You sent out these postcards in alphabetical order, I understand?—Yes. We took the names in alphabetical order.

3503. You say some of these men did not turn up?—Yes.

3504. Some of them overslept themselves, you say?—Yes.

3505. Do you think that those men were very anxious for work?—It was only a very small number of men did that.

3506. You mentioned it, I think, in your earlier evidence?—Yes, but the question was asked as to the number of men summoned, and the number of days a week each man would work, and I said that there were a very few cases where the men did not turn up at the depôts in time, and his place was taken by others.

3507. Did you take any means to strike them off the list where the men did not turn up because they overslept themselves?—We dealt with each case on its merits.

3508. Did you ever strike any off of the list?—Yes.

3509. Why did you strike them off?—We struck some off the list because they did not attend at the time they were summoned for; and we struck off some men because the work they were doing was not satisfactory; they were really not working.

3510. Do you know how many men were treated in that way?—No.

3511. Was it any large proportion?—Not a large proportion.

3512. Has pauperism increased in Camberwell within the last few years?—Yes.

3513. Can you give us any figures to show that?—I have not the figures.

3514. Has general distress increased in Camberwell; is there an exceptional amount of distress at the present time?—It is not exceptional at the present time. At the present time there is a great deal of work being done in Camberwell; nearly all the water mains have burst, and the water pipes, and a great number of men are getting work now repairing the mains for the water companies.

3515. Do you know of any special reason why Camberwell should be worse off than any other part of London?—Nothing beyond the fact that the rents are very cheap in Camberwell, and that the men can easily get from there to other parts of London.

3516. Do you mean that the fact of rents being cheap in a district is a reason why the people are poor?—No; it is a reason why poor people should go to live there.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

3517. I think you said that the wives got relief from the guardians while the men went to work; did you take any means to see that there was not an overlapping in that way?—No. I said what might happen would be that whilst the men were engaged in sweeping the roads, in a few cases the wives might get food from the guardians; I did not say that as an actual fact they did.

3518. Have you any reason to suppose that they did?—No, nothing beyond the fact that they could have done it. The relief is given at times when the men would be working.

3519. There was no test of any sort?—There was no test.

3520. Do you think that is a proper way of relieving distress?—Do you mean so far as the guardians or the vestry are concerned.

3521. The vestry and the guardians combined?—So far as the vestry was concerned, there was a test: the men had to sweep and clear away the snow; they had to work. So far as the guardians were concerned there was no test.

3522. You said that these men were employed on this relief work for two days a week; did you take means to know what they were doing the other days of the week?—No; I should think most of them were waiting outside the vestry hall on the other days of the week. We used to have 500 or 600 men every day waiting outside the vestry hall.

3523. Do you know whether they were all from your own district?—No; the only means we had to test that was by sending the postcard to the address given.

3524. Do you think those postcards were dealt with or sold in the district?—I heard of only one case where a postcard was sold for 6*d.*, or something of that sort.

3525. As a matter of fact, these cards might have been sold, and I understand were sold occasionally?—I heard only of one case where a postcard was sold.

3526. You told us that the men sometimes gave two or three addresses?—We had a case or two of that sort.

3527. Did those men get two or three postcards?—They would.

3528. What could they do with the postcards, except sell them?—They might get cards for different days.

3529. Do you think such a system as that is likely to reduce destitution, or to encourage it?—I do not see that that system would alter the destitution in any way; but in the opinion of the vestry that was the only way we had of dealing with the matter on an emergency.

3530. It was the best thing the vestry could do?—Yes.

3531. Except to pass resolutions; they passed resolutions, did they not?—Yes, a great many.

3532. Was there any result from those resolutions?—No.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

3533. Could you give us an idea of what the character of the resolutions to which you have been referring was?—The resolutions were the resolutions that have been passed in many parts of London. One of the resolutions was, "That the

15 *March* 1895.] Mr. TAGG. *Continued.*

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

the vestry approve of the appointment of a Royal Commission, and that a letter be sent to the Local Government Board asking them to select one of their Commissioners from Camberwell." The vestry passed that resolution in December 1892.

3534. Would it be correct to say that the gist of them was that the vestry was unable to deal with the distress arising from want of employment, and asked the Government for help in the matter?—Yes. It was practically this, that the vestry had no funds at their disposal to relieve the distress, beyond the ordinary rates.

3535. You have told the Committee that, with the exception of the distress due to the late frost, there is no exceptional distress in Camberwell this winter; but that does not mean, I presume, that there is no distress from want of employment?—It does not mean that there are no men out of work.

3536. You mean there is nothing beyond the normal condition?—Yes.

3537. You also told us that you adopted the postcard system and crowds of men applied for work?—Yes. I am speaking of two years ago.

3538. Would that be the normal condition, that crowds of men would be applying for work?—Yes, there is naturally a good number of men in a poor parish like Camberwell anxious to work for the vestry, where they get 3*s.* 4*d.* a day.

3539. In your opinion would it be desirable, if it were possible, to organise some system whereby these men would find employment afforded them which should be provided through the vestry?—I do not quite follow.

3540. Your vestry is driven to despair almost in its attempt to find work for these men. They are put to do a class of work part of which is skilled work, such as channelling, which ought to be done by skilled men?—Excuse me; we have not put any of these men on channelling; the actual channelling is done by skilled men. The excavations for channelling may be done by unskilled men; but of course that work could not be done during the frost.

3541. Would not the work be better done if done in the ordinary way instead of a relief work?—Certainly.

3542. That would mean that some employment other than relief work will require to be found for the men out of work, if it could be done; I do not mean by the vestry?—Yes; if relief works were established, no doubt you would find men anxious to work upon them.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

3543. I do not think you told us the amount in the £. of the total rates in Camberwell?—If you take it for the complete year ending March this year, it is 3*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 2*d.*, that is to say 6*s.* 8*d.*; but, of course, in the last six months of the year, from September to March, there is the relief of 2½*d.* under the Equalisation of Rates Act.

3544. Is that allowed for in this 6*s.* 8*d.*?—Yes; it is allowed for.

3545. Then the total rates in the pound were 6*s.* 1*d.*?—6*s.* 8*d.* levied.

3546. Then you told us that these men on the relief works received 5*d.* per hour; was that rate

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

of remuneration fixed by the vestry, or how was it determined?—It was fixed by the standing committee of the vestry to whom it was referred.

3547. Through whom did you make such inquiries as were made with regard to the *bona fides* of these applicants?—We made no inquiries beyond searching the rate books to see if the names the men had given to us were entered on the rate books. Certain inquiries were made of the relieving officers. Practically we had no time to deal with the cases in any other way.

3548. Did you not send men to the addresses given to make inquiries?—No; we had no staff to do that.

3549. You did not get any extra staff for the purpose?—No.

3550. Are you aware that in some localities the local authorities engaged extra men for the purpose of making special inquiries as to the *bona fides* of the applicants for employment?—No.

3551. With regard to what you told us about the surcharging of the expenses for the labour exchange, I understand the labour exchange cost on the whole about 200*l.*?—I should think that is about it.

3552. And that the auditors surcharged only 36*l.*?—Yes, it was only a proportion of the time that was surcharged; it was really the amount expended in salaries to the superintendent and clerks, after the answer to the question was given in the House of Commons.

3553. May I take it, then, that the expenditure incurred before that answer in the House of Commons was allowed by the auditors, but that the expenditure subsequently to that answer was disallowed?—That is so.

3554. You have told us that there was a very strong feeling against disfranchisement amongst men thrown out of employment?—Yes.

3555. Supposing that disfranchising condition were removed, do you think there would still be a strong reluctance among the same class of persons to apply to the guardians for relief?—I think the feeling would not be so strong. They prefer to have work through the vestry rather than through the guardians.

3556. I wish to ask just a question or two about the effect of the Equalisation of Rates Act. The benefit which a locality receives from that Act depends, does not it, up on two factors, viz., population and rateable value?—We pay on rateable value, and receive on population.

3557. So that it depends upon the two factors, and not on population alone?—Certainly.

3558. In the first place an estimate is made of what the locality ought to pay on the rateable value?—That is so.

3559. So that the rateable value is one of the factors, and regulates the contribution to or from the locality?—That is so.

3560. Then the grant to the locality is based upon population?—It is distributed on population.

3561. I think it says in the Act, 6*d.* on the rateable value shall be the sum to be apportioned against the different parishes; when the whole of that sum has been collected, if the parish is in the

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

condition either to receive or pay, the difference is either paid or received from that parish by the council.

3562. Is it the fact that an estimate is made, or that money is actually paid with regard to the contribution?—The council, for instance, sent us about a month ago a cheque for the six months on 2½*d.*; that is for the six months from September to March.

3563. Then it is only the balance that is paid or received?—Only the balance. That is provided for in the Act. You do not have to collect your money; they only deal with balances.

3564. Then I will repeat the question I put a moment ago: the manner in which a locality is affected by the Act depends upon two factors, not upon one; the two factors being the population and the rateable value of the locality?—That is so; they are charged on rateable value and receive on population.

3565. So that if you have two localities with the same population, but one with a higher rateable value than the other, there would be a difference in the benefit received in the two localities?—Certainly; I presume that is exactly the case in St. Olave's. St. Olave's has a very large rateable value and a very low population.

3566. Camberwell and St. Olave's have been contrasted; are you aware that the rateable value per head of the population in Camberwell is 4*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, whereas in St. Olave's it is 50*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*; you would not dispute that?—I believe our rateable value is about 4*l.* 10*s.* I do not know about St. Olave's.

3567. You have no reason to suppose that I am not correctly stating the rateable value per head in St. Olave's when I say it is over 50*l.* per head?—Of course I am quite unable to answer that question.

3568. At all events, you believe that the rateable value of St. Olave's per head is very much higher than the rateable value is in Camberwell?—Yes; I explained it must be so.

Mr. *Logan.*

3569. You, of course, have seen the reference to this Committee that we have to consider and report not only as to the extent of distress through want of employment, but as to whether any steps, either by legislative changes, or by changes in administration, will be likely to remedy the evils arising from want of employment; you have seen the reference to the Committee, perhaps?—I believe I read it in the newspapers.

3570. Have you ever thought about this question of the unemployed with a view of seeing whether there is not any permanent remedy for the want of employment amongst men willing to work?—I have thought about this question of the unemployed a great deal, but I have not been able to think of any permanent remedy for it.

3571. In your opinion (and you have had a good deal to do with these questions) is the number of unemployed increasing year by year?—I could not say; I can only deal with Camberwell. In Camberwell we seem to get more

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

applications every year. We only really touch the unemployed during the winter season.

3572. Has it ever occurred to you that our present system of land tenure and the way in which the land is dealt with may be largely responsible for the want of employment amongst men willing to work?—I attend here really as an official witness, and I should prefer not to give a personal opinion upon a question of that sort. It is not a question we deal with as a vestry.

3573. Have the ground values in your neighbourhood increased in recent years?—Greatly.

3574. And are still increasing?—Yes, they are still increasing.

3575. Is that increase owing to the needs of the people for land to live upon caused by the increase in their population?—Practically; through the necessity to build houses in Camberwell.

3576. Is there therefore a large increase in the value of the land, entirely apart from any capital expended by the landowners?—I could only answer that question by saying that undoubtedly building land in Camberwell has largely increased in value during the last twenty years.

3577. Apart from any capital expended upon that land?—Not in every case.

3578. In very many cases?—In some cases. It depends upon when the man acquired it.

3579. Has it ever occurred to you that these increased values might be intercepted by taxation and applied for the benefit of the people?—It has occurred to me that that might be, certainly.

3580. Have your vestry considered whether by any radical change in our system of land tenure, either the nation or the municipality becoming possessed of the land and applying the increased values for the benefit of the community, such a state of things might not be brought about as practically to do away with what we now have, that is to say, this number of men anxious and willing to work walking about unable to get work?—I believe in the past our vestry has passed resolutions on those lines; but the vestry of to-day, I venture to say, would not pass such a resolution.

3581. You said it was impossible for your vestry to carry out the Local Government Board's suggestions, therefore these various suggestions of the Local Government Board were, in your opinion, practically useless as providing any remedy for want of employment?—I may read, perhaps, the recommendation that one of the committees have laid before the vestry now on that circular. It expresses the opinion of the committee.

3582. I understood you to say that it was impossible to carry out the Local Government Board's suggestions?—I do not say it is impossible The vestry carry out all the works that are contained in this circular now, but it is impossible to pave streets and put channelling in during the frosty weather.

3583. So that the circular did not do much to solve the difficulty?—It has not solved any difficulty at all. The circular told us practically what we knew already.

3584. It has not helped you in point of fact?—It

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

—It is of no assistance to us. The vestry fully appreciate their duty in the matter.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

3585. You said you had a labour exchange in 1892, and you found that that exchange failed to answer its purpose?—Yes, we failed to get employment through it.

3586. But would not your experience lead you to the conclusion that possibly a labour exchange over a larger area might succeed, notwithstanding that in a smaller area it has failed?—If you could carry out a labour exchange for the whole of London practically, to which the whole of the employers of London would go, it might answer.

3587. As to the labour registry, some system of that sort is absolutely necessary to you to enable you to get the names of people who want to be put on the relief works?—We have people coming up in such numbers that the only way we can deal with it practically is taking their names and addresses.

3588. Really to register the names of all and sundry who choose to apply is the most convenient form, is it not, of knowing how many people there are who want employment, and selecting the best of them to whom you can give employment?—It enables us to know the names and addresses of persons wishing employment, but it does not afford very much assistance in seeing that they are the best to give employment to.

3589. Do you not put down on the register whether a man is married or single, and how long he has been out of work, and so on; are not those particulars put down?—Yes, we put down the answers that they give on these questions; but we have so many put down as married; they are all anxious to get work.

3590. Do you check the answers in any way; do you make any inquiries?—No, there is no canvass.

3591. I understand they have to re-register every week?—No, that was the system under the old labour exchange.

3592. I think you said you found it difficult to utilise the unemployed labour, because it was of a low grade, on your ordinary vestry work?—I do not think I used those words.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3593. You said it was relatively unskilled?—I said, practically, the great bulk of the men were general labourers; practically unskilled labour.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

3594. I understood you to say, in referring to the sort of work which your vestry had to do, that the class of people out of employment were not the people fitted to do that sort of work?—No; I said the work the vestry gave them to do, sweeping roads and footpaths, they were able to carry out.

3595. But I am referring to the paving and other regular vestry work?—They were not fitted to do that work; that is to say, the bulk of them. Of course there may have been some

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

paviors or such skilled men among them who were out of employment.

3596. You told us that resolutions with regard to a labour colony had been put before your vestry; have they ever considered the question of labour colonies as a means of advantageously setting to work that low grade class of labour?—They passed a resolution in favour of the County Council applying for power to establish a labour colony.

3597. When was that?—In March 1893. That is the resolution which I have already read. A copy was sent to the Local Government Board, the County Council, and the various vestries and boards of guardians.

3598. Now with regard to disfranchisement, you say you think that is an operative motive in leading people not to go to the guardians until they are obliged to?—I do.

3599. Then I gather from you this fact of disfranchisement leads people rather to prefer to come to the vestry for employment than to go to the guardians for relief?—Yes.

3600. Do you not think that is a desirable thing?—Certainly; that is exactly what I have said.

3601. With regard to charitable relief, you made the observation that you yourself have distributed some charitable relief?—Yes, I was secretary to a relief committee.

3602. I understand you found difficulty in knowing that the money got into the hands of those who really wanted it?—No; I said that we distributed it through a local committee, but these funds do not always get straight into the hands of the most deserving people; I mean there are people who know the quickest way to get tickets and that tickets are gone before the other people, who may be more deserving, get there.

3603. There are a certain number of people who are always ready to prey upon relief of any kind?—Yes, who are always waiting for relief.

3604. Does the result of your experience show that it is desirable to have some kind of barrier to deter people from asking for relief before they actually require it?—Yes. You mean, I presume, some test.

3605. Either a test or any other form of barrier which keeps them back from asking for relief until it is absolutely wanted; that is desirable, is it not?—I certainly agree with that.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3606. What do you do as a parish to adapt the execution of your local public works and exceptional works to slack and depressed times?—We constructed an underground urinal which we started in the winter months practically to try and assist as much as we could; but I do not think we had any other works. We painted our park railings during the winter time.

Mr. *Jackson.*

3607. Is that a good plan?—The criticisms upon it were rather severe, they said it was the wrong time of year for the work, but the vestry did it with the intention of relieving the distress.

 3608. You

Mr. *John Burns.*

3608. You told us that you painted Camberwell Park railings in the winter; was it in frost time?—There was some frost, I believe; it was in January, not this year, but two years ago.

3609. When do you paint your lavatories and water-carts, and street name-plates and stand-pipes, and do your numerous other local works?—We have a permanent staff of painters.

3610. Does your surveyor, about September, bring up a list of local works to be carried out in the coming months, and to some extent relieve the local unemployed market?—No; we do our painting work with our own permanent staff. It is spread out; it is done in the spring time chiefly for stand-pipes and hydrants.

3611. What do you do with regard to your stables and depôts, and so forth; do you do that kind of work always in the summer when there is a brisk demand for labour?—No, we really take no extra labour on for that purpose; we do that at our own time.

3612. Then may I take it that Camberwell does not specially adapt the carrying out of its local public work to the exigencies of the depressed labour market?—Only in regard to street sweeping and street cleansing, and such work as I have described. We have permanent men on the other work.

3613. From the point of view of providing work for the unemployed, Camberwell has not yet apparently set its house in order?—It has not discovered any way of doing it beyond street cleansing. We keep our painters on all the year round.

3614. You said under the Equalisation of Rates Act you received over 5*d.* in the pound relief; how much of that 5*d.* in the pound, or 23,000*l.* in all, which you received in the last year, have you devoted to the relief of your unemployed?—Under the Act it has to be spent on special circumstances.

3615. What are the special circumstances?—The equalisation will assist, practically, the 1,500*l.* that we have spent in relieving the unemployed this year.

3616. I gather that out of the 23,000*l.* you received under the Equalisation of Rates Act you have spent only 1,500*l.* for local work for the unemployed?—Of course the 23,000*l.* is for the whole year; during the last month we spent 1,500*l.*

3617. What have you done with the remainder?—We have reduced the rates in the pound on the September to April quarter by 2½*d.*, and we shall reduce it in the forthcoming quarter.

3618. You have relieved the ratepayers and the shopkeepers, but you have not proportionately relieved the unemployed?—We have relieved everybody that is rated.

3619. Now I come from that point to your resolution calling on the County Council to start labour colonies. Has it ever struck your vestry that that 23,000*l.* which they get from the equalisation of rates might be properly devoted by the vestry itself to the purchase of land for the purpose of a labour colony on its initiative, and on its own responsibility?—I do not think the vestry has any power to establish labour colonies.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

3620. What steps have you taken to ascertain that?—I am only guided by the Metropolis Management Act, where our duties are defined.

3621. Have you ever been applied to the Local Government Board to allow you to devote half of this 23,000*l.* to the purchase of land for a labour colony?—I think the Local Government Board's answer would be that there was no power to do so.

3622. Have you ever done so?—No.

3623. Have you taken joint action with any other parish to have a joint labour colony established?—No.

3624. Supposing the Local Government Board was willing to let you use 10,000*l.* out of the 23,000*l.* for the relief of the unemployed by you alone, as a parish having a labour colony, would you assume responsibility as a vestry for doing that?—I should think the present vestry would first see how it was going to be worked.

3625. I am to assume by that that you want the County Council to try the experiment of a labour colony first?—I think the vestry would prefer that.

3626. Do you think that a decentralised body like the London County Council would be able to conduct a labour colony on which Camberwell men exclusively were employed with that success, with that amount of local knowledge which means success, and generally with that information without which no colony or any piece of work can be carried out?—I do not think we should expect the County Council to establish a labour colony for Camberwell.

3627. But your resolution of March 1893 called upon the London County Council to establish labour colonies for the London unemployed?—Not for Camberwell.

3628. But you would want a colony for Camberwell with that number of unemployed?—No, we should not want a special colony.

3629. You had 2,000 out of work in 1893; if they were all willing to go to a labour colony that would be a fairly decent colony to start with, would it not?—We do not wish to take the whole of the colony.

3630. But 2,000 on a colony is a fairly good start, is it not?—I should think it would be a fairly good colony.

3631. Supposing the County Council were to deduct half your 5*d.* relief rate under the Equalisation of Rates Act for the purposes of a scheme of metropolitan labour colonies, do you think your vestry would cheerfully assent to that deduction?—I think our vestry as present constituted would want to know what benefit Camberwell was going to derive from the 10,000*l.* on the labour colony.

3632. Surely the assumption would be if the central body withheld from you half the relief you derive from the Equalisation of Rates Act, then proportionately you would have your unemployed relieved to that extent?—I should think the vestry would prefer to have the 10,000*l.* to expend themselves.

3633. You are under the impression that if the vestry had to contribute 10,000*l.* towards a labour

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

labour colony they would rather spend it themselves?—Certainly.

3634. Why do you think they would prefer to spend it themselves; is it not because they know more of the local conditions of the men who are treated on the labour colony?—No; I should think they would consider that they were better or equally able to judge of the nature of the work as the London County Council.

3635. Would they not be better qualified by their local knowledge of the inhabitants who were to be relieved?—I do not think they would be better qualified; because I think the men out of employment in our parish are, as I say, general labourers who do not belong exclusively to our parish.

3636. But generally they reside in the district?—Yes, they reside in Camberwell.

3637. You agree that to have local men dealing with local difficulties is better than strangers grappling with them?—I say Camberwell is quite able to manage its own local affairs, and deal with its own unemployed.

3638. Even to the extent of running its own labour colony?—I do not say, I think, it should run a labour colony.

3639. Who should?—I very much doubt, personally, whether anybody should.

3640. Do you think that the Camberwell unemployed would like to go to labour colonies, say, in the New Forest, or the clay lands in Essex, in winter time?—No; my experience of the unemployed is that they would not like to go out of Camberwell.

3641. But we cannot have labour colonies in Camberwell?—No; the Camberwell unemployed would prefer to spend their time with their wives and families.

3642. Has the Camberwell vestry discussed the question of the social, sexual, and marital side of labour colonies?—The discussion on the labour colonies took place in November 1893. They have discussed the matter from nearly every point of view, but I really forget how the discussion ran on that point. Our discussions are not at all curtailed on any matter, and no doubt they have fully discussed the whole of the question.

3643. Has the vestry expressed any opinion as to the social and sexual disadvantage of having 500 single men or 500 married men without their wives on a labour colony?—I was present at the vestry meeting in November 1893, when they discussed this resolution about labour colonies. I should like to explain that this was a resolution passed by the delegates appointed by the vestrymen and Camberwell guardians; but the Camberwell Vestry did not pronounce any opinion on the labour colonies, they only received the recommendation.

3644. But they sent it on, did they not?—The conference sent it on.

3645. The conference sent it on to the County Council?—I think so.

Chairman.

3646. Was not that the resolution you referred to when I examined you?—We had two or three resolutions on labour colonies. I think I was

Chairman—continued.

looking at the wrong one. The delegates of the vestries, district boards, and boards of guardians, passed this resolution on labour colonies and ordered it to be sent on to those different bodies. When the report of the conference was sent to the Camberwell Vestry, the vestry did not pronounce any opinion upon it; they received the recommendation.

3647. They did not adopt it?—They simply received it; they did not approve or dissent.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3648. Am I to gather that the Camberwell Vestry as a public body has not officially endorsed the theory of labour colonies for the relief of the Camberwell unemployed?—Not to the best of my memory.

3649. Without pressing you for an answer, because I recognise your position, may I take it you do not think that any large proportion of the Camberwell unemployed would go to labour colonies, whether they were started by the London County Council or by Camberwell?—I do not think they would myself.

3650. I see the Social Democratic Federation submitted to you a number of sensible sanitary propositions for work, such as on streets, urinals, drains, playgrounds, insanitary houses, and so on?—Yes, I have their proposals before me.

3651. What did the vestry do to carry out those suggestions?—The vestry employ as many men as they possibly can in sweeping the streets and channelling. They have made an estimate of 5,000*l.* to be spent this year. As to the urinals, we are erecting underground urinals. As to drains, we have an efficient house-to-house inspection of drains. As to playgrounds we have no means of dealing with that. The labour exchange, as I say, we had to close. As to insanitary, houses that sort of work we do by our very large staff of sanitary inspectors; we have a very large staff.

3652. Supposing that 10,000*l.* out of the 23,000*l.* you have secured under the Equalisation of Rates Act was spent in carrying out the sensible suggestions made by this body, do not you think you would have been able to have dealt with more unemployed than you have done last winter?—I do not see really how we are able to carry out these suggestions more extensively than we do. We practically carry out all these suggestions.

3653. Surely there are many streets in Camberwell, as in nearly every parish, that are not quite as clean, or quite as sweet, or quite as well swept as they might be; is not that so?—I do not quite agree that. We have in Camberwell streets that could be better, swept but we sweep as many as we possibly can.

3654. As many as you can afford to?—I do not say that.

3655. Are not your medical officer and surveyor somewhat circumscribed by the rates?—We have 400 men on the permanent staff.

3656. That expresses nothing, unless we know the relative figures. Do you not think, if the surveyor had half of the 23,000*l.* to spend in carrying out such work as I have mentioned, the streets could be swept cleaner, and the medical

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

officer would have a much more cheerful report than he can present now?—The surveyor practically spends this money now.

3657. He could spend more if he had it?—Yes, the surveyor could spend more, no doubt.

3658. Have you a refuse depôt and a farm in the country?—No.

3659. You contemplated having one, did you not?—We did.

3660. Why did you abandon the idea?—Because the vestry have not been able to see yet that they would save any money upon the present system; they think the present system is the cheapest.

3661. The reason why you did not adopt it was because the railway rates were very heavy, in fact prohibitive; was not that so?—Yes; both the railway and canal rates. We had a special committee which went very fully into the matter.

Mr. William Francis Dewey, is called in; and Examined as follows:

Chairman.

3662. You are the Vestry Clerk for Islington, are you not?—I am.

3663. What is the population of the parish of St. Mary, Islington?—The population at the present time is estimated to be 323,853. That is estimated upon the Registrar General's mode of calculating; it is a very difficult thing to arrive at really. The population at the census of 1891 was 319,143.

3664. Yours is one of the largest parishes in the United Kingdom?—I think the largest parish in point of population.

3665. What is the character of the parish; is it mainly a residential parish?—Essentially so, I should think; there are very few large manufactories or warehouses in it.

3666. Then the bulk of the working people who live in the parish go outside to their work, do they?—Well, a large number of them would be engaged, probably, in the building trades and matters of that kind.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

3667. Within the parish?—Within the parish a considerable number of them; but I should say a large number would go outside.

Chairman.

3668. Will you tell us what the rateable value of the parish is?—The rateable value during the year up to the present Lady Day was 1,717,571*l.*

3669. Is that an increase upon the rateable value of 1891?—Yes, the rateable value then was 1,675,138*l.*

3670. Then both the rateable value and the population have somewhat increased since 1891?—Yes.

3671. Not very largely, but to a certain extent?—Yes; Islington I was going to say, sir, is practically full; I do not think it can increase to any large extent; it is almost entirely built over, and I should almost say, I was going to say, as full as it can well be, having regard to the class.

3672. There is hardly any vacant space left?—Scarcely any.

3673. Then what are the rates?—The rates for the past year up to Lady Day, 1895, were 5*s.* 8½*d.* in the £.

3674. Is that calculating all the rates?—That includes all the rates. They were divided roughly in this way: the Poor, which includes the County and Poor Rate, as you know for the purpose of incidence, sir, was 3*s.* 3½*d.*; and the vestry, and what I will call the General Rate, the Vestry, School Board, and Baths Commissioners, 2*s.* 5*d.*

Chairman—continued.

3675. Did you get any relief under the Equalisation of Rates Act?—Yes, but I do not think it affected that rate. We have received during the current half-year (at least about a month ago) I think something like 10,000*l.* for the half-year.

3676. What would that be equivalent to?—That would be equivalent to a rate of 2*d.* in the £., or 4*d.* in the £. for the year.

3677. Can you tell us what the rateable value is per head of the population?—I was not prepared with a calculation, sir, but I heard you inquire that from Mr. Tagg: The rateable value is 1,717,000*l.*, and the population 323,000; I should say about 5*l.* is the rateable value; something like that.

Mr. *John Wilson.*

3678. For a man, woman, and child?—Yes, that is per head of the whole population.

Chairman.

3679. Can you tell us anything about the chief trades as stated in the census returns; what were the principal occupations of the persons in the district?—That I should obtain from the census returns, sir. You will see by the copy I have furnished to you that the total number engaged in the building trades are 10,861; "commercial" (without going through them *seriatim*), 11,148; "labour service and transport," 18,756; that latter item, I imagine, is largely due to its close neighbourhood to the large railways, the Great Northern, the London and North-Western, and the Midland.

3680. And "Commercial," I suppose, means largely clerks?—Clerks, I should say.

3681. You have a large number?—A very large number, I should imagine.

3682. Are the great bulk of your houses and tenements of small value?—Yes, I should say between 30*l.* and 40*l.*; not much over 30*l.* probably, average rateable value.

3683. You have not a large number of large houses?—Not a large number.

3684. I observe that you established a labour bureau at the beginning of last year?—Yes.

3685. Can you tell us anything about that?—Well, the facts connected with it are contained in the

Chairman—continued.

the labour bureau committee's report. It was established in December 1893, principally owing to the fact that some pressure had been brought to bear upon some members of the vestry because similar bureaus had been established elsewhere, and the committee reported at the end of nine months what the result had been. They said: "During the nine months that the bureau had been in existence, 3,572 men and 533 women (making a total of 4,105 persons) have applied for employment. The names of these have all been carefully registered, the applicants being required to put in an appearance at the end of every seven days, should they desire their names still to stand on the register." A small staff was employed to make inquiries, and so far as their inquiries went (which were made in 2,810 cases) the information received was in 2,517 cases satisfactory, and in 293 unsatisfactory; of that number, 293, many being unknown at the address given.

3686. How far did it result in getting employment for those who were registered at the bureau?—They go on to state in the report, sir, that "1,465 applications have been received from employers, 1,279 being for men, and 186 for women; and in this way the bureau has been a channel through which occupation of some kind has been found." They submit with their report a table showing these statistics, that during the nine months there were 1,383 general labourers registered, of whom 1,098 obtained (it is said) employment, but you will understand, of course, that that employment was probably very temporary; of the building trades 508 were registered, 113 of whom obtained employment; porters and messengers, 459, were registered, of whom 190 obtained employment; carmen and horse-keepers, 375 were registered, of whom 56 obtained employment; engineering and metal trades, 191 were registered, of whom 19 obtained employment; wood-working and furniture, 160 were registered, of whom 15 obtained employment; clerks and warehousemen, 130 were registered, of whom nine obtained employment; unstated occupations, 63 were registered, of whom 19 obtained employment; printing and book-binding, 48 were registered, of whom three obtained employment; outfitters, 23 were registered, of whom three obtained employment; as lads and boys, 232 were registered, of whom 61 obtained employment. Then, under the head of women:—For daily charing, 325 were registered, of whom 60 obtained employment; as general servants, 119 were registered, of whom 38 obtained employment; dressmakers and seamstresses, 54 were registered, of whom eight obtained employment; other occupations, 35 were registered, of whom 15 obtained employment; the total being 4,105 registered, and 1,707 obtained, to some extent, employment.

3687. Was that considered on the whole a success?—Well, the committee report it as a fair success.

3688. Was it renewed this last winter?—Yes; they are now continuing it.

3689. Have you been overcharged any expenses in connection with it?—No.

3690. You incurred some expenses, I suppose, last year?—Yes.

Chairman—continued.

3691. I do not want to know the details, but you did incur some expenses?—Yes.

3692. And you have not been overcharged?—No.

3693. Then you are not of opinion that there is any difficulty in paying?—The auditors have no power to enforce any surcharge. It is a surcharge upon the general rate; the auditors are not empowered to make any surcharge.

3694. Has there been, in your opinion, any increase of persons out of employment this last winter?—As I state, in my evidence, my official knowledge is limited, if I may say so, to my experience of the rate collection and my experience of this labour bureau, and as far as I am able to judge there has been very little, nothing abnormal, except during the four weeks of frost, then no doubt our building trades were thrown very much out of gear.

3695. Then what did you do during those exceptional four or five weeks as a vestry?—During 10 days in the month of February we employed an average of 904 additional sweepers daily.

3696. How long did that go on?—I should mention, sir, that my evidence was prepared really up to the end of the month of February. I think I might say that this relief was given practically, during 10 days only; there was really nothing to do during the intense frost, when, as you are aware, there was no snow really to be removed, nothing to be swept even.

3697. Then it was only while there was snow on the ground that this could be done?—Yes, and during, perhaps, the earlier stages of the frost.

3698. And you think the whole thing was limited to about 10 days?—I should think to about 10 days. I should say, perhaps, occasionally some additional sweepers have been put on since the break-up of the frost.

3699. What was the expenditure involved?—About 1,500*l.*

3700. What was the rate at which these men were paid?—Fourpence per hour.

3701. How many hours a day?—I cannot tell you exactly, sir, how many hours a day; unfortunately I have not got that, but I should imagine they were employed about eight or nine hours probably.

3702. Do you know how many days a week they were allowed to work?—No; but I think the men were taken on in shifts.

3703. Was this carried out, then, under the directions of your surveyor?—Yes.

3704. Did you give him the charge of the arrangements?—The vestry did.

3705. But you were cognizant of what the directions were, were you not?—Yes; the directions would be general; they would not be in detail exactly.

3706. Then these were left largely to him?—Yes.

3707. The number of days?—The number of days, yes. I think the men were supplied, to some extent, through the labour bureau, who would send men over, as it were, in alternate shifts.

Chairman—continued.

3708. Do you know the total number of men who were employed?—No, I do not.

3709. Do you know how many men stood on the register asking for employment?—Only by the return from the labour bureau. I have got a supplemental return showing the number of men on the labour bureau. I see that in January 1895, there were 1,117 registered themselves, and in February 1895, 889; so that those employed would be principally out of those men.

3710. But you are not able to tell us how many men were employed as additional workers; I think I have seen it in your evidence?—I beg your pardon, sir; I think I told you that an average of 904 were engaged for 10 days during the month of February: an average of 904 daily.

3711. And you think that those 904 men were working all those 10 days?—Not the same men.

3712. Not the same men?—No; not the same men. What I mean is that on those 10 days there were 904 men additional to our ordinary staff employed, and on each one of those 10 days.

3713. But not necessarily the same individuals?—No.

3714. When that 10 days were over you did no more?—We may have taken on some since.

3715. Practically not to a large extent?—No.

3716. Then you were not able to provide additional labour during the whole period of the frost by any means?—Oh, no.

3717. Were there any other efforts made to meet the distress?—As a matter of fact, there were not; because during the time that the distress was, as I say, abnormal, owing to the frost, no works of any kind were in progress. During the time that the distress in Islington was abnormal, owing to the frost, all work was suspended.

3718. But were there any other private sources of relief from which those who were out of work could obtain help?—I have no doubt there are numbers of them. I am not personally cognisant of their management.

3719. All you could do was to give employment while snow was on the ground?—Quite so.

3720. During the rest of the frost you were able to do nothing?—That is so; the vestry have not thought it their duty to give relief purely as relief unless they could get some return in the nature of work.

3721. Do you think there was a fairly good return for the 1,500*l.*, as far as the character of the work was concerned, the sweeping?—Yes, fairly good; these men are recognised as not being up to the ordinary class of men who would be engaged by the vestry; not the majority of them.

3722. You are not able to give us any information about the increase, or otherwise, of relief from the board of guardians?—From the Poor Law Guardians?

3723. Yes?—I have it indirectly from the clerk to the guardians, as an appendix obtained from Mr. Davey, the clerk to the guardians. I find that for the week ending the 23rd February

Chairman—continued.

1894 there were 1,543 adults not able-bodied relieved, and for the same week 1895, 1,725.

3724. Being an increase of how many?—About 175, I think.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

3725. Is that indoor or outdoor?—I am speaking of outdoor relief, now. I can give the particulars of indoor relief obtained from the same source, the clerk to the guardians. The total outdoor relief was 4,008, including able-bodied and children, in 1894; and, in 1895, 4,298; so that there were 290 additional during the last week of this year, to what there were in the corresponding week of the previous year.

Chairman.

3726. Have you any later figures?—No, I have not, sir.

3727. Then that would seem to imply that the guardians have not really very largely increased the amount of the relief given?—No, I think the general experience in Islington is that there has been no very largely increased distress except probably, as I say, during those four weeks.

3728. Were there any special private funds started, to your knowledge, for relief?—I cannot say that I know of any. There are a number of soup kitchens, dinner associations for the school board children, and so on, in the parish, but I do not think they were supposed to be much more in requisition during the past two months than they were in the same two months twelve months ago.

3729. They may have been slightly more active?—Yes.

3730. But you are not aware of any new associations?—I am not aware of any new agencies.

3731. Associations started to meet these special difficulties?—No.

3732. Then your general impression is that the exceptional distress was not very great, and that the ordinary distress was not largely increased, that is to say, not largely increased during this winter?—That is my experience. I give some statistics with regard to summonses.

3733. Yes, I have seen them. I do not think we need go closely into that. Now, what is your view about the Local Government Board's circular letter?—We have looked upon it as an utterly useless, and, if I may say so, not only useless, but rather misleading circular, because it induces persons who are wanting relief to fancy that the vestries and guardians are almost instructed to provide it. We have had numerous deputations of persons who were distressed, not this year, but in times past, coming to the vestry and almost demanding relief in accordance with what they have said they understood to be the instructions of the Local Government Board.

3734. Have you not had such deputations this winter?—I do not think we have had one such this season.

3735. Did the vestry reply to this letter in any way?—Not on this occasion.

3736. Have they on former occasions?—I am not quite sure, but I think they have.

3737. But you do not consider that the circular

Chairman—continued.

cular has been of any particular assistance to you?—No, for these reasons: first, you see, the Board attach these conditions, work which will not attach the stigma of pauperism; work which all can perform whatever may have been their previous avocation (which is almost at once an impossibility); work which does not compete with other labourers in employment (which again is almost an impossibility), and they proceed to classify these works as follows——

3738. We have got that fully before us; we know the list of works; but you have not found yourselves able to put in force any of those works?—At the time when this circular was issued, I think on nearly every occasion we were actually stopped by frost from carrying out the works suggested.

3739. But you are carrying out some of those works in the ordinary course of your business as a vestry?—Yes, when not stopped by frost.

3740. Quite so; you feel the difficulty that when distress arises from frost, some of these very suggestions cannot be carried out because of the frost?—I should say all of them, probably.

3741. You are aware that these circulars are not issued with reference to times of frost?—No, they are issued regularly every year.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3742. Oh no, not regularly?—I think we have had them for the last five years regularly.

Chairman.

3743. I think we need not go into detail on that; I mean they are not issued purely with reference to the frost, they are issued with reference to the want of employment, especially during the winter, no doubt?—They are.

3744. It may be an open winter, or a frosty winter?—Quite so.

3745. Are you of opinion that some of these things can be performed with advantage apart from the question of severe weather?—No; I think not.

3746. You do not think that any of these things can be performed by you with advantage for the employment of those who are out of employment?—No, for this reason; that we immediately conflict with one of the conditions of the board, and one which I apprehend this Committee will attach importance to; that is, that we interfere with the employment of regular labour.

3747. Then is the view of your labour bureau that they ought not to employ during the winter men who are out of employment in any case?—No; as I have said, we have employed a large number of additional men for such things as sweeping the streets; snow cleaning.

3748. I beg your pardon, I meant outside the question of the special frost?—Well, I think I might say that it is the opinion of the vestry that it is undesirable to create work, that is (shall I say) useless, for the purpose simply of employing the unemployed.

3749. But let me take the question of laying out and paving of streets, or cleansing of streets which are not otherwise cleansed. Apart from the question of severe weather, is it your view, or the view of your vestry, that they ought not to

Chairman—continued.

employ those who are out of work during the winter on works of this sort, for fear of affecting those who might be employed otherwise?—I should say that that would be their view with regard to all the classes of labour except the sweeping of the streets.

3750. With regard to almost every other class of labour, in your opinion, you might be affecting those who are already in work?—Quite so.

3751. Or expecting work in the ordinary way?—Quite so; and turn them into the class of unemployed.

3752. Then that partly accounts for your limiting your relief this year to the 10 days when there was snow on the ground?—I think so.

3753. Then have you any suggestions to offer on the general question as to those who are out of employment?—No, I do not think I have. As I say, the matter has not apparently pressed so much in Islington as I daresay it has in such parishes as West Ham and other districts.

3754. Your view on the whole is that, apart from severe weather, the bulk of the working people living in your parish are fairly well employed throughout the year?—I think so.

3755. And therefore in your case the question of the relief of the unemployed hardly arises?—It does not press, at all events, to the same extent that it does, no doubt, in other places.

3756. It does not press to the extent that your vestry think it necessary to devise any methods of employment?—No; having regard, of course, you will understand, sir, to their statutory powers and what they consider their duties to their ratepayers. I mean to say they are not formed with the intention, as the guardians may be, of giving relief.

3757. No, but if it had been assumed that it was a very much more pressing question than you considered it to be, then, of course, the vestry might have considered it their duty to act differently to what they have?—I think so.

3758. Their action has been largely based, at any rate, upon the fact that they think the distress has not been very exceptional or very great?—Yes; there has been no very great pressure brought to bear.

3759. Is there anything special you would wish to add?—I should like to say a word upon a matter which I have heard spoken of. Of course, I have read the evidence which has been taken before this Committee with some interest, as I was summoned to attend here, and I have heard Mr. Tagg's evidence; I think, myself, that a great deal too much has been made of the question of the disfranchisement of the persons who seek out relief: I have had an experience of 25 years in the preparation of the lists of voters of probably the largest parish, the largest borough, in England, and so very few out of the 45,000 on the lists are, I should say, disfranchised owing to parochial relief, and so very few who have received relief ever come forward and attempt to claim their vote that I could never have supposed that any importance was attached to it whatever, until I read it in the evidence given before your Committee. I have not the slightest doubt that it does

Chairman—continued.

affect some men of strong political views, but I think a very small proportion.

3760. You think that very few men who have fallen into great distress, perhaps by accident or misfortune, would consider the question of losing their vote, before they applied to the Board of Guardians?—I should not think one in a hundred. I venture to say this, that if the law were amended in that respect (I am speaking because I have seen the evidence), I doubt whether it would increase the out-door relief to an appreciable amount over the kingdom.

3761. You think it would not have much effect?—Not the slightest.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3762. You said, sir, that you thought the Local Government Board's Circular rather did more harm than good?—Yes.

3763. Why do you say that, sir, apart from the individual instances you have given us?—Because it leads the working classes unemployed to suppose, and almost to insist upon, relief being obtained from the vestries who are unable to give it.

3764. Can you suggest or devise any means by which the Local Government Board, acting for the Imperial authority, can communicate to vestries and local authorities instructions providing for special distress arising from want of employment, except through a circular?—No.

3765. Well, failing a local authority taking the initiative in grappling with its own distress, can you suggest any means by which the Local Government Board can stimulate the local initiative, and at the same time not do a slight amount of harm?—No; nor do I think it necessary that the Local Government Board should seek to stimulate it, because I think the local authorities in the metropolis would always be stimulated by their own ratepayers in matters of the kind.

3766. But is it not a fact that just in proportion, during the last 10 years, as the local authorities have been stimulated by a Local Government Board Circular, greater attention has been paid to relief works for the unemployed?—I do not think so particularly; I do not think it has been owing to these circulars.

3767. Is it not a fact that the vestries and the guardians to-day do consider and discuss the question of the unemployed and relief works more frequently than they did 10 years ago, when no circulars were issued?—Yes; I think it due to the same cause as that which brings the circulars out, namely, that there is a pressure brought to bear upon the vestries and district boards.

3768. Then I am to gather from you that the fact that the Local Government Board's Circular is issued, and the initiative greater than it was, is due to the same pressure upon the authority as that which exerts itself upon Parliament?—I think so.

3769. That is agitation and organisation of discontent with existing distress?—I think very likely the "organisation of discontent."

3770. Are you aware that in 1893 96 local authorities, through the circular, gave employment in England and Wales to 30,000 men, who, without the circular, would not have been employed?—No; you will understand I was only speaking of Islington.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

3771. Quite so?—I was not speaking of my experience outside.

3772. What does Islington do in the way of adapting its local work to slack times?—I have told you what it did during the 10 days.

3773. I do not call that local work. I mean what does Islington, as a parish, through its surveyor and Works Committee, do in making up old roads, or in making new roads, and doing sanitary work in regard to the general condition of unemployed labour in slack times?—Nothing at all.

3774. Does not the surveyor bear that in his mind when he is bringing up propositions to the Works Committee?—Well, I should hardly like to speak for him, but I should doubt whether he does much, except during a time of frost such as we have recently had.

3775. I am putting frost on one side?—I do not think that he would.

3776. May I put this to you: if the vestry had five roads to channel, and a proposition was brought up that these roads should be done in June, July, and August, when the building trades and work for navvies and bricklayers was fairly brisk, do you think the vestry would push on with those roads in June, July, and August rather than leave them to October, November, and December?—I should say undoubtedly they would.

3777. They would?—I am assuming, of course, that the work was considered to be necessary.

3778. Was urgently necessary?—Yes.

3779. But is it not a fact that local parish work of that kind can generally wait a few months?—Well, possibly so.

3780. Let me put it in this way: if you had 2,000*l.* to spend in the relief of distress arising from want of employment in Islington, would you not, if possible, rather spend that 2,000*l.* by having the test of public work that would benefit the community than have 500*l.* of that 2,000*l.* spent in the relief of distress either through food or outdoor relief, or in other ways?—Oh, I would certainly rather get value for the money.

3781. Then I am to gather that Islington has not specially pursued the plan that some vestries have done of adapting its ordinary and extraordinary local work to what is known as the unemployed building season?—I think not.

3782. Do you see any objection to that being done?—Well, the objection to that is this; we will take the principal matter to which you refer, the making of new streets; the making of new streets is a charge upon the owner; and after we have obtained his money, which we have to do first, we consider it is our duty to return a *quid pro quo* and make the road as quickly as possible.

3783. You very frequently take their money and do not do the roads for months?—In this sense, that we do not get the whole of it in.

3784. Well, we have some experience of that?—Would you allow me to add, in reply to that statement which you have made, that although as you say there is no doubt abundance of labour in June, July and August, yet I venture to think that

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

that those are the months which probably would be selected, because, as you know well enough, they are the months in which the work can be carried on probably to greater advantage than if you let it run into November, when there is a probability of frost, or December.

3785. Of course I do not want to argue this with you, but is it not your experience that road making, apart from frost, can be done equally as well in October, November, and January and February, as in June, July, and August?—I think not, not during very wet months I should say; I am not speaking though as a practical man, mind.

3786. We would like the surveyor in the box on this question?—If I may say so, this would answer your question right off: we should probably do a great deal more work of the kind you have mentioned to-day, if I may venture to say so, from March to October, than we should during the five winter months.

3787. That is just the point?—Mind, you will understand, simply on account of the work being carried out, from the surveyor's point of view, better.

3788. Let me put it in this way: supposing your parish can for any three months of the year give employment to 100 unemployed painters, would not you advise, as a matter of public business, and of public convenience, and of public profit, that those 100 painters should be employed at that three months of the year when their trade was the most slack, subject, of course, to the weather allowing their work to be done?—Well, I confess I should hardly like to answer that question off-hand; there are other points.

3789. You believe that prevention is better than cure in everything, do not you?—Oh, yes.

3790. Then would not you rather have that 100 men employed in that three months of the year, when they would be prevented accepting charity or outdoor relief, and get their relief in wages through a proper amount of work being done; have you considered that point as a vestry?—I do not think we have.

3791. You know that some parishes have deliberately set apart certain work for certain months as a means of acting as a buffer to the unemployed?—Yes; I do not think Islington has; perhaps that is what I had better say.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

3792. Have you much compounding for rates in your parish?—Not a very large amount.

3793. I found my question upon this: I notice that at Christmas 1894, the number of persons who did not pay their rates when they were summoned was very largely increased as compared with 1890?—Something like 400.

3794. Something like 400; 2,500 in 1890?—Two thousand nine hundred as compared with 2,500.

3795. My question is this: would not that indicate a considerable amount of pressure or distress amongst the smaller ratepayers in Islington?—I think not, because when I look to the number of persons who, as a consequence, were excused, I find there were 94 as against 85 in the corresponding period four years before.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

3796. But, as a rule, do not you find that the bulk of the people who are summoned pay when they are summoned, and do not appear when summoned?—Yes.

3797. And there is a considerable increase amongst those who were summoned?—Yes; you will remember the rates were 6*d.* more in the £.

3798. Do you think that affected it?—Yes, I think that would considerably affect the appearances to the summonses.

Mr. *Benn.*

3799. You spoke with regard to the franchise in connection with the giving of outdoor relief?—Yes.

3800. And you expressed an opinion that you did not think it was generally a question of consideration?—I do not attach the slightest consideration to it myself; I am only speaking of my own experience.

3801. You mentioned that you have been reading some of the evidence given before this Committee?—Yes.

3802. You recognise that if outdoor relief was given at the rate of the St. Olave's or Camberwell standard it would very seriously affect the register?—I do not think I noticed that; I should not have thought that it could have done so.

3803. All those who received relief from the stoneyard would in the natural course of things be struck off the register?—Yes, if they were entitled otherwise to be on it; but a very small proportion, I should say, of those persons are entitled to be on it.

3804. But you are aware that the residential test was applied in a large number of cases, so that that would seem to indicate that they would be on the register, many of them?—I do not see that.

3805. Any extensive destitution would affect the register supposing it was given to those who resided in the district, would it not; you think that is a matter of no great consequence?—What I said, or what I desired to say, was this, that I did not think that the fact that they would lose the franchise would deter a man from applying for relief to any great extent.

Mr. *Bartley.*

3806. Islington is a very densely populated parish, is it not?—Yes.

3807. And there is a great number of what are usually called the poorer persons living there?—Yes. There are flats containing what would be called poor people, and so on.

3808. And a very large number of families in one?—Yes, tenements.

3809. A very large number?—Yes.

3810. Therefore there is a population that might readily ask for relief works if they existed, I suppose?—I should have thought so.

3811. And do I gather from you that you think that opening relief works, and the talk by circulars and other things, tends to produce the demand for works?—Well, it has tended to bring about a sort of dissatisfaction with the vestry and board of guardians for not finding what these persons have thought they were entitled to.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

3812. Do you think that is an evil?—Well, I think it is an evil that they should be led to suppose that they could have what the vestry has no power to give them.

3813. Do you think it prevents them depending upon themselves and makes them rather depend upon the vestry?—Possibly. It would prevent their seeking work elsewhere, possibly.

3814. Now as regards the work which the vestry does, an honourable Member referred to 100 painters; do I understand that the vestry works as an ordinary employer to get the best it can for itself in the way of work?—Yes.

3815. It does not act on the philanthropic line at all, but for its work considers itself an employer responsible to the ratepayers to get the best it can from the rates?—Yes; and it considers itself responsible to the ratepayers, and especially to the smaller class, who, any of them, might by excessive rates be turned into the class of the unemployed.

3816. There are a great number of that class, are there not, in Islington?—A very large number.

3817. Who are just on the border line, so to speak?—Yes.

3818. And any relaxation in that way, or philanthropy might really inflict considerable hardship upon many deserving people?—I think the vestry have thought that.

3819. Then as regards the rate of payment, you gave, for the special works during the eight or ten days, as I understand, fourpence an hour?—Yes.

3820. Is that below the ordinary wages?—Yes, slightly; they pay fivepence an hour to the ordinary sweeper.

3821. And is fourpence given as a matter of principle to keep it below the ordinary standard?—Undoubtedly. The vestry think that for these works (supererogatory works, if I may so term them) that they do they should not pay the ordinary rate of wage.

3822. So that by that means the men will find work as soon as they can for themselves?—That is the idea.

3823. You think that is borne out by the facts of employment this winter?—I think so.

3824. You think that is really a benefit to the poor themselves?—Yes; it is in the nature of what the vestry consider relief works, and they think that if they create them specially they should not be paid for (I do not know whether I am using the right term) at the union rate, or regular rate, of wages.

3825. You think, as a matter of principle, that that ought to be below so as to secure persons leaving that work as soon as possible?—Yes.

3826. You do not wish to see the vestry a large employer of casual labour, I suppose?—No, not personally, and I do not think the vestry wish to.

3827. You think it would be an evil to the poor themselves if they came to rely upon the vestry?—Yes, unless, of course, the works were necessary.

3828. Of course?—I apprehend, if I may say so, that every member of the Committee would think that to employ a large staff of men in unnecessary work for the sake of giving them relief would certainly be an evil.

3829. Then I gather that Islington is somewhat exceptional in this way; that although a fairly prosperous parish it has an immense number of persons in it whose means are comparatively small?—I should think so.

3830. But the rates are fairly low, are they not?—Yes, very low, as compared with most of the metropolitan parishes. Out of 60, beginning with St. James's, Westminster, as the lowest, I think Islington comes tenth.

3831. Then Islington gets a large relief from the Equalisation of Rates Act?—20,000*l.* per annum at the present time.

3832. Is that because the population is so dense?—Yes.

3833. Do you know whether it is one of the most densely populated districts in London?—I should think it is, because the area is very much smaller than either Lambeth, Camberwell, Lewisham, or Hackney, I think, whilst it has a much larger population.

3834. Do you know the 37th Report of the Medical Officer of Health; does that at page 98 give the population per acre at 105, as compared with London, 37?—I have not that before me.

3835. Do you consider the density of the population does affect this want of employment?—I should think it would.

3836. You think the more densely a district is populated, the greater the chances are that the question of the want of employment will be more acute there than in a less densely populated district?—I should think so unless there were special reasons, such as Docks in the neighbourhood, or something of that sort.

3837. That does not occur in Islington?—No.

3838. So that from the population of Islington one might expect as much distress there as anywhere else?—I think so.

3839. Then the general result of your evidence is, that as far as Islington is concerned there has not been any extraordinary amount of distress this winter except from the frost?—I think that is so.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

3840. I believe it has been established that with the exception of one or two of the most wealthy parishes in London, Islington has shown less increase in the amount of pauperism this winter than almost any other district in the Metropolis?—Yes. I am not acquainted with the Poor Law returns as regards the indoor relief except what I have given you from the clerk to the guardians, but from my own knowledge I should think it has.

3841. Do you know what the number of your assessments is?—The number of rateable hereditaments is 44,441.

3842. Do you know what proportion of them are houses below 20*l.*?—No, I could not tell you what number are below 20*l.*, but there is not a large number below 20*l.* The average would be something over 30*l.* probably, about 30*l.*

3843. It

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

3843. It is essentially a residential district, is it not?—Yes.

3844. You heard the whole of the evidence of the last witness, I think?—Very nearly the whole, I think.

3845. Can you suggest why, with so many points in common between yourselves and Camberwell, you have such a markedly different degree of distress this winter?—No, I did not gather that they had a very large amount of exceptional distress from the witness. I thought he gave evidence rather in the other direction.

3846. The figures of pauperism in Camberwell are phenomenal?—I did not gather that from his evidence.

Mr. *John Wilson.*

3847. I think you stated that the parish of Islington was nearly all built over?—Yes.

3848. You have no unbuilt ground remaining?—Very little.

3849. Are you aware whether there is any overcrowding in the district on account of the want of house accommodation?—Well, occasionally, of course, cases come to the medical officer's knowledge which call attention to the fact that a room (or two rooms) is occupied by an excessive number of persons. But there is nothing very serious in that.

3850. I think from the statement you have put in that the great body of the people in your parish are engaged in the building trades?—And commercially, as clerks.

3851. And transport work and commercial work. I suppose by the word "commercial" you mean that they are employed in shops or warehouses?—And as clerks, but not in Islington.

3852. I suppose the winter would have no effect upon that class of individuals in your community?—On the building trades it would.

3853. No, but the commercial?—No, I should say not to a large extent.

3854. In the building trades of course it would?—Yes.

3855. And the labourers?—Yes.

3856. Then I suppose that both those engaged in the building trades and labourers in ordinary times get very favourable wages, do they?—I should think so.

3857. Then do you think that during the time of the severe weather, when these trades were suspended and labour could not be carried on out of doors, that the people having good employment previously was the great means of protecting them against asking relief from the guardians?—Yes, I think so.

3858. Still there were some that were unemployed some 10 days out of the time that the frost lasted?—Yes, but I do not wish the Committee to understand that I meant that those persons are persons who would have been employed; probably many of them came from the ordinary unemployed class.

3859. Then you do not think they were people that had been employed, but that they came from the ordinary unemployed class?—I have no reason to think that the number of persons who registered themselves as wanting employment was greatly increased even during that frost.

3860. You do not think so?—I do not think so.

3861. If unemployed you think they were able to maintain themselves without asking relief?—I should think a large proportion of them.

3862. Those that were employed by the guardians at 4*s.* a day, or 5½*d.* an hour, of course would be very ill off, I presume?—You mean the ordinary employées of the vestry, the ordinary workmen?

3863. Were they ordinary workmen?—They are in regular employment by the vestry.

3864. I thought you had given employment for some 10 days during the severe weather?—Yes, to persons who were out of employment, and who had registered themselves at the labour bureau; those persons we employed, during the period of exceptional distress, to sweep the roads.

3865. And they would be very ill off, I presume, before they would ask relief?—Well, they registered themselves as wanting employment.

3866. Do not you think they would be very far through, that is to say, that they would have no other resource when they asked relief from the board, or some employment?—They did not ask it in the sense of outdoor relief at all; it was given by the vestry to men who had registered themselves as wanting employment; they said: "If you want employment, we will take you on to sweep the streets."

3867. But my point is this, that those individuals that you talk of would be in a worse position than those who did not ask for such work?—Yes, I suppose they would.

3868. Did it occur to the guardians of the poor to give these men any food before they began their work?—No; I think not. I am not the clerk to the guardians; I know nothing of the proceedings of the guardians.

3869. Do you know whether there was any provision made for the children or for the wives of men who were out of employment and could not get pay with which to get food?—No; except through the ordinary outdoor relief channels, I know of none.

Tuesday, 19*th March* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM L. JACKSON, IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend E. C. T. GRIFFITH, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

3870. YOU are the vicar of a district which includes Pontypool, are you not?—I am vicar of Trevethin, which includes the town of Pontypool.

3871. You are the rural dean of Blaeangwent?—Yes.

3872. Do you come before the Committee in your capacity as one who knows this district, or do you come to represent any official body?—I come with a personal knowledge of the district, and as the chairman of the relief committee which has been formed there.

3873. That was a committee formed for the purpose of dealing with the distress?—Yes; it has been working for two winters.

3874. Has it been sitting continuously, or only during the winter?—During the winter.

3875. Will you tell the Committee the area of the district dealt with?—About three miles long by one mile broad.

3876. What is the population?—We estimate the population at about 16,000.

3877. Was employment fairly general up to August 1893?—Yes, on the whole very fair.

3878. Was there any strike about that time?—There was a strike among the colliers.

3879. Was there any connection between the strike and the depressed times which set in about that period?—I should hardly like to say that there was; but the strike seemed to disjoint and dislocate trade in the district very much.

3880. It was rather coincident than consequent, you think?—It affected the tinplate trade, and therefore I do not feel quite qualified to say absolutely whether the depression was in any way the result of the coal strike; I should think it was, it was a wider question, perhaps.

3881. What would you say were the causes of the want of employment?—The facts which we have before us are that the works giving employment in the district have ceased to give employment.

Chairman—continued.

3882. Is it the fact that three tinworks, up to September 1893, employed about 600 men, and paid weekly wages of about 650*l.*?—Yes.

3883. Had those works been working with a fair amount of regularity up to that time?—They had.

3884. Was the date at which the works ceased to give employment, 1893?—Two out of the three works ceased to give employment then.

3885. Will you tell us the names of those works?—The Osborne Tin Works, and the Pontymoile Tin Works.

3886. What proportion of the 600 men would those two works give employment to?—About 400 out of the 600.

3887. In September of that year those two works were closed down, I understand?—Yes.

3888. Have they since resumed work?—The Pontymoile Tin Works resumed work for about four weeks in the autumn of last year, and then only partially.

3889. With regard to the other works, the Town Forges, will you tell us what has occurred?—That has been going on very intermittently, sometimes ceasing altogether for long periods.

3890. Is that works still going on?—It is going on at this moment, and has been going on for a fortnight past, after a long stoppage.

3891. Does that mean that the trade shows any revival; or have there been some special orders?—I have been told that, in a particular kind of plate that is made there, viz., the black plate, which is sold in Canada, a little revival may be expected at this time of the year, as the ports open.

3892. Is

Chairman—continued.

3892. Is there a colliery in the district known as the Glyn Colliery?—There is.

3893. Does that colliery give employment to a considerable number of men and boys?—About 550 men and boys.

3894. Has that colliery been closed?—It was closed in April 1894.

3895. Has it continued closed, or has it been re-opened?—It has continued entirely closed.

3896. Do you know anything of the cause of its being closed?—The company who leased the colliery got into financial difficulties. That is the cause as it is known to me.

3897. Are there any iron and steel works in the district?—Yes, there is the Pontnewynydd Iron Sheet Works.

3898. How much employment do those works give?—They give employment to at least 400 men and boys, and the boys represent a very small percentage.

3899. Do you know anything of the aggregate amount of wages paid at those works?—It is about 550*l.* a week.

3900. Are those works closed?—Entirely closed.

3901. Since when have they been closed?—Since December of last year.

3902. What was the cause of the closing of those works?—The cause of the closing was the failure of the proprietors to carry on business owing to financial difficulties.

3903. Is it the fact that, between September 1893 and December 1894, at least 1,350 men have lost their employment in the district?—Yes, it is the fact.

3904. Do the 200 men who are still employed at the town forges only work intermittently?—That is so.

3905. Have there been any means taken to meet the distress in your district?—A committee was formed in January 1894 for the purpose of giving relief, and a subscription was raised in the town. The amount collected was about 300*l.* This committee worked for about 12 weeks during the winter of 1894.

3906. Was any register kept of the unemployed?—A register was carefully kept of those in receipt of relief under this committee.

3907. Was the relief given in money or in kind?—It was given at that time in orders upon grocers, and the children were fed with a daily meal of soup and bread in the Market House. I should like to say, besides that steps were taken by the head of an Undenominational mission in the town, a Mr. Dintle, who gave a certain amount of relief.

3908. That was given independently of your committee?—Entirely independently.

3909. Was there any relief work of any kind started?—The Local Board offered stone-breaking.

3910. Was that availed of to any extent?—It was not very largely taken up, and when it was taken up it was not found that the work was very satisfactorily done on all occasions.

3911. Was the work offered at the piece-work rate?—The rate was 1*s.* 3*d.* per cubic yard.

3912. Do you know whether that is the price ordinarily paid for such work in the district?—I believe it is.

3913. Was the result satisfactory as to the work done?—No; men who are soft from working in hot places or from working underground are not fitted, in our opinion, for out-door labour, especially at that time of the year; and they were not able to accomplish a great deal of work.

3914. What happened, then, at the end of the 12 weeks; those works, you have told the Committee, continued closed; how did the men in the district find employment after the 12 weeks during which assistance was given by the committee you spoke of?—As regards the colliers, a certain proportion of them found work out of the district, but they retained their homes in the district, and they were thus put to the double expense of paying for lodgings and also retaining their homes. Some of the tin-works men, I think, have filtered away and got work in other districts.

3915. Did your relief committee think they had met for the time being the most acute form of distress at the end of the three months of work?—They thought they had done their best to do so. I should point out that during the greater portion of the time when the committee was giving relief, all three of the tin-works were closed, but, as I pointed out, one of them has since been working intermittently.

3916. Was there another relief fund started in January of this year?—There was.

3917. Was there any local cause which led to the starting of the relief fund at this particular time?—The immediate cause of the starting of the relief committee was the closing of the Iron Sheet Works in Pontnewynydd. The distress was very acute in that district; 400 men were thrown out of employment without any notice whatever; and a relief committee was formed in the district.

3918. You yourself were chairman, were you not?—Not of that committee. I was going to explain that a fortnight later in the Pontypool district another relief committee was formed; and, as it was found that the two districts overlapped, it was decided to amalgamate the two committees, with myself as chairman.

3919. Will you tell the Committee what distance there is between those two places?—As between Pontnewynydd and Pontypool, the houses touch one another; there is no break at all.

3920. Are they both included within the area of three miles you spoke of?—Yes, they are both included within that area.

3921. How much money was collected?—Altogether we have collected this year about 500*l.*

3922. Have you spent it all?—We have not spent it all; we have a certain amount left.

3923. Is that since January of this year?—Yes.

3924. In what form was the relief given?—There were two distributions of bread weekly, and a daily distribution of soup.

3925. Was there any limit of quantity or any discrimination as to the amount of relief given in particular cases?—We give, on a general rule,

Chairman—continued.

one quart of soup per diem to every three persons, and we give one four pound loaf twice a week for every three persons.

3926. Was there any test of destitution applied in any of those cases in which you gave relief?—Every applicant for relief has to appear before a committee, which sits twice weekly. It is a large and representative committee, consisting of all ministers of religion in the district, all the doctors, and a large number of people besides, including the chairman of the urban district council. Every applicant for relief, as I say, has to appear before that committee, and it is very unusual, in a small district such as ours, if the applicant is not known actually personally to one of the committee. We have sometimes as many as 20 and 30 people sitting upon the committee. If there is any doubt whatever about a case, the house is visited and the case investigated. The list is revised carefully once at least a week. I should say that all relief is given by ticket.

3927. Were any coals distributed?—About 25 tons of coal were given by the various collieries to the committee, and were distributed in loads of 1 cwt. and 2 cwt.

3928. Can you tell the Committee the number of those now receiving relief?—About 1,800 persons.

3929. When you say "now," does that mean actually at the present time?—Those figures were given about a fortnight ago, but I have no reason whatever to modify them to any appreciable extent at this moment.

Mr. *Logan.*

3930. Does the 1,800 include men, women, and children?—Yes.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

3931. That is 1,800 receiving relief out of how many; what is the total population of the district?—Sixteen thousand.

Chairman.

3932. Has there been any estimate made of the number of out-door labourers, or persons with out-door occupations, who were unable to work during the frost?—It was estimated during the frost that owing to all causes about 1,000 men were absolutely without employment.

3933. Would that be at an end now that the frost has gone?—That would only affect at the most between 200 and 300 out of the 1,000.

3934. Have you anything to say as to the prospects of any revival of the tin-plate trade?—I am afraid not. We feel that nothing but a revival of the tin-plate trade will help us with regard to the tin works in our district. There has been a little show of work during the last fortnight; but I am informed that it is very uncertain whether the present work will last more than another fortnight.

3935. How have the tin-plate workers lived between the period when your relief works closed last year and began this year?—I do not reckon that all of them are still without employment; some of them have undoubtedly got employment of different kinds. I do not think many of them have found employment in their own work, but I think that some of them have, during the time, had odd jobs of various kinds which have kept them going; others have saved money and have lived upon their savings.

Chairman—continued.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3936. When you say "odd jobs," what do you mean?—Labouring.

3937. For whom?—Underground; or some possibly got jobs of labouring in the ironworks as long as they were going.

Chairman.

3938. Has the Glyn Colliery been re-opened?—No.

3939. Is there any prospect of its being re-opened?—It was considered to be very uncertain whether it would be re-opened. We have nothing to lead us to conclude that it is likely to be re-opened.

3940. Can you tell the Committee what class of coal is got in the Glyn Colliery?—I believe it is a house coal.

3941. Is there no steam coal?—I should not like to say that there certainly is not, but I think it is a house coal colliery.

3942. Have you any suggestions to make to the Committee?—I should like to suggest to the Committee that when our local funds are exhausted, which they shortly will be, we shall still be in a condition of acute distress, and the question before us is, how this distress is to be met. We think we have taxed our local resources during the last two winters very severely, when it is remembered that the people who contribute to this fund are largely tradespeople, and are themselves suffering from the same causes. I think I should be correct if I were to say that of the 800*l.* that has been collected in two winters, with one exception only, there has been no donation of above 5*l.* That will give the Committee an idea of the means of the neighbourhood. We think we have enough to go on as we have been going on for a month or so. We do not claim that we feed the people; we only claim that we keep them from starvation. We try to help them to eke out in that way what they themselves can obtain; but even that we think must come to an end in another month, and then we may have to appeal again; but it seems to be rather unlikely that we shall be very successful in such an appeal in our own district.

3943. Did you spend last year all the money you collected?—We carried forward a balance of about 7*l.* this year. We feel we have met this distress entirely out of our own local resources.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

3944. I think you broke off before you had finished the suggestion you were about to make; would you complete your answer on that point?—I would add that, if there is any fund available out of which we might receive a grant, we think it would be of very great service to us.

Chairman.

3945. Do you mean by that any fund belonging to the Government?—Yes, that is my suggestion.

Chairman—continued.

3946. Are there any funds belonging to other districts in Wales from which you could draw?—No, not that I know of.

3947. If there are no funds available what shall you do?—We shall not let the people starve if we can help it; but we feel that, while the people are filtering away, there must be still a period of acute distress, and that the charge laid upon us now is to look after these people as well as we can.

3948. Will you tell the Committee what is in your mind when you speak about the people "filtering away?"—When a works is suddenly closed, as the Iron Sheet Works were suddenly closed last December, I think with the revival in trade those ironworkers will get work again in various parts of the country; many of them, for instance, will return to Staffordshire, from which place many of them came originally; but work seems to be so greatly depressed at present, outside our district as well as in it, that I think a considerable time must elapse before these men find employment elsewhere; they will dribble away, or filter away, as I said, one or two at a time.

3949. Do you think a grant would benefit your district, beyond providing some additional relief for the time being; do you think the benefit would be permanent?—I looked at it in the light of meeting this present acute distress.

3950. But looking a little further ahead; supposing the tin-plate trade does not revive, and supposing the ironworks in your district do not provide additional employment, will it be a benefit to the men to keep them in the district without work rather than they should filter away to districts where they can get work?—I do not think any relief given as our relief has been given is likely to keep men in the district.

3951. Do you mean that the relief you give is not sufficient to sustain them?—I do not think it is sufficient to sustain them without anything else.

3952. But would it not keep them in the district?—No; I do not think it keeps them in the district. I think these men are using every means that is open to find work.

3953. Has the number of men in the district diminished to any considerable extent?—Not to any considerable extent; because, as I explained, many of them have found employment out of the district in neighbouring places, and lodge away for the week, but return at the end of the week, and keep their houses on.

3954. But you do not propose any relief for those men?—We are not relieving them. They are in bad circumstances, but they are not in absolute want.

3955. Do the men belonging to the tin-plate trade belong to any union; is it one of the trades which has a union amongst its men?—It is.

3956. Does the union give any relief from its funds during the time they are out of work?—The union gave some assistance last winter; I am not aware that any assistance has been given this winter.

3957. Is that due to want of funds, or some other cause?—I should not like to say that no assistance has been given, because I am not aware; but I have not heard of any being given, and I could not say what the cause was.

Chairman—continued.

3958. Do you see or do you hear of any prospect of the revival of the tin-plate trade?—I do not hear of anything very prosperous in our immediate district.

3959. Will you please just amplify that a little; does that mean that in other districts the tin-plate trade is being carried on successfully, and not in yours?—I have not sufficient knowledge of the trade to say; but I understand we have been worse off than a great many districts.

3960. But you do not know the reason of that?—No, I can assign no reason for it.

3961. Is there any general reason assigned for the closing of the tin-plate works in your particular district?—No.

3962. There are districts in Wales in which the tin-plate trade is still carried on, are there not?—There are, I believe.

3963. But you know of no reason why it should be carried on in other parts of Wales and closed in your district?—No; but I should like to remind you that the tin-plate works are not entirely closed in our district; one works out of the three is working intermittently.

3964. Have you anything else to suggest to the Committee, or have I put the questions you desired to have put to you?—I think you have put just the points I should like to have raised. I think I have sufficiently emphasised the suggestion that if we can receive any assistance from outside we think we are qualified to receive it.

Mr. *John Burns.*

3965. You said that you were feeding the children with bread and soup in the market house?—Yes, that was so in the winter 1893-94.

3966. As apart from the benefit that the children undoubtedly derive from this soup and bread dinner, are there any disadvantages, in your opinion, attaching to this collective method of feeding children?—We were not entirely satisfied with it, and we abandoned it this year.

3967. Why did you abandon it?—We thought it better, for many reasons, that the soup should be taken home; we found it easier to deal with it, and we had a larger number.

3968. You found that the children had their meal at home under more comfortable and less demoralising circumstances; is that so?—I do not think we thought it a demoralising circumstance.

3969. Was there at your place, as frequently happens, a scramble on the part of the children for the bread and soup?—Oh, no.

3970. Was it properly distributed?—It was properly distributed.

3971. And yet, in spite of the proper distribution, you abandoned that collective system for an individual disbursement?—Yes; we gave so much per child per house.

3972. Your experience suggests that you would rather have individual distribution of soup through the mother at home than in collective soup kitchens with four or five hundred children present?—Yes.

3973. In speaking about stone-breaking, you said the men received 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard, and that

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

yet the work at that price was not satisfactory; what do mean by "not satisfactory"; could not the men turn out the amount per day?—When I said the work was not satisfactory, I meant in one sense it was not always satisfactorily done.

3974. But do you mean as to the quantity, or as to the size and quality of the work done?—Both; it was not satisfactory to either side.

3975. The men did not break to gauge, or break the amount?—In some cases the men did not break it to gauge, and they were not able to break it in sufficient quantities as to make it satisfactory on their side.

3976. Had you tried day work before you had the 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard?—I do not think so; I do not remember it.

3977. What was the amount they earned per day at 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard?—I was told that it was possible for them to cut two yards in a day.

3978. That would be 2*s.* 6*d.* a day?—That would be 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

3979. Working eight or nine hours a day, I suppose?—The men themselves have told me that they could not do that.

3980. But what reason did the men assign for their incapacity to break one yard or two yards of stone a day?—The stuff that is given them to break in our district is, to my thinking, exceptionally difficult; it is not limestone, but it is what is known as "clinkers," which is the refuse from the furnaces.

3981. It is slag?—It is slag, and there is a great deal of iron in the clinkers, and it is extremely hard to break; a great deal has to be thrown aside.

3982. Did the men's hands give out?—Yes, very many.

3983. Yet these men are in the habit of handling iron work, and so forth?—I think the action of a stone hammer and sledge would be very different to the strain of their ordinary work.

3984. You think the change in the character of the work unfitted them for the slag-breaking?—Yes; I think their hands are a great deal too tender to be subjected to these conditions.

3985. Apart from the physical difficulty of their hands holding out, did the exposure to cold tell upon them?—It did tell upon them, and if it had been taken up in larger numbers it would undoubtedly have told more; there were not a great number of men that took it up.

3986. Was the frost on when the stone-breaking was in operation?—This was in the winter of 1894, and we had very little frost then, I think.

3987. Even then, I understand, stone-breaking was not satisfactory as a method of relief?—Not to either side.

3988. Supposing there had been no stone or slag-breaking, do you think that those men would have welcomed heavy spade labour on agricultural land?—The same objection applies to the class of men we are now dealing with, that they are not fitted without a considerable amount of training for such work.

3989. Then I am to gather from your answer that a tin-plater, who is used to handling iron and who works in a hot temperature, is unsuited, except after some considerable amount of training, to do either stone-breaking or the heavy work that would be given to him in agricultural operations?—I think that is certainly so. I think that is particularly true of tin-plate workmen.

3990. You said that when your local funds were exhausted, and if there were any State funds to be distributed, you would respectfully claim some portion of them?—We should put in a claim.

3991. I gathered from you that when you spoke of the exhaustion of your local funds, you meant charitable funds only?—Entirely voluntary contributions.

3992. What has your district done by means of moneys raised out of an increased rate to meet the local distress?—I am not aware of anything exceptional having been done.

3993. Have the local authority, either the Town Council or County Council, contributed towards the relief of your local distress?—No.

3994. Have the rates been increased in your neighbourhood?—The rates have been increased.

3995. What is your rate at the present moment?—During the two last half years it has been 1*s.* 5*d.* and 1*s.* 4*d.* for the poor rate.

3996. That is 2*s.* 9*d.* for the year for the poor rate; but what are the other rates?—I do not know.

3997. Are they 6*s.* in the £, do you think?—I am afraid I must not say.

3998. It is very important; could you not give us that information?—I can get you the information.

3999. Have you appealed to the county council of your district for help?—At the first meeting of our committee we asked them to help.

4000. What did the council say?—The council, so far as I remember, replied that they were not able to help us; they did not see in what way they could help us.

4001. Did you suggest to them the undertaking of relief works of some kind, the cost to be defrayed by them?—We did.

4002. What was the nature of those relief works?—We did not suggest the nature of the works. We only made the suggestion that if they could put some work of that sort in hand it would be desirable at that time.

4003. Such as road-making and sewage works, and so forth, I suppose?—Yes; I may say the urban district council offered, about three weeks ago, stone-breaking again; that has been the only offer they have made.

4004. Would the stones that were broken in that way be used for the roads in the urban district?—They were broken on the sides of the roads at the very places where they were to be used.

4005. When trade is busy in this now distressed district, how do the men work; is it on two shifts of 12 hours?—I understand the tin works would work three shifts of eight hours; and I might say here that in the tin works, which is now working in our district, they are working four shifts of six hours in order to give a larger number of men a share in the employment.

4006. That was done at the suggestion of the men, who wished to distribute it over a larger number?

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

number?—I believe the suggestion came from the men.

4007. But apart from the tin-plate trade, is not overtime generally very prevalent in your district when trade is brisk?—No. In the iron-works they would work by results very largely; they would be paid by the piece very largely.

4008. Am I to gather from you that, apart from the suggestion that you should have some money from some fund, you have no other remedy for the exceptional distress that arises in your district from the sudden cessation of work?—None whatever, except an appeal again for voluntary help; and we think that we have already taxed ourselves very fully.

4009. Has your committee considered the question of colonisation at all?—No, they have not dealt with that.

4010. Have you not discussed labour colonies?—No.

4011. Have you considered emigration?—No.

4012. Then beyond meeting the exceptional distress by providing children and women with soup and bread, and the male parents with stone-breaking, you have done nothing?—No; but I think it should be understood that the stone-breaking is so small a factor that it can hardly be counted at all.

4013. What are your guardians doing in this particular district with regard to distress?—I do not know that they are doing anything.

4014. Then, am I to gather from you that a private voluntary committee is feeding 1,800 people in a district where the population amounts to 16,000, and that the responsible poor law guardians are not doing anything for this exceptional distress?—I have been given to understand that if an able-bodied man has presented himself and asked for relief, he is told he is not qualified to receive it.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

4015. Has it ever dawned upon your committee that in proportion as this voluntary committee is taking the work out of the hands of the guardians, the guardians have ceased to interest themselves in what would otherwise fall to them; has that happened, in your opinion?—No. It came to this: at the beginning of this year we saw that nothing was being done, and we were obliged to take up the work.

4016. Did you not make some effort, before you started on your soup kitchens and so forth, to stimulate the guardians to do themselves what you were impelled to do?—I personally encouraged everybody I came in contact with to seek that relief.

4017. But the guardians were outside your powers of stimulation?—I did not attack them.

4018. Have any of them visited your kitchens?—Some of the committee are guardians.

4019. What has the local authority, as apart from the guardians, done to assist you; have they co-operated with you?—Yes; the urban district council have co-operated with us in every way.

4020. Have the guardians co-operated with you?—Individually.

4021. But as a body?—We have had no active expression of sympathy from them as a body that I am aware of.

4022. Neither have you had financial help from them?—No; we have had no financial help from them.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY TOOK THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Billson.*

4023. You are not in touch officially with the guardians?—No.

4024. Was not there a member of the guardians present as a representative of the guardians at your relief committee?—Not as a representative.

4025. Do you not think it would have been a good plan for the guardians to have been constantly in touch with you and represented at your committee meetings?—As a matter of fact one member of the committee, who has sat at every committee meeting almost without exception, is a guardian.

4026. Was the charitable sum you raised, which was about 500*l.*, all raised in the district?—Almost entirely.

4027. Have you had any experience of the district in previous years?—I have always lived and worked in similar districts, and I remember very well the very acute distress in the year 1875.

4028. But I should like to know whether last year there was the same kind of effort made voluntarily by charity?—There was.

4029. How much was raised then?—£.300.

4030. On your relief committee, or acting for your relief committee, is there any experienced

Mr. *Billson*—continued.

almoner, as one may call it, who was engaged in looking after the cases?—We have a man who devotes almost his whole time to it.

4031. As an amateur?—We give him a small salary.

4032. What business was he engaged in?—He was originally a collier; then he became an insurance agent, and he is now, in fact, an insurance agent in a small way.

4033. How long is he engaged by you; have you taken him on for the winter?—We do not pay him a real wage; it is only a little recognition of his service; he gives his service, which is far beyond the wage we pay. We pay him 10*s.* a week.

4034. Does it occur to you that if you had an official distributor of charity, employed and retained by a charitable organisation, it would be better than having a casual person from year to year?—The distribution is not in his hands; one member or another of the committee is always present at the distribution of bread.

4035. I gather that you feel the charitable fund of the district is exhausted?—We have about 100*l.* left, and we are spending at the rate of at least 20*l.* a week over the whole district.

Mr. *Billson*—continued.

4036. You said something about a contribution by some outside authority; would not that at once dry up your charitable resources?—Not if it were judiciously allotted. I think if it were given in proportion to the amount raised locally, it would be a different question.

4037. Would you like that grant in proportion to come from an Imperial fund or from a local fund; from the poor rate?—We have already taxed our district heavily voluntarily.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

4038. How long have you occupied your present post?—Four years.

4039. Have you had experience of similar populations before that, and for how long?—I was, five years before that, vicar of the industrial parish of Blaenavon, which has a population of 14,000, entirely composed of the industrial class.

4040. I hear your committee is composed of all ministers of religion; may I ask, though perhaps it is rather a curious question to ask, is there, as a matter of fact, much competition between the Church and the sects to obtain influence through these means amongst the people?—Not the slightest.

4041. As to what you said about the closing of the works; do you mean that certain works were closed absolutely without notice?—I think the notice in the case of the ironworks was very short indeed. I presume, in the case of the closing of the colliery, there must have been a month's notice.

4042. But generally was there not a pretty prevalent opinion that in a month or two's time the works would certainly close?—Quite the contrary. In the case of the ironworks it had been going to its very fullest extent, and nothing was more unexpected.

4043. What is the ordinary rate of wages for these skilled men; is it about 25*s.* to 2*l.* a week?—Do you mean in the tinplate or the ironworks.

4044. I presume they are a highly-paid class of labourers, generally?—They would differ very much; but, on the whole, they are highly-paid.

Chairman.

4045. Are they paid by the piece?—Yes, by the piece, largely.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

4046. Would it be between 30*s.* and 50*s.* per week?—Not if you take the average, I should say. I can give you the amount paid as against the number employed. With 600 men employed there is a weekly wage of 650*l.*

Chairman.

4047. That includes boys, does it not?—In the tinplate works it would include boys and men; but the boys are not a large proportion.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

4048. Are you at all conversant with how far provident habits prevail there; are clubs largely used?—Yes; benefit clubs are largely used.

4049. Among the applicants who apply to you, have you taken any cognisance as to how many belonged to clubs and how many did not?—No, except in the case of sickness; because if they do belong to clubs it is no benefit to them when they are out of work; in fact it is a heavy drag upon them to have to pay the subscriptions.

4050. Of course it would be a great test as to character, if you found the applicant was a provident man who had done all he could to lay by against an evil day; if you had that information, it would raise him in your estimation and form an index as to the propriety of generally helping the mass to which he belongs. Have you thought out the wider question, beyond your particular district, as to what would be the result of the State stepping in and providing funds to relieve those working at a decaying industry?—I have not thought it out beyond meeting an acute existing distress.

4051. Would it not seem to you that, if a district is losing its trade, the sooner the population is shifted the better for all parties?—I think it is better for the men to leave the district and get work elsewhere if there is no work in the district. But they cannot do that at once; that is the point that presents itself to me.

4052. Is there not a very great danger, if an outside authority of such magnitude as the State should by any inducement hold out a reason for a man not seeking work, that it would probably in the long run intensify the distress and also waste a lot of good money?—It would depend upon the way in which the money so given was administered. If it was administered merely to keep him from starvation while he must remain in the district, I do not think it would be any inducement to him to remain there.

4053. Have you ever sat upon a board of guardians?—No.

4054. I suppose you are not aware how many people there are who will avail themselves of charitable relief, however insignificant, if only their self-exertion is not stimulated?—I am aware of the existence of that consideration; but I think, in dealing with this class of workmen, who are a highly-paid class, they will not remain longer in that position than they can possibly help. They are used to having a considerable amount of money at their command, and I think the position of being in want is a very trying one for them.

4055. I daresay you have heard the saying that hard cases makes bad law. *A propos* of the relief work, especially the stone-breaking, I think you said it was not satisfactory to your committee; did your committee think the work was badly done as regards shirking, or was there a genuine effort upon the part of the men to do the work?—I am not aware; I said it was unsatisfactory to the committee as a committee. It was thought to be unsatisfactory amongst those who spoke of it; but we did not speak of it as a committee. I do not wish to commit the committee to that statement.

4056. Were you, as a committee, satisfied with the way in which the relief work you gave was done, as to whether it was done in a whole-hearted way, or whether there was any shirking?—It was not taken up heartily at all, and I have been told that some of the work (a very small proportion of it) was not done quite honestly.

4057. Are

Mr. *Logan.*

4057. Are the Committee to understand from you that you think that at 1*s.* 3*d.* a yard for stone-breaking, it would be only a competent man accustomed to the work of stone-breaking who could earn a decent living at that rate?—Yes, I think so.

4058. Then you are not surprised that these men, who are not accustomed to the work, find difficulty in breaking the full quantity so as to earn a comfortable living?—I am not surprised.

4059. Do you say of your own knowledge that 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard was the price paid in your neighbourhood for that kind of work?—Yes, I understand that to be so.

4060. You do not know that it is a low price?—No, I do not know that.

4061. I could not quite understand one portion of your evidence: you said that during the late severe frost there were about 1,000 men out of work?—Yes.

4062. And you thought out of that number between 200 and 300 only were out of work owing to the frost?—Yes.

4063. So that would leave 750 out of work now?—Yes; I should put it at about that.

4064. Then you said in another part of your evidence there were 1,800 people out of work: that represents men and women and children out of work?—Yes.

4065. Do you take this 750 men who were out of work as the equivalent of the 1,800 men, women, and children; that is to say, do the 1,800 men, women, and children represent the number of men with their families coming for relief consequent upon these 750 men being out of work?—Of course, all the men who are out of work are not upon our relief list.

4066. It is the 1,800 men, women, and children who are on your relief list?—Yes.

4067. Do you know the rateable value of the district, in which you have told us you have 16,000 inhabitants?—No, I do not.

4068. You said that on your subscription list you have no subscription higher than 5*l.*?—I think I said with one exception.

4069. I gather from that that the people who have been engaged in carrying on these various works have practically lost so much money that they are unable to subscribe; or have they, in your opinion, done their share?—Fully; because we have no leisured well-to-do people. We draw entirely from the shop-keeper class for our voluntary contributions. We have no gentry.

4070. You think the proprietors of the works have done their share?—Certainly.

4071. I ask the question, because in days gone by a good bit of money was made out of the tin-plate trade in South Wales?—Yes.

4072. Then are we to understand that of the last 500*l.* you collected you spent 400*l.* during January and February and a portion of March, or say, during the two months of the severe weather this winter?—Yes.

4073. Are you aware that that, worked out per head, amounts to relief to the extent of 1*d.* per head per day?—I have not worked it out.

4074. Is that all that these people have had to exist upon?—No. As I have already said,

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

we only supplement other help; we do not undertake to feed these people; they do get help from other sources; they get help from their neighbours. If it were not for the help from their neighbours they would be starved.

4075. The relief you have been able to give these people, to the amount, as I calculate it, of 1*d.* per head per day, would not have kept them alive by itself?—No.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

4076. How long has the tin-plate industry been established in your district?—I could not say exactly, but I think it was one of the oldest tin-plate works.

4077. Has it been established there many years?—Yes.

4078. It has attracted workers from other parts of the country, I understand?—That would apply more to the iron-plate works, not so much to the tin works.

4079. You told us about some men coming from Staffordshire?—Yes, that was to the iron-sheet works.

4080. When would that be; was it recently or many years ago?—There would be a constant interchange, I should say, going and coming; men do not always settle down for life there; they go back again, and others come.

Chairman.

4081. Do the Staffordshire men form a large proportion of the iron-sheet workers?—Yes, a considerable proportion.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

4082. Have you known this district longer than the four years you have been in your present position?—Yes, to a certain extent; my late parish was only seven miles away.

4083. Within the time you have known the district, has the population materially increased, or not?—The population has increased very much of late years, and is increasing.

4084. Is it increasing even now in the bad times?—It may not be increasing this year, and perhaps not last year, but up to that time it was increasing.

4085. That would be increasing naturally, I suppose?—Increasing naturally.

4086. Not from immigration from other parts?—No; I do not think there would be anything to bring men there at present.

4087. You told us 16,000 was the estimated population?—Yes.

4088. Do you know the population of that district according to the Census of 1891?—No; because the district I have selected is taken out of three parishes; it is an arbitrary district. I could give you the census of one of those parishes for 1891, but I could not give you it for the others.

4089. You told us you thought it very desirable that these men who are out of work should remove to some other districts where work might be found?—I think it is no use their staying in our district if there is no work for them.

4090. I was going to found upon that this question: whether your committee has done any-

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

thing to stimulate these men to endeavour to find work elsewhere?—Yes, and I may say personally, also, whenever a man has appeared before the committee, especially a young man, I have always urged him to leave the district.

4091. Have you used your fund for the purpose of helping men to migrate?—No.

4092. Not in any case?—No.

4093. Do you think that the committee would be disposed to do that in suitable cases, to pay railway fares for instance, and things of that kind?—I am not sure whether it would be a proper use of the money.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

4094. Would not it relieve the distress?—It would relieve it at a considerable cost, however; the railway fare of one man would hardly be correspondent to the relief which would follow from his being helped.

4095. You think it would be a good thing to get the men away?—Yes.

4096. But you think it would hardly come within the purview of your relief fund?—No; I think our relief fund is to administer relief to them in kind. I do not think it would come within that fund; our fund is not large enough for that.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN TOOK THE CHAIR.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4097. Immediately outside the area you have spoken to, I mean Pontypool and its immediate district, there are several large tin-plate works not very far away in the same county, are there not?—Yes.

4098. They also suffer from the same depression as those at Pontypool, do they not?—I believe so.

4099. So that, taking the county of Monmouth, these figures you have given would be considerably augmented?—Very much, for the whole county.

4100. I think the depression or slackness of trade in the tin-plate trade dates from August 1893, does not it?—That was when we began to feel it.

4101. Now, going over your figures again, confining it to the actual state of things to-day, I take it these Osborne Tin Works, and the Pontymoile Tin Works, engaging 400 hands, have been permanently out of employment since September 1893?—With the exception of four weeks, as I have stated, when the Pontymoile works was partially re-started.

4102. With the exception of those four weeks, the men of both these works have been out of employment since September 1893. In regard to the Pontypool Town Tin Works, you spoke of them as being intermittently employed; what do you mean by that; have they worked a fourth of the year?—Yes, they worked a fourth of last year, I should say, certainly, if not more.

4103. What about the preceding year, 1893?—The Pontypool Town Tin Works went well in 1893 for part of the year.

4104. You spoke of the black plate being made for Canada in one of the tin-plate works; is that the Pontypool Town Works?—Yes; they made a great deal of black plate.

4105. But as a matter of fact the amount made there now for Canadian purposes is very insignificant, is it not?—Of late, very; it is only now that there seems to be a demand at all.

4106. Is that an expectation or is it the actual work they are doing now?—I believe they are actually working it now.

4107. At the Pontnewynydd Iron Sheet Works, you spoke of the men being Staffordshire men mostly?—Not quite mostly, but a large number.

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

4108. Could those men return to their homes to seek employment?—A good many, since the works have stopped, have returned there, and have been unable to get work, and have come back again.

4109. They have come back again, stating that they have not had employment in their own native places; so that they are still at Pontypool or in the Pontypool district?—Yes.

4110. Now with regard to the relief that you afford these people in the way of soup and bread, I take it that you do not consider that in any way adequate for the needs of the people?—By no means.

4111. May I take it that really, so far as regards these 750 or 800 tin-plate men you spoke of, and those dependent upon them, they are practically in a state of starvation?—Certainly a great number of them are in a state of distinct want.

4112. It is a state of keen want?—Yes, in many instances very keen. I have seen, this winter, more acute instances of distress amongst this class than I have ever seen in my experience before.

4113. As regards the test you spoke of, the stoneyard test, that, as I understand, has been simply applied since this Committee has met?—Yes, it has only been very latterly applied.

4114. How long ago?—About three weeks.

4115. It is only three weeks ago that the Pontypool Urban District Council submitted this test to the men?—Yes.

4116. From September 1893 down to three weeks ago there was no test at all, and when those men applied for poor law relief they were told, I think I understood from you, in cases where they were able-bodied men, that no relief whatever could be afforded them; has that been the attitude of the guardians?—That is what I was informed by people who applied themselves.

4117. Have you a register of the unemployed?—We keep a very careful register of the applicants, not of the unemployed.

4118. Taking the number on the relief list to-day, 1,800, that, I assume, does not nearly represent the actual state of things as regards the poverty or destitution of the place?—Nothing like it.

4119. I take it there is a natural reluctance on the

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

the part of the people engaged in the tin-plate and other industries, not only to apply for Poor Law relief, but even to apply to this committee which you have spoken of?—Some might apply readily, according to their character, but some would not apply until they were driven to the most urgent extremity; they would put off applying to the committee till the very last moment.

4120. Taking that class of people who, from pride or other reasons, would not apply for relief, have you reason to believe they are many in number?—Yes; I think we have no knowledge as a committee of a very large number of most acute cases.

4121. Then, although your committee have practically sat since September 1893, and have devoted a large amount of close attention to this work, you still think there is a large margin of honest destitution, quite beyond your observation and notice?—I am quite certain of it.

4122. Do you know whether, especially among the tin-plate men, they have saved in many instances what is for them a considerable amount of money, and that during the period of a year and a half's cessation of employment, they have exhausted those private means of theirs?—Yes, I am sure that a large number of them have saved money; many have done so to my own knowledge.

4123. Do you find from your inquiries that these people who you say had saved money, have exhausted their savings?—Yes. Even within the last two or three weeks we have had fresh people applying to us, and our question to them has been "Why have you not come before?" and the answer has in many cases been "Because we have been living upon what we had saved and that has come to an end."

4124. Those people, rather than come upon your relief committee in any way whatever, have practically been living on their savings for all this length of time?—Yes.

4125. Can you give a typical case to the Committee of that?—Yes. I was given a case by a father of a family only about a week ago; he told me that he had saved 280*l.*, and that it had all been spent.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4126. Can you say in what period of time he had saved that amount of money?—He was an old man of 60, and he has sons working.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4127. It would be the savings of a life-time?—I should say so.

4128. In that case all the savings are gone?—There has been great sickness in the house and it has all gone.

4129. As to the local resources, is it the case that hitherto one class of operatives, say the miners, for example, who are better off, have rendered assistance to the tin-plate workers, and the tin-plate workers to the miners; that is, each class has rendered the other considerable mutual aid?—Yes, immense.

4130. Has it been your experience in these industrial districts that one set of men help the other set of men?—Always, with great generosity.

4131. But in your district you appear to be in this unfortunate position, that you have all the

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

industries, coal, iron, and tin-plate, out of employment now?—Our coal trade has not been at all brisk during the winter.

4132. The colliery you spoke of in your immediate district has been closed?—And the collieries that have been working have been working very little.

4133. As regards another resource which these workmen earning fair wages have from the credit given to them by tradesmen, do you say that so far as that credit is concerned, it is really stopped now?—Last year, when the distress might be called comparatively new, men who had been in receipt of good wages were able to get a considerable amount of credit from their grocers. This year, not having been able to pay off their credit of last year, the grocers are not able to extend the credit, and therefore the distress is more acute for that reason.

4134. As regards the bulk of these men you do not attribute the distress to the question of weather at all?—No; whether the winter had been mild or not, we should have had practically the same amount of distress. Of course the cold weather rendered it more acute and intense.

4135. You said that your only hope was in the improvement of the tin-plate trade; assuming there is no likelihood of improvement in the tin-plate trade for the next three or four months, what would be your dilemma in Pontypool?—Our dilemma would be, how we are to keep the people who are unemployed from starvation.

4136. With regard to the question of migration, the tin-plate industry, with the exception of a few works in the county of Gloucester, is restricted to Monmouthshire and South Wales, is it not?—Yes.

4137. You have already told us the depression is general; I presume, therefore, it would be perfectly useless for these men, who have been brought up in this one industry, to leave their homes with the hope of securing work elsewhere in other tin-plate districts?—I should say it would be quite hopeless in the tin-plate work. To my knowledge many have walked great distances to no purpose, and have returned.

4138. At any rate many of them have made an attempt to secure work elsewhere and have been obliged to return home?—Yes, a great many.

4139. In this extremity you have indicated that so far as your district is concerned, you would recommend a certain grant-in-aid?—Yes, I would, if it could be had.

4140. Do you think, in the position of things you have narrated to this Committee, it would be imperative that you should get some extraneous aid?—It is imperative that we must get increased aid, within or without; and I think the likelihood of getting it within is very much lessened by the fact that we have already so extensively drawn upon our resources within.

4141. As a matter of fact, the Pontypool Urban District Council have long since exceeded their borrowing powers, have they not?—I believe that is so.

4142. So that there is no hope of any relief employment being afforded by the local authority, is there?—None, I should say.

4143. Do you think, judging from a long experience of the people in industrial districts in

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

South Wales, in these circumstances any relief from State aid would tend to pauperise the people?—Not if it were judiciously administered.

4144. That is to say, if it were administered with the efficiency and care that you, as a committee, have administered the voluntary funds at your disposal, you think a grant-in-aid would do no more to pauperise the people than the voluntary contribution which you dole out to them at present?—I cannot see any reason why it should.

4145. One question as to the comparative degree of poverty existing at present in this district; I think your father is the famous rector of Merthyr, who took a great interest in the great strike of 1875, in Merthyr?—Yes.

4146. You were there at that time and had personal experience of what took place then?—Yes.

4147. A large fund was collected, was it not?—Yes, between 6,000*l.* and 7,000*l.*

Chairman.

4148. What was it that brought about that condition of things in Merthyr?—It was the lock-out; all the colliers were locked out in the whole district. We fed 3,000 children every day for more than six months.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4149. You had a very large voluntary fund at your disposal, had you not?—Yes, of between 6,000*l.* and 7,000*l.*

4150. Having regard to the great distress which prevailed in Merthyr, in 1875, and the distress that comes under your observation in Pontypool now, what have you to say to the Committee as to the degree of the intensity of poverty in Pontypool as compared with what you have experienced in other places at other times?—I think it is the most acute I have ever known, and the most difficult to deal with, because it has been long sustained and will be long sustained in my thinking for the reasons which have been already expressed, that the men have spent their savings and have exhausted their credit. With regard to the acuteness, I do not know whether I need tell the Committee that I have seen indications of distress this winter that I have never seen before in our district; that is, I have seen houses this winter without a fire, and I have never seen that before this winter in what we call the coal districts of Wales.

4151. With regard to the question put to you by one honourable Member of the Committee, as to the assistance which the tinplate men may have received from their trades union, it is not one of the objects of the trades union to grant relief to the members of the union, but their funds are simply for trade purposes?—Yes.

4152. But, notwithstanding that fact, I think the Tinplate Trade Union has granted relief to a certain extent to some of the men in the Monmouthshire district; some of the people in Pontypool have received it, did they not?—They did last year.

4153. But not this year?—If they have, I have not heard of it.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

4154. Would you tell us something more about the register which you have formed in your district. You have 1,800 names, I understand, men, women, and children. When the head of a family applies for relief, do you put down the total number of the dependants in the family?—We did.

4155. And all those are counted in the 1,800?—Yes.

4156. You rather gave the impression to my mind, in reply to a question put by the honourable Member for Battersea (Mr. Burns) that you would put spade labour on the land on a level with breaking stones in the stone-yard?—I would, as regards climatic conditions.

4157. But taking men who are used, as these men are, to handling tools and to hard laborious work, would there be any great difficulty in the men adapting themselves to spade labour if they found it necessary to do so to enable them to earn a living?—Of the two it would be preferable work to take up.

4158. Working in the stone-yard is very hard and disagreeable?—Yes, I think so.

4159. You have been going on, through the agency of the committee you mentioned, distributing relief; would you mind expressing an opinion as to whether it would not be more desirable if a proper opportunity were given these men to earn a living, rather than have them continue to depend upon the committee for the aid you are able to give?—You mean that they should give work for the relief afforded.

4160. Yes. What I am asking is whether the granting of charity, without any return being given, to able-bodied persons, will not tend to have a distinctly demoralising effect upon them; would it not be better that they should be able to work and give value for what they receive?—I think it would be better if suitable work could be found; but I should like to qualify that by saying I have not found that the receipt of this voluntary relief does demoralise to the extent that is sometimes thought.

4161. I was not assuming that it would; but the assumption of a large number of persons is that it does; now, are there any gardens attached to the houses in which the tinplate workers and the colliers and ironworkers live?—It would be more so in the case of the colliers than any of the others.

4162. Supposing these 1,800 persons, men, women, and children, found themselves cast adrift on a desert island, we will say, with a supply of food for a year, and farm stock and seeds in their possession, do you think they would starve after the year was out?—No, I do not think they would.

4163. In your opinion you think they would be quite capable of producing what they required to maintain themselves, given proper conditions as to soil and climate?—Yes, because they would be forced to do so. I do not think it would be congenial altogether.

4164. If the only alternative be to continue to receive relief from the soup kitchen and being dependent upon their friends, would not the compulsion of requiring them to provide for themselves be more congenial to those men than to remain in a helpless condition?—I think their present condition is abhorrent to them.

4165. I presume most of these men who have come from Staffordshire and other parts of the country

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

country are probably in correspondence with friends in the parts which they have come from?—I know they are.

4166. If there was work to be found there they would know of it?—A great many of them would.

4167. It is a reasonable assumption that if they do not leave Pontypool to go elsewhere, it is because they have no prospect of finding work anywhere else?—Yes, entirely. If the Staffordshire men had been able to find work in their own county they would have left in a body, I believe.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

4168. The distress you speak of is caused by the decay or depression of a particular industry?—Yes.

4169. The revival of that industry would cure the distress permanently?—Part of it. We are dealing with the iron and tin-plate trade. Some of our distress is due to the state of the iron-plate trade.

4170. I understand that; but, speaking generally, it is due to the depression, that may be a temporary one, in those two trades?—Yes.

4171. The revival of those two trades would mainly cure it?—It would entirely cure it.

4172. Meanwhile, all you can hope for is the absorption of those who have been hitherto engaged in those trades either in similar work elsewhere or on new work?—Yes; I see nothing else.

4173. The problem you have to deal with is how to maintain these men until they are absorbed?—Quite so.

4174. I understand you have applied to the county council to provide them with some temporary work?—We have applied to the urban district council.

4175. I understood, in answer to an honourable Member, you said you had applied to the county council?—If I did, I should have said the urban district council.

4176. As a matter of fact, you have not applied to the county council?—No.

4177. You have applied to the urban district council, which, I understand you to say, has already exceeded its borrowing powers?—Yes.

4178. But, apart from that, it is suggested that the urban district council should supply these men with some work to keep them going?—Yes.

4179. But I think you have told us they are men trained to special work?—Yes.

4180. Do you suggest that the urban district council should provide them with employment in that special branch of industry?—Not for a moment.

4181. You would be satisfied if the urban district council set them to work at road-making or spade labour?—Yes, although not in the coldest weather; I think they would hardly be fit for it in the coldest weather.

4182. But they should be provided with a form of work irrespective of their special training, and in which their special training would be of no benefit?—Yes.

4183. You would suggest that the urban district council should undertake relief work on which these men should be employed?—Yes, if they could.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

4184. What security would you have that the work would ever be completed. Supposing, for instance, the men were set to work to form a road from A. to B., and that when they had got halfway they were drafted off to other employment, or found work on better terms, might not that work prove absolutely unremunerative to the ratepayers at whose expense the work was done. Is not that always a danger incident to undertaking relief work?—Surely the work done would not be thrown away.

4185. Suppose the road was taken half-way between the two points and then abandoned (and I could take you to one within 11 miles of this spot), might not the work be thrown away entirely?—Is it to be inferred that the work is done at a very low rate of wage?

4186. No. However, I will not press you for an answer further. I understood you to say that there has been virtually no increase in your rates?—There has been an increase in the poor rate.

4187. I understood you to say, in answer to an honourable Member, that you were not aware of any increase in the rate. You said that your poor rate for the last two half-years was 1*s.* 5*d.* and 1*s.* 4*d.*?—I thought I said the poor rate had gone up, but I could not tell what was the position of the other rates. I know the poor rate has increased.

4188. You cannot tell the Committee how much it has increased?—I cannot tell that exactly, but it has increased, certainly, a penny in the last half-year.

4189. From 1*s.* 4*d.*?—Yes.

4190. Is that the winter half-year?—No; we have not yet had the assessment for the winter half-year, which will be undoubtedly increased again, as I was informed by the present authority.

4191. So far as you know, a penny represents the present increase in the poor rate?—In the last two half-years.

4192. Have there been many applications to the guardians for outdoor relief in your district?—I think a good many.

4193. Have they all been refused in the case of able-bodied men?—Yes, to the best of my knowledge.

4194. The relief these men have received has been through your voluntary committee?—Entirely.

4195. That committee is composed of gentlemen most of whom have a personal knowledge of the applicants, or the means of tracing the applicants' circumstances?—Yes.

4196. Do you see any objection to outdoor relief being granted where the guardians have that personal knowledge of the applicants, and where the applicants have come before them in person in the way they do before your committee?—I should like to see the outdoor relief extended to the able-bodied, under certain conditions.

4197. Subject to the qualification that there should be this personal knowledge of the applicants on the part of the members of the relieving body?—Yes.

4198. Can you tell us how the rents for the houses in which these men live have been paid?—The rents are not being paid in many instances.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

4199. The owners are content to wait for their rent or stand out of it?—As a whole that is so; not altogether.

4200. May I ask what are the average rents in your district?—The rents are very high in certain parts of the district. The tin plate workers would pay something a little under 7*s.* a week for their houses.

4201. How many rooms would they get for that?—They would get a good cottage of two rooms downstairs, or practically three, a front room, a back room, and a scullery, with three bed-rooms as well.

4202. Would he get that for 7*s.* a week?—Yes, for something under 7*s.* a week.

4203. And any garden?—Probably not.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

4204. Would you say that where outdoor relief is given to an able-bodied man, you would disfranchise him in consequence?—No, certainly not.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

4205. Would you say that without qualification. For instance, if a man receives outdoor relief for 12 months or 12 years?—I said I should like to extend it under certain conditions.

4206. The honourable Member for West Ham suggested that outdoor relief should be no disqualification for the electoral franchise; you say you agree to that on certain conditions?—I agree to it, subject to the same conditions as those upon which I would agree to the extension of relief itself.

4207. May I ask would you put any limit to the time of the relief that should disqualify a man from exercising the electoral franchise?—I have not thought of that.

Chairman.

4208. May I interpose this question: do you see any impropriety in a man who has received outdoor relief still retaining his vote for the election of the guardians who administer the relief?—There should not be any impropriety in it.

4209. You think that, besides the Parliamentary franchise, a man should not be disqualified in any degree from what I may call the poor law franchise either?—I do not see why he should.

4210. You think it would be a judicious and safe thing to allow a man who has been in receipt of the outdoor relief that you speak of, to vote for the guardians who admit him to it. I put the question because many people see great objection to that being allowed?—I see the point of the question; I have not thought it over. I only said it should not be a danger. It might be; but I think it ought not to be.

Mr. *Round.*

4211. Yours is not a district, is it, where the distress has been increased by labourers coming in from agricultural parishes?—A great many of our labourers in the works have come from agricultural parishes.

4212. Is the same thing going on in your parts which is going on in the east of England, namely, that the labourers are unable to obtain the same employment in the country parishes, and therefore they are attracted to the towns?—I should say so, certainly.

Mr. *Round*—continued.

4213. You were saying that these men you have been relieving are anxious to obtain work elsewhere; would they be prepared to go to agricultural districts where wages are low and take work there if they could get it?—I do not think they would willingly take such work.

4214. Then with regard to the increase of the poor rate, it has been recommended by the Royal Commission that sat in 1878 that the cost of the indoor poor should be spread over the whole community; that is to say, it should be paid out of Imperial funds; would it be of assistance in your district if that reform were carried out?—The burden would not fall so heavily upon the locality in that case, because, as I have already said, owing to this distress, a large amount of rateable value has become void.

4215. Should you be in favour of that reform?—I have not considered that question; but it seems to me it would help such a district as ours now.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4216. Do I understand that your locality is composed entirely of workmen working at the collieries, the iron works, and tin works?—Yes.

4217. Is there just one colliery in the district?—No; there are a great number of collieries in the neighbourhood.

4218. But I mean within the district you are speaking of?—Practically within the district I am speaking of there would be only one besides the one I have already mentioned.

4219. That is entirely stopped?—One has.

4220. Have you ever tried to ascertain the cause why this colliery has stopped?—I have not gone into that question.

4221. Are there any local causes why it has stopped?—I know of no local causes.

4222. You know that a Commission sat to inquire into the subject of royalty rents?—Yes.

4223. How many men were there at work at this colliery every day?—About 550.

4224. Then may we suppose that about 1,500 tons of coal came out every day; would three tons per man be a fair average?—I do not think they raised as much as that.

4225. We will say two tons per man on the average?—Yes.

4226. That represents 1,000 tons?—Yes.

4227. Did you ever try to ascertain what was the amount of royalty rents that the colliery paid?—I do not know.

4228. Would it have any influence on the stopping of the colliery if it was 6*d.* a ton?—I never heard that it did.

4229. Let me put it in this way: here is a colliery that cannot work, and there is 6*d.* a ton charged by way of royalty rent; would that 6*d.* a ton have any influence in stopping the colliery, or, to put it in another way, supposing the employer had had 6*d.* a ton more for his coal, would he have been able to keep his colliery working?—Do you mean this particular colliery?

4230. Yes; or taking the tin-plate and iron works in the same way, having to pay 6*d.* a ton more might make the difference between paying and not paying; however, I will not press the question

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

question further. You spoke as to the sources of relief, and of those who are paying for the relief given to these people?—Yes.

4231. May I be allowed to ask if the royalty owners pay anything towards supporting these people?—The large subscriber of whom I spoke is a royalty owner.

4232. Is he the only one in the district?—He is the largest.

4233. Yes, but is he the only one; you have tin works and iron works, and a big colliery?—Yes.

4234. Is he the only royalty owner in the district?—No, I should think not.

4235. Then is he the only one who has paid to your relief committee?—I could not say that.

4236. The matter is this: the contribution, I think you said the largest except one, was about 5*l.*?—They were not individual subscriptions.

4237. Therefore it would be right to assume that there was only one royalty owner paid, because that would be a small subscription for him?—I do not think it is a right assumption, is it?

4238. I will not press the matter any further?—I should like to say that the one royalty owner who did subscribe (I do not know that he is the only one, but he is one who did subscribe, and he gave a most generous subscription) is always disposed to be most generous in these ways.

4239. Do you know, as a matter of fact, that the trades unions do pay for this class of relief that you have in your district; that there are trades unions that pay out-of-work relief?—I do not know that there are.

4240. But, as a matter of fact, the trades unions do not in your district?—They gave a little help last year.

4241. Now as to the State aid; I think I heard you express your answer in reference to a question put to you, that you would not be in favour of starting works in your neighbourhood by State aid?—I do not think I understand you.

4242. It was put to you about 1,500 men being landed on an island with seed, and so on; do you think it is possible to start one in your district with 500 men?—No, I think there is great difficulty of finding work for any sort of men in our district.

4243. The coal trade and iron trade and tin trade being stopped in your district, there is no possibility of finding work for these men in that district?—I know of none.

4244. You could not suggest any kind of work supposing the State was to start one?—I could not now.

4245. Then as to the State aid or grant, yours is not the only district that is depressed at the present time?—No.

4246. There are districts where there are more men lying idle I should think?—There may be.

4247. Then if you got State aid in your district, will not that be laying the burden upon those other districts that are depressed as well as yours?—I should like to know how much the other districts have done to help themselves first.

4248. Supposing they have given the people 10*s.* a week?—I mean in voluntary aid.

4249. Yes, in voluntary aid; supposing they are doing that, would this contribution, or would this disbursement from the national fund be a burden *pro ratâ* upon these districts?—I do not think it could be a very heavy one.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

4250. I think you will grant that it would be a burden; it would, would it not?—It would be a slight burden I should say.

4251. Just this one other question, because I am rather egotistic in this question of mining matters; what is there peculiar about the miner and iron worker and tin worker that he cannot break stones on a road (slag from the furnaces), apart from climatic conditions?—Peculiar about him?

4252. Yes, I will put this to you further: Is he not used to handle a pick and hammer; are not these his daily tools?—It would be for a collier.

4253. Well, colliers; cannot they break slag?—I think it is very different work to that which they are engaged in; they could learn to break it, I think.

4254. Breaking stones is very different to breaking coal, you think?—Cutting coal is very different to breaking slag.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

4255. You say you have collected in the district 800*l.* within the last 15 months, and 500*l.* of that amount during the present year?—Yes.

4256. And that, practically, has exhausted the local supply that you think is obtainable?—I do not say that if we make an appeal again we shall not get any return.

4257. Do you think it has been an exceedingly heavy burden upon the locality?—I do; an exceedingly heavy burden, because the people who pay it are the tradespeople who are themselves suffering extremely.

4258. Not following out the calculation of Mr. Logan, though you do not pretend you have kept them altogether, still even a penny a day will provide, according to what I am told, a fair meal of soup and bread per head; is not that so?—It must be remembered that in those 1,800 persons a good many of them, or some of them, would be quite young children; we will take the case of five in a family, one or two of them would be quite small children.

4259. The Poor Law authorities do not seem, according to your evidence, to have done anything to meet this case of exceptional distress?—They have not to my knowledge.

4260. Can you account for that in any way?—I can only account for it by asking myself: what could they have done?

4261. As a matter of fact, if it had not been for your voluntary agency, your people would have starved?—They were what one may call starving when we commenced, they were ravenous.

4262. Therefore, so far as a machine for coping with such distress as this is concerned, the Poor Law has proved itself to be entirely useless?—I think so.

4263. Do you think that additional powers granted to them would enable them to cope with these difficulties?—I think it would be a simple way of dealing with them.

4264. Mr. Burns has suggested that a further contribution might have the effect of chaining

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

people down to the spot, that it was more desirable that they should migrate; do you think that would be the case?—No, because as I have said, the relief should be administered in such a way as merely to keep them alive in the district.

4265. As a matter of fact, you contemplate just keeping them alive and no more?—That is all we can do.

4266. And if a man can get wages elsewhere he will undoubtedly move, rather than stop in a district in order to be kept just on the verge of starving, between starving and living?—I think certainly; and it is especially true of men who earn high wages as a rule.

4267. With regard to your grant from the State; you think that having done so much you have a fair claim upon the State funds for something to assist you?—I think we have shown the *bonâ fides* of our intention.

4268. Practically, the distress in your locality is of such a nature that it almost becomes a matter of national concern rather than of local concern?—Yes, I do think so; I think the community should do the best for itself as long as it can, but I think you may reach the end of that.

4269. Well, practically, your contention is this, that in the case of such very severe exceptional distress as you have in your locality, after you have made every exertion you possibly can, then you have a claim upon the State to step in and assist you?—Yes.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4270. You suggest that there ought to be additional powers, and you suggest that you would try State aid in order to relieve the exceptional distress in your district?—Yes.

4271. Would you have those exceptional powers given to a local body or to a board of guardians, or both?—Do you mean a voluntary body when you speak of a "local body"?

4272. Yes?—I think after the long experience we have had, that if a sum of money was given to us as a voluntary committee, if it is not too arrogant a thing to say, I think we should deal with it now judiciously.

4273. That, of course, would not apply to the whole of the United Kingdom?—No; we have learnt a good deal by our experience.

4274. When you suggest that additional powers ought to be given, does not it seem to you that the powers which the boards of guardians have at present, and which in many parts of the United Kingdom they are putting in operation, with regard to out-door relief, might have been put in operation in the district which you represent here to-day?—My conception of the power of the board of guardians is that they cannot deal, generally speaking, with able-bodied men.

4275. I think we have had it in evidence already; I think we had it from Sir Hugh Owen, that, practically, the boards of guardians can give a very large amount of out-door relief, provided it is partly given in money and partly given in kind; and that that is practically the only restriction which is put upon the administration of out-door relief by the Local Government Board; are you aware of that?—I am not aware of it.

4276. Then does it not seem to you that the board of guardians of this particular locality ought to have done more than they have done up to the present date to relieve such an exceptional state of matters as that to which you have referred?—Most certainly, if they have such powers.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4277. What would be the effect if all these people went together to the Poor Law guardians: have they means at their disposal to afford any relief such as is indicated by the honourable Member, assuming that they went together?—I presume they would raise the rate. I can state that individuals have come to me and that I have advised them to go to the board of guardians, and whether they have ever reached the board of guardians themselves or not I should not like to say straight off, but they have been to the relieving officer, and the story which I have heard has been that the relieving officer has said that he cannot help able-bodied men.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4278. But it was not within your knowledge that the board of guardians has the wide power to which I have referred, and which I put to you just now?—No; I am not a guardian, and I am not an expert on the matter at all.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4279. This mine that stopped working was exceptionally deep, and required an exceptional amount of pumping to be done; were there any exceptional causes which made it, for instance, unworkable, do you know?—I do not know very much about the colliery.

4280. Had it been long opened?—Oh, yes; it is an old pit.

4281. Is the district exceptionally unfavourably situated as regards railway carriage or canal carriage, or otherwise?—It is exceptionally well situated, I should say.

4282. It is?—Yes; we are very near a good centre.

4283. Are there railway sidings from the pit to the railway?—In this particular pit?

4284. Yes?—It is very close to the railway.

4285. Is the land in this district mostly owned by one landowner or by many?—There is one very large landowner.

4286. Who is he?—Mr. Hanbury, of Pontypool Park.

4287. Are there other landowners?—Yes, there are others, they are not so large.

4288. Is Mr. Hanbury resident?—Yes.

4289. You told us, I think, that rents have been a good deal not paid?—Yes.

4290. Did your committee make application to landowners for contributions?—We issued a general appeal.

4291. Was it met by that class?—Yes, it was generously met.

Chairman.

4292. The rents which you say were not paid were cottage rents, were they?—Cottage rents.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4293. I think you said there were two collieries in the district?—Two collieries in the district which I represent. There are a large number of collieries

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

collieries in the neighbouring district; and (I wish to say that if I may) a good many of the men who are thrown out of work at that pit have found a certain amount of work; but the pits, owing to that, are very much overcrowded, the men are pushing in very much, and the amount of wage that can be earned is small.

4294. Did this pit which stopped belong to a limited liability company or to a private owner?—The pit, I think, was leased originally from Mr. Hanbury (of whom we have spoken) by the Ebbw Vale Company, and was sublet by them to a Scotch company, and the Scotch company got into financial difficulties.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

4295. Can you suggest any reason why the one pit stopped and the other did not?—The other pit is an entirely new pit, it is hardly opened yet. I should like to make one remark, it is a sentimental one perhaps, and that is, that in my experience one cannot say too much of the patient endurance with which this distress has been borne.

Mr. W. H. EDWARDS, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

4296. You are Mayor of Swansea, are you not?—Yes.

4297. What is the population of Swansea; will you tell the Committee?—One hundred thousand.

4298. Have you had much distress in the borough during this last winter?—During the last winter, yes.

4299. And does it still exist?—To a great extent, but not to the same extent.

4300. Can you give any estimate, or guess at the numbers subject to that distress out of employment?—Well, I take them at 18,800 now, but out of that number I have to take 13,000 that work intermittently, so that there would be 5,800 unprovided for.

4301. You think that at this present moment there are 18,800 out of employment?—Less the 13,000 that have worked occasionally. There are so many mills, and the work is so divided between the workmen, that they now have two men to do the work of one.

4302. Thirteen thousand odd are partially employed?—That is so, yes.

4303. Was the distress principally in some particular trade?—Well, it was all trades during the severe weather, but since the weather has broken up it is mainly the tin-plate workmen.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4304. Are these figures as to population?—No; the numbers dependent upon those unemployed.

4305. It is not the actual unemployed?—No, not the actual unemployed.

Chairman.

4306. You mean all the children and belongings of the unemployed?—That is so.

4307. But still that is the total number of unemployed, or only partially and scantily employed; 18,800 out of 100,000 inhabitants?—That is so, yes; but 13,000 of them have to come out as being half-timers; that is what it would be.

4308. What is the cause of the want of employment in the tin-plate industry, and has it been long prevailing?—Well, it has been bad since the passage of the M'Kinley Bill.

4309. When was that?—That was three years ago, but it has been worse within the last 12 months than it had ever been previously, and although the M'Kinley Bill was repealed and the Wilson Bill passed, yet the tin-plate trade has not improved, on account of the financial state of

Chairman—continued.

America, the financial state of the States, and also on account of some American competition.

4310. American competition in this country, do you mean?—No; they make some of their own plates on the other side now, whereas we used to make them here.

4311. Is the tin-plate industry a separate thing from the iron-plate industry?—There is no iron-plate industry; it is homogeneous iron, but call it steel plate, and tin-plates in connection with the steel trade; that is to say, the tin-plates are made of steel.

4312. Do the same men work on the steel plates and the tin-plates?—The steel men work the bars in preparation for the tin-plate men.

4313. Is steel plate industry then depressed in the same way as the tin-plate?—Yes; they are dependent upon each other.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4314. May we understand exactly what the nature of this tin-plate industry is; are these tin-plates rolled out of steel bars?—That is so.

4315. And then tinned?—That is so.

4316. I think the last witness gave us evidence as to the making of tin-plates in the state of black plate?—The black plates are plates that have not been coated with tin.

4317. Is that trade increasing?—This is the time of the year when the market opens, but it is to such an inappreciable extent that it is not worth mention, I think.

Chairman.

4318. Is the tin found in your district, or does it come from Cornwall or abroad?—Oh, no; we get Australian tin.

4319. Australian?—Yes.

4320. This distress prevailing, did you take any part as head of the community to meet the requirements of the case?—Well, I became Chairman of the Central Fund to receive voluntary subscriptions, and at Morriston, which is a part of the borough and is three miles out, they started a soup kitchen on their own account, independent of Swansea proper.

4321. You had several soup kitchens in Swansea, had you not?—Oh, yes, a great many of them.

4322. Did you open a register, or take any step of that sort?—Yes, at the Guildhall.

4323. And was that successful?—It was only there during the very severe weather, and we had about 300 or 400 names put down of those unemployed, but that is no guide at all as to the numbers who were unemployed.

Chairman—continued.

4324. In the severe weather your numbers were augmented by the building trades, and other trades of that sort, I suppose?—Yes, that is so.

4325. You were at the head of the committee of a voluntary organisation?—Yes, I was.

4326. Did you supply work, or only relief?—Do you mean the committee?

4327. Your committee?—The committee for receiving voluntary contributions, do you mean?

4328. Your committee received the contributions, what did you do with them?—Then we divided the town into wards, there are ten wards, and the alderman of each ward presided over each committee, then he had the assistance of the ministers of various denominations and a few laymen with him, and they saw to the destitution in kind, and not in money.

4329. In food, in fact?—Yes, in food; orders were printed worth a shilling each, and those were taken to the trades people, and by them the goods were supplied.

4330. What did you do, or did you do anything, in the way of providing work for the unemployed?—Well, we did what we could during that severe weather, but we could do but very little. Masons could do nothing, they could do nothing with the roads. What we were able to do was to clear away the snow principally; we engaged about 250 men outside our own hands then.

4331. Was that done by your committee, or by the corporation?—That was done by the corporation.

4332. Now, have you any suggestion to make, from your experience, as to the best way of meeting an emergency such as you have been passing through?—Well, I do not know that I have; there is only one, and that is a very delicate matter to touch upon, I being an employer myself.

4333. What is that?—Well, what I have to say is this: the tin-plate workmen themselves say that they are prepared to accept a reduction of wages provided we, as employers, can prove to them that we are not making a profit. Well, it is a very difficult matter for any employer to convince them; but what I should like to see myself would be some independent person to go into the state of the tin-plate trade and see whether employers are making any profit or not, and that the men should accept any reasonable suggestion or reduction proposed by the independent person; because we have to face the American competition, and it is no use our waiting until they have put up the mills in America and taken the trade from us, we had better fight shoulder to shoulder now, and work at as cheap a cost as we possibly can, that is the only way in which we can retain the trade.

4334. Then you think that the wages will have to come down?—Wages will have to come down, there is no doubt about that.

4335. In order to have a profitable industry?—Yes, and prevent them making their plates in America; but what I say is the sooner they make a substantial concession the better, instead of doing it in driblets.

4336. Is it your idea that that would be sufficient to prevent the trade going away?—Well, it is bound to prevent some of it going, because the cheaper we make the better, and the less they make on the other side the better; but I have reason to believe that we might go to a very great extent towards the stopping of the making of any plates at all.

4337. Are the wages a large item in the cost of the manufacture?—Well, the cost of making a box of tin-plates is about 9*s.*; anybody who works from the steel bar on to the finished tin-plate would have half-a-crown a box.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4338. That is for labour, you mean?—That is for labour only.

4339. Then you have the cost of the bar before it comes to you?—Yes.

4340. That will be included in the 9*s.*?—Yes, that would be included in the 9*s.*

Chairman.

4341. I think you have an idea, which a little affects me personally, as to the training of the militia?—Yes, it is not my idea, I admit that at once, but it has been suggested to me.

4342. You put it forward?—It was suggested to me, and I thought I would put it forward.

4343. To what effect is that?—It was suggested to me by a military man that instead of having the militia called out at the same, or somewhere near the same, period of the year they should be called out in localities where distress existed at any time of the year.

4344. As Minister for War, I am glad to be able to infer that the militia constitute a large portion of your population; in other parts of the world, they are not so very numerous a body as to really materially affect the question?—I promised to put it forward, and that I have done.

4345. Every little helps on an occasion like this?—Yes.

4346. There would be some difficulty in drilling and training the militia in the snow and in winter weather, of course?—Yes; but, still, snow does not last.

4347. How are the militia housed with you?—We have an arsenal.

4348. They have barracks?—Yes, barracks.

4349. Then how are you off for communications in the neighbourhood of Swansea?—With regard to railways?

4350. Yes?—Well, of course we have a very narrow peninsula running from Swansea down to Worm's Head, and we have a tract of 18 miles in length there without any railway at all, without any railway of any sort. We thought that a light railway down there would be the means of bringing the agriculturists' produce into town at a very much cheaper rate, and that we should help them by doing that.

4351. Is that in the south-west direction, as it were?—In the south-west direction, yes.

4352. That is an agricultural district?—Yes, entirely.

4353. And cut off from communication?—There is 18 miles without any railway at all.

4354. Of course the making of railways would, for the moment, furnish employment for those who

Chairman—continued.

who have no other employment?—Yes, and it would open out the peninsula.

4355. Do not you think that men who are out of employment in the tinplate and steelplate industries can do effectively ordinary work; road-making, and so forth?—They can do a certain share, but they cannot do as much as men who have been accustomed to it.

4356. But it would not spoil them for their own industry?—I should not like to put them out in very severe weather. They would be able to do that after they had been acclimatised. Just after they had been working in front of their furnaces, and that sort of thing, it would be very dangerous to take them at once to such work; but after working at it during a summer they could go on during the winter, I take it.

4357. There is nothing in the muscular or physical exertion which a man has to make at such work which is inconsistent with his old occupation?—Nothing that he would not get over in a reasonable time.

4358. Of course, if you had a scheme for light railways in the Gower peninsula that would be a great benefit to the agricultural community as well as to yourselves?—As well as to the town, yes.

4359. Are the agricultural community pretty well off, in your district?—Yes, very well off in that part.

4360. Except in the hard winter, I suppose?—No. I think they are fairly well off all the year round.

4361. What is the nature of the agriculture, sheep or dairy, or what?—Sheep and dairy, I think.

4362. Have the guardians of the poor done much for the relief of the unemployed?—They have done nothing, so far as I know.

4363. Are the rates heavy with you?—Well, yes, our rates are rather heavy, but our assessments are low.

4364. But the Poor Rate proper, is it heavy?—No, it is not very heavy.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4365. What is it?—Our rates altogether come to about 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

Chairman.

4366. But that includes all your Borough Rates?—All, School Board and everything else.

4367. Can you say how much of that is Poor Rate proper?—I think it is 2*s.* I am not sure; I should not like to be certain about that.

4368. It is not because they dare not put another penny on that the guardians have done nothing?—Oh, no.

4369. There would be a little margin there?—They could have done something, but I understood they had not the power to do so.

4370. Do you know if they allege the want of power?—They did when I was a guardian; that was about six or seven years ago, and I know that they sent a deputation to the Corporation recently during the distress to ask us what we could do for them. They said that they could do nothing.

4371. That they could do nothing?—Yes.

4372. You are not aware that they have very large powers for relieving actual distress in the case of people who are in danger of starvation, provided they give it half in kind and half in money?—I was not aware of it until I heard it here this morning.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

4373. What is the approximate rate of wage in the tin-plate trade, or in that district there?—You mean for a grown-up man, I suppose?

4374. Yes, for a grown-up man?—I should say in the tin-plate trade an average of about 2*l.* per week.

4375. So high as that?—Yes.

4376. An average of 2*l.* per week?—Yes.

4377. So that when we heard from the previous witness that 600 people had 650*l.*, that would include the children?—I should say so, or they had not been working full time.

4378. Are you prepared to say what amount of reduction is likely to tempt back the trade that is liable to leave us, the reduction in rate of pay, say; what percentage would you think?—I do not know what exactly would enable us to do that; but if I were a workman I should suggest the making of a reduction of 25 to 30 per cent. at once.

4379. We have heard that works similar to tin-plate works have been suddenly closed without any notice; in your business experience is that likely to be the case?—Well, a great many works have been working from day to day recently on account of the irregular orders coming in, instead of from month to month, as they used to.

4380. Then I conclude, although it is a sudden notice, yet the notice was not really sudden; it must have been anticipated over the previous weeks, if not months?—At some works they have been working very irregularly; at other works, again, they have been going fully, but even where they have been working fully, they have taken the precaution to have their men working on from day to day.

Mr. *Logan.*

4381. When you say 2*l.* is the average wage, do you mean, taking all the year round, that a man will earn in the year 104*l.*?—Working full time, yes.

4382. What will the average wage be that the man does earn?—They were accustomed to earn previous to this M'Kinley Bill at least 104*l.* all the year round, before this distress.

4383. That is to say, they would work full time and make 2*l.* a week?—Yes, on the average; some of them would earn up to 3*l.*

4384. Why do you think a reduction of wages would enable you to compete with America?—Because I hear from the other side that they have as much as they can do now to compete with us, and if we had this concession I think we should stop their putting up any more mills.

4385. Is the reason that the Americans cannot compete with you that they pay higher wages, do you know?—Well, they would not be able to pay the higher wages if they had not the protection; they are paying far higher wages than we pay, but they are able to do it by protection.

4386. Have you any idea what they pay over there?—They pay over there, I suppose, about a

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

hundred to one hundred and fifty per cent. more than we pay.

4387. Indeed! Then the other costs of the tin-plate, excepting the cost of labour, is cheaper over there, is it not; they can produce their steel cheaper than we do?—Well, I believe they do, although there is not much in that.

4388. So that it is really a question of wages?—A question of wages. Yes. Everything is exhausted, except, perhaps, sixpence a box; and if we can come down sixpence then, I think, the trade may remain with us; that is to say, the five shillings a box protection has been exhausted.

4389. What it really amounts to then is that to keep the tin-plate trade in England there must be competition between the English workmen and the American?—There must be, yes.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4390. I understood you to say that to-day there are 5,800 men out of employment?—Yes.

4391. Is that not by a long way an underestimate of the condition of things?—Allowing that the works working at all divide their work fairly between their workmen; of course, they may work only one-half of them, and the other half would be destitute altogether then.

4392. Let us analyse the matter: there are 80 mills, I believe, in the borough of Swansea?—Yes, that is so.

4393. How many of them do you compute to be idle?—There are fifteen of them at a total stand.

4394. What about the others?—They can either keep forty sets of men to keep forty mills going, or they can, by dividing the work, keep the 65 sets going.

4395. What about the difference between the fifteen and the eighty that are partially idle. How many are partially idle?—Sixty-five are partially idle.

4396. How many are in regular employment?—Forty mills are in regular employment.

4397. How many hands are there to a mill?—Dependent on each mill, say 200.

4398. How many hands?—Eighty.

Chairman.

4399. Eighty to a mill?—Yes, on an average; but then there are included in these children, and in order to get at the number dependent on the 80 I multiply that by two and a-half. I have got the figures from the large works, and that is what it works out to

Mr. *David Randell.*

4400. How many of these mills do you compute to be going regularly?—Forty.

4401. Then we have forty to account for?—Yes.

4402. Fifteen of these you say are permanently stopped?—Yes, that is so.

4403. Then as to the others, they have intermittent employment?—Yes, the other 25 sets of men have to go into the 40 mills and deprive the men working in the 40 mills of part of their work.

4404. What percentage of these men to your knowledge are allowed to "work round," as they call it, and are given work; can you say with any reliance that half of these people are so employed?—No; I should not like to say that more than half of them would be. That would be a fair estimate, about half of them would be taken on in shifts, what we call "working round."

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

4405. Still, there is half of 25 to be accounted for?—Yes.

4406. So far as your knowledge is concerned these people would be out of employment?—Yes.

4407. Take the steel trade of the district with the tin-plate trade, one is interdependent on the other; how many people are employed in the steel trade of the borough?—In the steel trade, 400.

4408. They are out of employment absolutely?—Some of them, yes.

4409. They would not be able to "work round" at tin works?—No.

4410. So that they have no work whatever other than their own occupation?—No.

4411. Now, in reference to the suggested remedy; I understand from you, as a manufacturer, that you advocate a large concession of wage as a means out of the difficulty?—Yes.

4412. I take your words, 25 to 30 per cent.?—That is including the 12½ that they have already given.

4413. That is to say, that at some works the men have already given 12½, but you would include that 12½ in your 25 or 30 per cent.?—That is so.

4414. With the object of saving the trade?—Yes.

4415. Do you know that very recently an American tin-plate manufacturer, together with a local manufacturer, who has put down plant in America, attempted to get out of their men a concession of 25 to 30 per cent.?—Yes.

4416. And they had a struggle over it?—Yes.

4417. And the men capitulated, giving, I believe, 15 per cent.?—That was in the case of a strike in America.

4418. Many of these operatives are Welsh operatives, are they not?—Yes.

4419. Do not you think, if you managed to get the men to make a further concession of 20 or 25 per cent., that the American manufacturer would immediately seek to obtain a larger concession from his workmen on the other side of the water?—I do not think they would be successful, because the sheet-iron men would step in at once, and say: You must not bring down wages in this way, or you will bring us down too.

4420. That is a supposition on your part?—Oh, no.

4421. Did not the sheet men, as a matter of fact, assist the tin-plate men considerably in resisting the attempt of the American masters to get this concession?—Yes.

4422. Do you think to-day we have an active American competition to deal with?—Yes, we have to some extent.

4423. Would not that be to a very small extent?—Well, I hope so, but it will be very much bigger if we do not move.

4424. What do you think, with your knowledge as a manufacturer, as to whether there is really any formidable active competition on the other side of the water?—Oh, yes, there is.

4425. Something

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

4425. Something that you need to be afraid of?—Yes.

4426. Are you not a member of the Joint Board of Control, that has recently been created?—I attended one meeting the other day, and by virtue of my office I was put in the chair.

4427. Then I take it that being in the chair you sympathised, in a measure at all events, with the object of this Board of Control?—No, I did not.

4428. Are you a member of that Board of Control?—I have attended no meetings since.

4429. The president of that Joint Committee is Sir John Jones Jenkins, is he not?—Yes.

4430. He is one of our largest manufacturers?—Yes.

4431. Have you noticed that only last week Sir John Jones Jenkins as the President of that Board of Control on one side representing masters, and Mr. Lewis Richards, the President of the tin-plate makers representing the men?—Sir John is not President.

4432. What is he, Chairman?—No.

4433. At any rate, he takes an active interest in it?—Yes.

4434. Have you noticed that only last week Sir John Jones Jenkins and Mr. Richards issued a kind of manifesto to the trade, in which they say that "Even if you reduce cost by constant reductions in wages, it is not our opinion that we could close the American works by so doing, and therefore when we have so reduced them, we shall still be in the same position as we are now, and still making one-third more than the consumption calls for; in this way it is clear that a reduction of wages is no remedy"; do you agree with that opinion?—No, I do not.

Chairman.

4435. You do not agree with the opinion so expressed?—No, I do not.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4436. I am afraid from your observations that, at any rate, whatever part you take in this present Board of Control, you do think it advisable, in the interest of this trade, that there should be joint action between the masters and the men if it could be brought about?—Yes, I do.

4437. It is a desirable thing?—Oh, yes.

4438. Assuming that this board could come into existence, and that the men accepted your advice and made this large concession, would you as a master recommend when times got better that a return should be made to the men of a concession equal to that which they give now?—Well, we should be very pleased to do it if trade would admit of our doing it.

4439. Would you recommend mutuality?—Certainly; a joint board would be of no use unless we had that.

4440. Referring to the McKinley Bill as having first tended to dislocate the trade, the masters, I think, made a large percentage of profits in anticipation of what was going to happen in the States?—Some of them; yes.

4441. You do not know whether the masters have given any sort of additional wage to the men in consequence of those increased profits?—What I said as to that is simply my opinion.

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

4442. In reference to the agricultural part of the Gower peninsula (that is purely agricultural) you think that if a light railway were taken into the peninsula it would be the means of bringing the produce from that district into Swansea?—Yes, I certainly think so.

4443. And I think a large amount of produce lies really waste on account of the difficulty of bringing it into the market in consequence of no railway facilities?—Yes.

Chairman.

4444. What sort of produce is it that lies waste?—Well, I suppose it would be more vegetables than anything else; the distance is too far, the cartage would be too heavy.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4445. In reference to the Poor Law Guardians, I understand from you that really they have been under the impression that they are unable to afford any relief to the men?—Yes.

4446. In reference to the electoral vote what is your opinion, do you think that the men in receipt of any relief should be disfranchised parliamentarily?—No, not parliamentarily; but so far as the board of guardians goes, the people who administer the relief, I think they should be disfranchised.

4447. As to the immediate future of the trade, are you hopeful?—Well, it depends entirely upon the state of America; the trade seems to be reviving a little there.

4448. In America?—Well, trade generally is reviving there, but it is very very slow.

4449. So you do not anticipate an immediate relief so as to alter the condition of poverty which these people are in?—No, I do not.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

4450. You think that a man in receipt of relief should not lose his Parliamentary vote?—I do not think he should.

4451. Do you say that without qualification?—Yes, I cannot think of any qualification at present.

4452. Do you draw any distinction between indoor and outdoor relief?—Yes, I do.

4453. Why?—Well, because I take it it is only in exceptional cases that you would give an outdoor man relief, but an indoor man would be there permanently.

4454. Then it is only a question of time?—Yes.

4455. You would simply make the dividing line the question of time?—Yes.

4456. Irrespective of outdoor or indoor relief?—Yes.

4457. A man might be in, say, for three weeks; you would not apply any distinction there, it is merely an instance; I am not giving you an exact time; the only distinction you make is a distinction of time?—Yes, I think so.

4458. Now, I will pass from that; your committee was able to deal with the distress?—Yes, to some extent.

4459. And where it was not able it was, I suppose, simply a question of funds?—Yes.

4460. If you had had funds enough you would have been able entirely to deal with the distress?—Well,

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

—Well, I think we did deal with it fairly well during the severe weather.

4461. And your relief, I take it, was given in kind?—In orders on the tradespeople.

4462. And if the guardians had the power to give the relief partly in money and partly in kind, the law as it at present stands would be sufficient from your experience to deal with cases of distress?—So far as we have experienced it at Swansea.

4463. You have suggested that the militia might be called out at times when work is slack?—Yes.

4464. Do you know of this condition of things: that a man in the Naval Reserve puts in his drill when he comes off a voyage at any time that is convenient, has it ever occurred to you that men might, either in the Militia or in the Reserve, be allowed to go to the depôt centre and put in their drill there when they have no other work to do?—No, I was not aware of that.

4465. That has not occurred to you?—No.

4466. That might possibly tide a man over a difficult three weeks or so?—Yes.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4467. About the stoppage of these works; I think the main cause, so far as your opinion is concerned, was the amount of wages that was being paid to the men?—What I mean is this: We could keep more of the trade in our country if there was a reduction of wages.

4468. Is that the only means now capable of application to save the trade, is there not any other thing you could apply to?—I should like to mention this point: you asked the other witness this morning as to the question of royalty; every little helps us.

4469. You consider the royalties an element in the cause of stagnation?—It must enter into it.

4470. Can you give us your reasons for saying that?—If we had no royalties to pay it would be all the easier to compete with foreign competition.

4471. Can you tell us the amount of royalty per ton that might enter into the competition in steel, say, or anything of that sort, at Swansea?—I could not follow it up right through the manufacturing, but I think the royalty on coal is about 9*d.* a ton.

4472. Then you have the coal, the iron, the ironstone, and all the other elements that go to make up the ingredients in the cost of production?—We have to import the iron.

4473. Where from; where do you get the iron from?—Bilbao, a great deal.

4474. Where do you get the limestone; where does it come from, principally?—I do not know that they use very much limestone.

4475. Would it be anything unfair to say that a shilling or eighteen pence would be too much royalty in a ton of iron?—Not a shilling; I do not know about eighteen pence; of course, I do not know anything at all about manufacturing iron.

4476. Now as to these wages, did I hear you aright when you said that the Americans were paying 150 cent. more wages than we are paying?—Yes.

4477. How would 25 per cent. less wage save you then?—Because they have 5*s.* a box or 5*s.* a hundredweight protection, and the 150 per cent. on wages is a very small thing as compared with that.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

4478. Then the result is that although the workmen in America get 150 per cent. more wages than the workmen here, they are really no better off on account of protection, is that what you mean?—I do not think they are.

4479. That is what you mean?—Yes.

4480. Now, about this Board of Joint Control; is it a joint committee of employers and employed?—Yes.

4481. With a chairman appointed?—Not a permanent chairman.

4482. But is it something like what we call a conciliation board?—As a matter of fact, it has arrived at a stage at which you could call it anything. There have never been more than six manufacturers in any meeting yet, out of about a hundred, I suppose.

4483. Suppose the workmen in the neighbourhood were willing to meet you and the rest of the employers, and form a conciliation board, would not that facilitate the settlement of the wages?—Not unless the workmen would agree to a reference failing their coming to a decision with regard to the rate of wages.

4484. Let me quote a case to you. A conciliation board has been formed in a very large district in this country where the employers will expose their books to the employées on the board for the board's use; would you have any objection to the formation of a conciliation board of that kind (I have the rules in my pocket) in order that the men might satisfy themselves whether you were asking for that which is reasonable or not?—That is what I wanted the independent person for, to satisfy himself, and then for him to act accordingly.

4485. Suppose you had a conciliation board formed on the lines of mutuality, and the workmen were (I think those are the words you used) satisfied that you were making no profit, and then were willing to submit to a reduction of 25 per cent., would it not facilitate the settlement of your case if you were to set about forming a board of that kind?—I should certainly be prepared to fall in with it; I am speaking for myself personally.

4486. Would that be something different to this Board of Control?—No, I think it would mean the same thing in the end; it would have to come to that.

4487. Now, as to this wage; it is 2*l.* a week, you say, on an average?—Yes.

4488. Of course, some men would be getting more, and some less?—Yes.

4489. Twenty-five per cent. of that 2*l.* would be 10*s.* a week?—Yes.

4490. That is a big reduction?—Yes, it is; still they have already given 5 of it, you see.

4491. That means that the man works every day all the year round?—Yes.

4492. Can you tell us what amount of lost time these men have had during the year?—During this last year they have had a great deal of lost time; that has been in consequence of the depression in America.

4493. So that we might safely say the wage would

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—*continued.*

would not amount to more than 1*l.* a week last year about Swansea?—All those who worked last year earned about 35*s.* a week.

4494. I thought you said they were relieving each other, and sharing the 2*l.*?—Yes, now.

4495. How long has that been going on?—It has never been to the same extent before that it is going on now.

4496. Just to sum up my two points, the remedy to which you look would be a reduction in the wages of the workmen?—Yes.

4497. And some easement in the royalty rents?—Yes.

Mr. *Bartley.*

4498. Do I understand that practically this whole distress is due to the depression in this particular trade?—Of course, a month ago there was a great deal due to the state of the weather; there is a little still.

4499. The real cause of the depression is the changes in the trade?—Yes.

4500. Is there any possible way of meeting that depression except by either re-arranging the trade or effecting some reduced cost in the manufacture?—I do not know.

4501. It must be one or other, must it not?—Yes.

4502. But you think that the reduction of the wages is one means of doing it?—Yes, I think so.

4503. As regards the wages that have been earned of late, you say they average about 2*l.* a week all the year round when at full work; but during the depressed times I suppose they do not average nearly that, do they?—Well, it depends a great deal on where they are working; some works are going regularly.

4504. Taking them all round, I suppose you would say the average wages would be considerably under 30*s.* a week now?—No, where the works are closed altogether you would not take them into account, I take it.

4505. I think I should; I mean taking the whole industry as one?—I do not suppose it would be more than 30*s.* a week now.

4506. Then, practically speaking, the men are giving up even now as much as you think, if they gave it up regularly, would lead to the revival of trade?—Yes; and more of them would be employed.

4507. Supposing your statement is correct, that the masters are making no profit, if they would assent to this arrangement they would be practically better off, or as well off as they are now, and the industry might revive?—Yes, that is what I believe.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

4508. I think you stated that the wages in America were much higher than they were here?—Yes.

4509. Do you think, notwithstanding that, that but for the American tariff the Welsh people would be quite able to hold their own with the Americans?—Well, I hope so; but whether we can hold the whole trade or not, we can hold some of it by minimising our cost.

4510. How does it affect the Canadian trade; I suppose you have the Canadian trade almost

0.45.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

to yourselves?—We have the Canadian trade still.

4511. Notwithstanding the competition of the Americans?—Oh, yes; they cannot export anything.

4512. Then, besides tin plates and steel plates, there is a large trade done in black iron sheets for stove piping in Canada?—Well, there is a trade in it, but you cannot call it a large trade as compared with the total output of the trade.

4513. That is owing, I suppose, to the depression which has occurred there as everywhere else just now?—No, the consumption of black plates in Canada has never been so very large that it was worth taking into account.

4514. Is it not a fact that, so far as every other part of the world is concerned, except America, the Welsh people in the tin-plate trade and the black sheet-iron trade can hold their own?—They can hold their own.

4515. They have really the market?—Yes, I think so.

Chairman.

4516. Except as against America?—Except as against America, yes.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

4517. Except as against America they really have the markets?—Yes.

4518. So that when a revival in trade takes place generally all over the world, as we hope to see it some day, you hope to resume, I suppose, work as usual in the district where there is so much depression at the present time?—Oh, yes; we hope so.

4519. And the great feature just now is to tide over the difficulty, and to provide the means of sustenance to the individuals who are thrown out of employment at the present time?—Exactly.

Chairman.

4520. I understand that the difficulty you spoke of arising from their competition is in America?—Yes.

4521. They do not compete with you in other markets?—No.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4522. Is it not the case that in respect of your particular industry you have succeeded in holding trade in America, while very few trades in the country have been able to hold it?—Yes.

4523. And that you are rather the exception to the general trades of the United Kingdom up to the present time in being able to export your goods to America, whilst almost every other manufacturing industry in the country has lost its trade there owing to the very high duties?—Yes.

4524. So that they have been practically the last trade to lose their hold of the American market?—We have not entirely lost the market yet.

Mr. *Bartley.*

4525. You can beat them in spite of Protection?—It depends on the amount of Protection; were there now a reduction of wages, I think we might.

Friday, 22nd March 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Crean.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

THE *Chairman* handed in the following letters:—

"Office of the Secretary for Scotland,
"Whitehall, S.W.,
"Sir, 20 March 1895.

"In continuation of my letter of the 20th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to inform you that the Local Government Board for Scotland are tabulating the replies of the municipal and parochial authorities to the queries in the Board's recent circular, and hope in a few days to be able to furnish the information called for by the Select Committee on the Unemployed.

"I am, &c.,
"(signed) *Colin Scott Moncrieff,*
"Reginald Dickinson, Esq.,
"House of Commons."

"Irish Office,
"Great Queen Street, S.W.,
"Sir, 21 March 1895.

"WITH reference to your letter of 19th February, with its enclosure, asking for information from the local authorities in Ireland with regard to the existence of exceptional distress, similar to that called for from the local authorities in England, I beg to say that, as the Chairman is doubtless aware, there is no one body in Ireland corresponding to the English District Council. In Ireland the functions of the latter body are discharged by the rural sanitary authority, the grand jury, or the board of guardians.

"Apart, however, from this aspect of the case, the distress now existing in Ireland has been mainly due to a partial failure of the potato crop, and this has been specially dealt with by money obtained from Parliament for the purpose.

"Having regard to these circumstances, it does not seem to me that any statistics or other facts could be collected in Ireland at the present time which would be of assistance to the Select Committee in their deliberations.

"I shall be glad if you will submit this view to the Chairman and to the Committee.

"I am, &c.
"(signed) *John Morley.*"
"Reginald Dickinson, Esq.,
"Committee Office,
"House of Commons."

Mr. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

4526. YOU hold the post of Commissioner for Labour in charge of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, do you not?—Yes.

4527. How long have you occupied that position?—Since the beginning of 1893.

4528. Could you give us, in the first place, a general idea of the scope and arrangement of the evidence you propose to give?—I have considered in what way I could best be of use to the Committee in its inquiry, and, with their consent, I propose to arrange my evidence in three parts:—first of all, dealing briefly with the general statistics of employment and its fluctuations; secondly, comparing the present state of employment with that prevailing a year ago; and, thirdly, adding to and bringing up to date some of the information as to the various remedial agencies which are dealt with in the Board of Trade Report on the Unemployed.

Chairman—continued.

4529. Will you tell the Committee, in general terms, the nature of the information with regard to the state of employment which is in the possession of your department?—The information in the possession of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade as to the state of employment is of two kinds: in the first place, current information

Chairman—continued.

tion which we obtain at frequent intervals from various sources (which I will describe) as to changes in employment. This information is summarised month by month in our journal, the "Labour Gazette." Secondly, we have information derived from special inquiries into particular questions, of which an example is the Report on the Unemployed to which I have referred, and another example is the inquiry which we are now conducting, and which is not complete, with regard to the irregularity of work in certain trades.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4530. Do you say "irregularity of employment"?—Irregularity of employment and of work.

4531. I put the question, because irregularity of work might not result from want of employment?—That is so.

Chairman.

4532. Will you say what is the nature of the machinery you use to obtain the information?—In the first place, in the central office we have a staff of investigators, including four labour correspondents, of whom Mr. Burnett is the chief, and three other special investigators. In the second place, we are in communication with a considerable number (it is now 32) of local correspondents in various parts of the United Kingdom, each covering a district. In the third place, we receive periodical reports from a number of other Government Departments as to matters within their own cognisance, and from consuls and other representatives abroad, as to changes affecting labour in various countries. In the fourth place, we have a large number of monthly returns from employers, from workmen's organisations, and employers' organisations, from labour bureaux and other agencies. We find, on the whole, that we receive and analyse for the purpose of each number of the "Labour Gazette" nearly 2,000 reports and returns of this kind every month. That, briefly, is the nature of the machinery.

4533. Will you tell us what use is made of this information when collected; in what form is it published?—As I have already stated, the chief form in which the current information is published is in the monthly "Labour Gazette," a copy of which is, I think, in the hands of every Member of this Committee. We group the information in two ways: first, by districts, in the form of district reports, which enable the condition of employment in particular disticts to be compared from month to month; and, secondly, by trades, in the form of special reports on particular industries, that is to say, such industries as lend themselves to that method of treatment. For example, coal mining, iron mining, pig iron manufacture, agricultural labour, dock labour, seamen, and so forth, are all treated specially. Finally, a summary of the whole of the information is prepared, which takes the form of a monthly memorandum on the state of the labour market. That is the first article which always appears in the "Labour Gazette," and also appears in a summarised form in the Board of Trade Journal.

Chairman—continued.

4534. The Committee would like to know the general conclusions which are to be derived from the information which you have described with regard to the extent and character of the want of employment in the various trades; can you give us that information?—Before going into detail in answering that question, may I be allowed to state, in the first place, that the conclusions to be drawn from our statistics are for the most part conclusions with regard to the state of employment rather than the state of distress. Of course, the one has an important bearing on the other. Incidentally, the subject of distress may be treated by our local correspondents; incidentally, it is dealt with in the returns we receive on pauperism. But, in the main, our statistics deal rather with trade conditions than with distress; and in that respect any statistics I should give would be of a different scope from those given by Sir Hugh Owen, who dealt only with persons within the scope of the Poor Law.

4535. You attack the question from another point of view?—Yes. Then, answering your question further as to the conclusions to be derived from our statistics, I may first make a rough division between what I may call the stable industries, such as railway service, domestic service, and certain branches of agriculture, in which there is little difference of employment from year to year, and the fluctuating industries, such as shipbuilding, engineering, the building trades, mining, and dock labour, which show more or less marked oscillations from time to time in employment. It is in the fluctuating trades that the evils of want of employment are chiefly found; and it is therefore to them that any evidence I give will be for the most part confined. But I want to emphasise the existence and importance of the other group of trades, the stable industries; because otherwise there is a tendency to generalise unduly from the oscillations found in the fluctuating trades, and to apply them equally to the whole field of industry, and that is an illegitimate generalisation. Having said that, I shall not say much more about the stable industries.

4536. Would you explain a little further how you draw the distinction between the stable and the fluctuating industries, and give us some instance; for instance, how would you class engineering?—Engineering I put among the fluctuating trades; it is a very fluctuating trade. The examples I gave of stable industries were such industries as railway service or domestic service, and there are some branches of agriculture which would come under the same heading where long-period hirings prevail.

4537. Take such a trade as the textile trade, how would you class that?—That is not so fluctuating as engineering or shipbuilding, but I should place it among the fluctuating trades. Of course, there is no line drawn by nature dividing off sharply the one group from the other; they shade into each other by imperceptible gradations. But there are some which are more stable than others, and some so stable as to justify us in speaking of them as stable trades.

 4538. Would

Mr. *Jackson.*

4538. Would you not rather say "employments" than "trades"; you could hardly call domestic service a trade?—"Employment" would be a better term.

Chairman.

4539. Taking the instance you quoted, of engineering, perhaps you would explain in what sense it is fluctuating, and upon what do its fluctuations depend in order to elucidate the nature of the fluctuating trades?—Engineering is an employment which shows a cycle of fluctuations. It is not so fluctuating within a given year as the building trades, for example; but if a period of years be taken, it shows a very marked fluctuation. I intended to go into that later, if I may, with some figures. I am at present only classifying; I am not going into the figures.

4540. Confining our attention for the moment to the fluctuating trades, is there any difference among them, in the mode of their fluctuation, as regards the effect on employment?—Yes, industries differ very greatly in the mode of their fluctuation; I mean in the methods by which they adjust themselves to contractions or inflations in the demand for labour. Looking at the question broadly, we may distinguish two main methods. The first general method is by short time, or short work, for all or the majority of those employed. A good example of that is mining, in which, for the most part, the contractions do not result so much in throwing out a certain number of colliers altogether, but in the colliery working a smaller number of days per week. Another example would be the boot and shoe trade; (I mean apart, for the moment, from the great factories where machinery is used, but where it is carried on on the ordinary piece-work system), in which in slack times there are not many people entirely unemployed, but a very large number of people will have a short amount of work. The second method, which applies in other industries, is not by working short time, but by throwing out of work a certain proportion of the workers who form a fluctuating margin of unemployed. Examples of such trades are the building, engineering, and shipbuilding trades. I do not mean to say there is not short time known in any of those trades, or that overtime is not worked in times of inflation; but the main method by which they adjust themselves to a change in demand is by throwing out workers or taking on more workers. Those are the trades in which we get the phenomenon of the unemployed.

4541. Have your investigations led you to consider whether it is in the trades in which piece-work is more largely worked than in others that this adjustment takes the form in the first instance of what you have described as not throwing entirely out of employment but working short time?—I may say, generally, though it would not be universally true, that piece-work trades tend more often to contract and expand by the first method; that is, by short work or short time, and the time-work trades by the other method. That would not be universally true, but it is generally true. Both the examples I took, the mining and the boot and shoe trades, are piece-work trades chiefly; and the examples I took of the other method, such as building, are time-work trades.

Chairman—continued.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4542. Would that apply to engineering?—Engineering is a mixed trade.

4543. You classified engineering with building, did you not?—I did for this purpose.

4544. Is there not much piece-work in engineering?—There is a good deal of piece-work worked in engineering; but I should suppose all over the country the large majority of persons engaged in the trade are paid at time rates.

Chairman.

4545. Of course, this distinction which you speak of is not a rigid distinction?—No.

4546. Is it a constant distinction, or should you say that trades tend to move from one class to the other?—I should say that is so; and there are transitions of that kind going on at the present time. For example, to take a trade I have already mentioned, the boot and shoe trade, the introduction of the factory system and machinery into that trade is tending, so far as it extends, to convert that industry from one fluctuating by means of short work into one fluctuating by means of decreasing or increasing the numbers employed. A somewhat similar transition, though not due to the same causes, may be observed in dock labour in London, owing to the increase of the permanent element in dock labour. The fluctuations tend now, less than they did a few years ago, to take the form of sharing an irregular amount of work among the whole number of men, and rather to throw out entirely a certain number, and to keep those that are employed still at more or less permanent work.

4547. Passing from the question of the modes of fluctuation, is there any further difference you would like to call attention to as regards the character of the fluctuations in different trades?—Yes. I should like at this stage just to name a few of the more important differences, and afterwards to illustrate them by some figures. I may say the chief differences to which I wish to allude are as regards the periods and the causes of oscillation. In the first place, I may mention the seasonal fluctuations, which may be due either to changes of demand or to the physical difficulty of carrying on the work in particular seasons. Of course, the building trades are one good example, and the clothing trades are another good example of the trades liable to seasonal fluctuations. In the second place, we have what I call cyclical fluctuations; that is to say, fluctuations the period of which extends over a number of years. They affect many very important groups of trades, and the periods correspond with what we sometimes call periods of inflation and depression of trade. They appear to affect in a special degree industries connected with shipbuilding, machine-making, and allied industries; the trades which Mr. Walter Bagehot used to call the "instrumental" trades. But in a secondary degree their influence

Chairman—continued.

influence extends from those trades more or less over a great part of the field of industry. What the ultimate cause of these cycles may be, perhaps it is scarcely within the scope of this inquiry to investigate; but from whatever cause they originally arose, it appears that they are connected with slight variations in the total volume of production in the country. The total volume of production in the country (I am speaking of volumes, not values; of course in values there is a considerable variation) appears to vary slightly from year to year over a period. The range of that fluctuation is probably very small; but even these slight changes are sufficient to throw into violent oscillation the trades connected with the manufacture of the instruments of production. I shall show how violent these oscillations are when I come to deal with the actual figures. These oscillations I wish to call in my evidence "cyclical oscillations." In the third place there are the irregular fluctuations due to weather (such as the influence of wet or snow on farm labour, of fog on dock labour, and of frost on the building trades) which are not quite the same as seasonal fluctuations; they depend upon irregular climatic causes. In the fourth place, we have local fluctuations, which are not necessarily connected with variations of the total volume of work in the country at all, but are connected with the migration of work and industry from one place to another. The removal of shipbuilding from the Thames to the North is an example of that. In the next place, you have the influences of the changes of process or fashion, such as the introduction of new processes which throw out persons engaged in work which has become obsolete. In the sixth place, I should like to notice the influence of trade disputes on employment in allied trades. I will give an example of that presently. Of course I do not mean to say that that exhausts the kinds of fluctuations; but those are the six important classes which I wish to deal with.

4548. Which of those do you consider the most important?—I should think far the most important of these classes of oscillations, from the point of view of the country as a whole, is the class of what I have called cyclical fluctuation. Seasonal or irregular changes due to weather, of course may produce a pinch for a time; but they rather affect the distribution of work over the year than the total volume of employment during the year; work postponed is very often accumulated, but the cycles corresponding to inflation and depression of trade are of a more serious character. Of course, from the point of view of the individual, no doubt displacement by changes of process is the most serious thing, because he loses the value of his acquired skill; but speaking of the effect on employment in the country as a whole, I think incomparably the most serious kind of fluctuations are those I have spoken of as cyclical oscillations.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4549. In the case of displacement by change of process, a man may not only suffer that loss temporarily, but perhaps for all time?—Yes.

Chairman.

4550. Could you give the Committee some figures, illustrating from different trades the various kinds of fluctuation to which you have called attention?—I have some figures that I want to place before the Committee; but before I go into the figures you will perhaps allow me to describe to the Committee how these particular figures are arrived at, and what their basis is; that is to say, how we attempt to measure the changes of employment. It is not practicable to apply the same test to all industries. There are some trades in which we are able to measure, with more or less accuracy, the actual fluctuations in the total numbers employed from time to time. We do this, for example, in the "Labour Gazette," for dock labour in London; we do it for blast furnace-men throughout the United Kingdom, and we do it for a very large number of mines employing colliers and iron miners. That is a method which is a very useful one so far as it could be extended, but it is one which it is impracticable to apply, except in the case of a few special industries, because it belongs to a class of statistical methods which depend entirely for their value on getting a wide range of observations. It is one which you cannot apply by sample; for this reason, that the oscillations of a particular business are altogether out of proportion to the total oscillations of the whole number of businesses. Therefore the only classes of employment to which we can apply this test are those in which we are able to get so large a sample as to be able to say that it must be representative of the industry as a whole. For example, we get almost complete returns covering all the persons employed in the docks in London.

4551. From whom do you get the figures as to dock employment?—We get the figures supplied by all the dock companies as to those employed by them, and we get returns collected from the shipowners in the Albert and Victoria Docks, who do their own discharging, and we are now trying to obtain similar figures from the wharves. With regard to the blast furnace-men we get returns from the ironmasters, which cover over 90 per cent. of the whole number of blast furnaces in the United Kingdom.

Mr. *Isaacson.*

4552. Is there any return made from steel works?—We are now extending the inquiry to steel workers. We have not yet got the steel works in the same way as the pig iron. Our returns of employment at present cover pig iron, but not steel. As regards coal mining, we get monthly returns from over 1,100 collieries employing 275,000 persons, and we consider that a good enough sample.

Chairman.

4553. Those are cases where you get the actual data?—Yes, where we get the data of the number of people employed. But as an example of how unsafe it would be to apply this method, unless we get a very large number of returns, I may take an illustration from the returns of employment of labour in the docks in London. During

BIBL. LONDIN. UNIV.

Chairman—continued.

last month I find the numbers employed varied from 9,360 to 6,050, that is to say a variation of 35 per cent.; whereas the numbers employed in a particular dock during the same period varied from 2,742 to 1,267, or a variation of 54 per cent. If we had attempted to take that dock as a sample we should have got entirely wrong results.

Mr. *Isaacson.*

4554. Does that include casual labour as well?—That includes the whole of the labour staff, casual and permanent. I should mention that this method, which we apply when we can, is the one employed very largely in American statistics, and on it are based the figures indicating "the range of unemployment" as it is called, which are published by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labour Statistics. These percentages are based on this method I have described. That is to say, they take as their "range of unemployment," as they call it, in any industry, the difference in any year between the minimum average monthly number employed, as shown in their returns, and the maximum.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4555. Could you say what proportion the 1,100 coal mines from which you have returns would bear to the whole number?—I could give you the proportion which the number of men employed at those mines bears to the total number employed in the industry. It is roughly 40 per cent.

Chairman.

4556. You have been describing one of the methods by which the fluctuations in industries are measured?—Yes; perhaps I may now pass to the second method. The second method, which is applicable to a great many industries in which the first is impracticable, is to use as our index of changes in the labour market, the percentage of unemployed members of trades unions giving unemployed benefit, connected with various trades.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4557. You mean the trades unions giving unemployed benefit to men belonging to those particular trades?—Yes. And we not only deal with particular trades in this way, but we publish monthly a percentage based on all the returns, as a general index of changes in employment. This method has this advantage, that with a certain reservation it is one that can be applied by sample; it does not depend necessarily for its accuracy on covering the whole field of employment. You do not need to cover a very large proportion of a trade in order to get a fairly representative figure, provided, of course, your sample is chosen at random, and that there are not any peculiarities about your sample that mark it off from the rest of the trade.

Chairman.

4558. Which trades are chiefly represented in the returns which you obtain in this matter?—The chief strength of the unions which make monthly returns of unemployed members lies in the engineering, shipbuilding, and the metal group.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4559. Do you include coal miners in the metal group?—No, I do not include coal mining. I find that the metal group accounts for 46 per cent. of the whole number covered by our trade union returns. The other groups are the building and furnishing trades, which account for 21 per cent.; mining, 19 per cent.; printing and kindred trades, 10 per cent.; textile, 3 per cent.; and others, 1 per cent.; so that you see some groups are far more largely represented in proportion than others.

Chairman.

4560. From that 3 per cent. in the textile trade, for instance, do you think you are entitled to draw a conclusion as to the whole industry?—No; I do not think so with any degree of accuracy such as that which we can draw inferences for the trades which are more largely covered, and we do not, as a fact, draw such inferences.

4561. Of course there is a difference among trades in the habit of giving unemployed benefit, is there not?—Yes; we get returns from any unions which give unemployed benefit, and are willing to supply the returns, provided the unemployed benefit lasts for a substantial period. There are some unions which have an unemployed fund which give benefit for so short a period that the number receiving benefit may be a very small fraction of the number of unemployed; in such a case it would not be a good index, and we should not include those cases.

4562. Do you hold that this percentage derived from the trades you spoke of is a good indication of the changes in employment over the whole field of industry?—Yes, I think it is a very good index of the changes of employment generally; because the trades included are chiefly those which are affected most violently by cyclical fluctuations, and hence, so far as that kind of fluctuation is concerned, our index numbers afford a very sensitive barometer of this kind of change in the labour market; of course the fluctuations, for the very reasons I have mentioned, would be exaggerated in our index number.

4563. Owing to its sensitiveness?—Owing to the over-representation of those trades. But what we are mainly concerned with is to find an index number which will always move in the right direction, that is, will always go up when employment is worse and go down when employment is better; and that we think we have got by this percentage. It also has this advantage, as distinguished from the index number which I described as employed by the Massachusetts Labour Bureau of Labour Statistics, that it represents, within its limits, an absolute real number of persons in a given trade out of work at a given time. It is only when it is generalised and applied to other trades, that it is necessary to regard it as purely an index number.

4564. While you consider that the percentage of unemployed members of trade unions making returns to the Labour Department is a good barometer of the state of the labour market generally, you do not consider that the percentage itself can be fairly applied to the industry generally in order to arrive at the total number of

Chairman—continued.

of unemployed?—No; within the limits of the particular industry to which the percentage applies with certain reservations, I think it is a good measure; but it can only be legitimately used as an indication of the changes in the way I have stated. To assume that the same proportion of persons are out of work in the country as a whole, would be quite illegitimate; because, in the first place, it neglects the fact I called attention to at the beginning of my evidence, of the existence of stable trades, and in the second place, because, even among fluctuating trades, those which are most violently affected by cyclical oscillations are most largely represented in our returns. For example, even confining ourselves to the actual trades represented in our returns, but assigning them their due proportionate weight, so far as this can be estimated from the census returns, I find that this reduced the percentage very considerably. We have, for example, the shipbuilding group very much over represented. But supposing we got the percentage of unemployed in the shipbuilding group, as shown by our returns, and applied it, not to the number of persons covered by the trades unions, but to the number of persons shown in the census to be employed in that group of trades, and did the same with all the other percentages, and so arrived at what I may call the corrected percentage, it would come out much lower; in fact, in the particular month in which I tried it, that process reduced it from 7 to 4·2.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4565. Could you give us an illustration of that; apparently you have followed out this particular trade; could you tell us in figures what the margin of error was, as shown by applying the unemployed test to shipbuilding?—Do you mean the margin of error in the whole return?

4566. As I understand you, taking shipbuilding as an example, you said that they were over-represented, and that therefore, to apply the percentage figure of unemployed and work it out on the census figure of the total number employed in that particular trade, would give as a result a much larger number of unemployed than were actually unemployed?—What I meant to say was, not that it would alter the percentage or correct the percentage of the unemployed for that given trade (that is probably a fairly correct percentage as we publish it; it would be applicable to the whole of the shipbuilding trade, I think). But what I meant was that that is a very high percentage, there being at the present time, in a time of depression, a very large number of people unemployed in the shipbuilding trade. Now the shipbuilding and engineering group account for 46 per cent. of the whole of the persons covered by our returns; but if we look in the Census Returns for the number of people employed in these particular trades, it is, of course, nothing like 46 per cent. of the total number engaged in the industries represented in our returns. Therefore, it is clear that the effect of that over-representation is to raise our general percentage, the trades with a high number of unemployed being more largely represented than they should be. There is not necessarily any error in the percentage in any particular trade; but the general percentage is distorted, because the trades

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

are not represented in their right proportion. Then there is a third reason why it is rather unwise to generalise from the percentage, which tells on the other side, and that is, that our returns omit a mass of unskilled labour which is specially affected by seasonal fluctuations. That leads me to suppose seasonal changes are under-represented, more or less, just as the cyclical fluctuations are over-represented.

Chairman.

4567. Will you give the Committee some illustrations of the various kinds of fluctuations of which you have spoken?—Having explained how I get these figures, may (*see App.* 28) I call the attention of the Committee to a table and some accompanying charts, which I think have been distributed, on which I wish to comment. The table is compiled, as is stated, from the monthly returns received from the trade unions; and it will be seen that the percentage of the unemployed varies, within the group of years shown in the table, from 1888 to 1894, from 10·2 in December 1892, to 1·4 in the months of January and February 1890.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4568. It appears from the heading that this is not the total number of unemployed, but the total number "in receipt of unemployed benefit." That is rather an important difference, is it not?—I am glad my attention has been called to that. The heading is not quite accurate; because we add in those who have run out of unemployed benefit wherever we can ascertain the number; but in most of the unions that give us returns, the numbers are practically identical. There are a few in which that is not so, and then we try to get the number of those still unemployed who have exhausted their benefit, and those would be included and the table made correct.

4569. What words would you use instead of "in receipt of unemployed benefit"?—I think the best words to use would be "who were unemployed." The vast majority of those covered by the returns are in receipt of unemployed benefit.

Chairman.

4570. You were quoting certain figures; you said the highest percentage was in December 1892?—Yes, and the lowest is in January and February 1890. In order to show the fluctuations, both within each year and from year to year, in a graphic form, I have prepared a chart, which is the chart numbered 1, which embodies the same particulars as those given in the table, only they are thrown into a graphic form. I further thought it desirable, in order to separate these two kinds of fluctuation and show them separately, to obtain both the mean percentages of unemployed for each year and the mean percentage for each month over the period of years, and you will find those figures in heavy type along the bottom row, and in the right hand column of the first table. By taking the mean of the seven years from the figures in the right-hand column, I eliminate the effect of the cyclical changes, and get the mean percentage

Chairman—continued.

percentage for January, and the mean percentage for February, and so forth. In the same way, by taking the mean for all the months of each year, I eliminate the effect of seasonal variations, and get figures which are the mean for 1888, the mean for 1889, and the mean for 1890. I get at it by the simple process of adding up the percentages and dividing by seven in one case and twelve in the other. Doubtless the geometric mean would in some ways be more exact, but the difference is not perceptible.

4571. You put these figures before us, but we may not be acute enough to see what they prove or what they tend to show. Would you give us occasionally a little hint (you may develop it later, if you like) by way of pointing out what the significance of the figures seems to be. Speaking on behalf of myself and other honourable Members who may not be sharp enough to see it at the moment, I shall be glad if you will tell us what you think they prove?—I was hoping to go on to that in a moment.

4572. Perhaps you would prefer to come to it afterwards?—It will come next very conveniently; in fact, it is in order to show the significance of these figures that I have thrown them into a chart form. The first three charts are exactly an analysis of the tables.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

4573. Would you not allow that these returns are in some degree misleading; does not the fact of not having exactly the same number of returns from all the various trades render this mean average figure somewhat misleading as a basis?—There is a slight degree of inaccuracy, due to the cause to which I have called attention in the note at the bottom of the table. But after going into the figures, taking the additional unions which have made these returns for the last year of the period and not for the first, and seeing what difference was made to the percentages thereby, I found it was not sufficient to make the table as a whole seriously misleading. There must be a slightly misleading element in almost all tables, but on the whole it is not of sufficient magnitude to materially affect the conclusions I am going to give to the Committee. The figures which are collected here have all appeared in the "Labour Gazette," and as to the charts, the first chart is a chart brought up to date from one that has already appeared in the "Labour Gazette." These other charts which I am going to put before the Committee were also prepared in connection with our work for the "Gazette," but they have not yet been used, and I thought the Committee would like to have them before them. The first chart (*see Chart I.*) shows the general course of the inflation and depression of trade; a gradually diminishing proportion of unemployed throughout 1888 and 1889, a low proportion during 1890, a gradually increasing proportion in 1891, then a rapidly increasing proportion in 1892, and then stagnation since. That is brought out fairly well by the first chart. The second one (*see Chart II.*) has been prepared to show the seasonal fluctuations only, and it is based on the figures which appear in the last column of the table, which is the key to all these

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

charts. It will be seen, taking the whole of the trades that make returns to us, there is not a very marked seasonal variation, and that is due to the fact that the busy seasons of some employments occur during the slack seasons of others. But it appears from an examination of the chart that on the whole the months of May, June, and July are the best for employment, and the worst are December, January, and February; which is a conclusion that might be expected.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4574. Why have you left January blank in that chart?—This chart refers to the percentages at the end of each month. Then in order to bring out more clearly the seasonal fluctuations in certain trades, I have prepared a detailed chart, No. 3 (*see Chart III.*). I can supply the figures on which that chart is based. As a matter of fact they have not been distributed to the Committee, but it is prepared in exactly the same way as the second chart, except that the percentages are those derived from particular trades rather than from all the trades combined.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4575. What do the figures in the first column represent?—Those are percentages of unemployed. That chart shows the fluctuations throughout the year of a certain group of trades, viz., the building, furnishing, shipbuilding, engineering, and printing trades, which I have taken as examples. It has been found most convenient to take the year from February to February, instead of from January to January, because in trades like the building trade and furnishing trade (which show a very marked seasonal fluctuation), the period rather runs from February to February than from January to January.

4576. Do these fluctuations accurately correspond with each of the years from 1888 to 1894?—No; it is the mean that is shown.

Chairman.

4577. I observe that the beginning of October is a remarkably unhappy period both for the printing and book trade, and for the cabinet and furnishing trade. Is there any particular reason for that. Why does the printing and book trade go so rapidly to the bad in July and August and then recover equally rapidly in October and November?—It seems to be the case that that part of the printing trade that is concerned with the printing of books rather than newspapers is always slack in that period of the year. That is not an answer to the question, perhaps, but only putting it in another form.

4578. I thought all the three-volume novels and new books came out in the autumn?—It rapidly gets better from October to December.

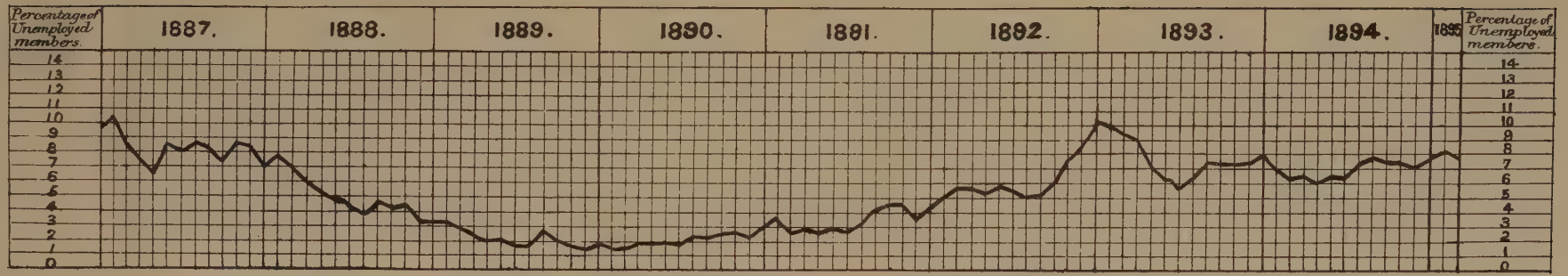
Mr. *John Burns.*

4579. Is it not due to the fact that the holiday demand is worked out in the summer and the Christmas demand has not probably begun at the beginning of October?—Probably that is the explanation of it. It will be seen from the examination of the chart that the most marked variations

I.

Seasonal and Cyclical Fluctuations in Employment.

Chart showing percentage of unemployed members of Trade Unions making returns to the Board of Trade at end of each month Dec^r 1886. - Feb^y 1895.

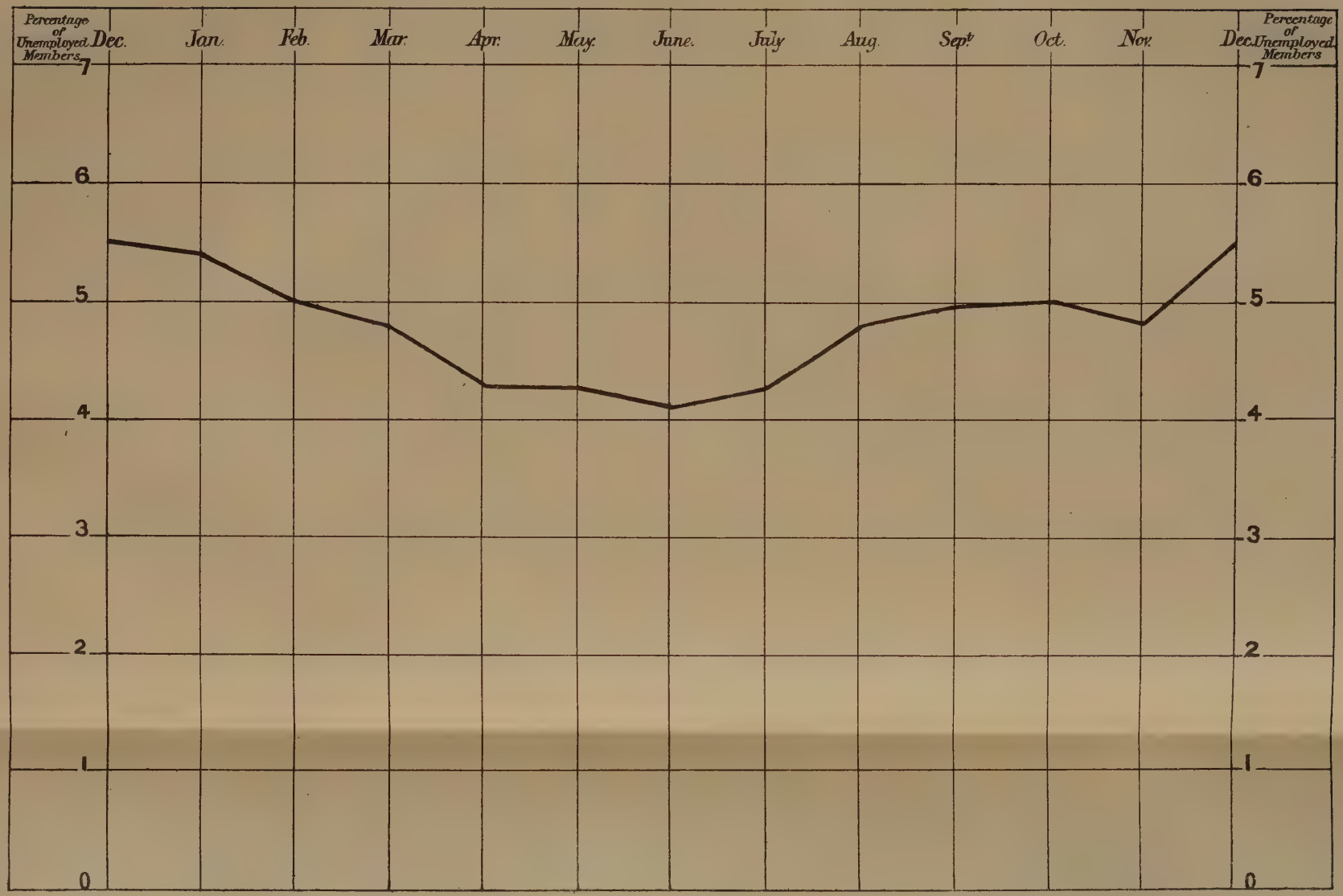


(Each division in the above diagram indicates one month.)

Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Lith. 7142 · 2·95

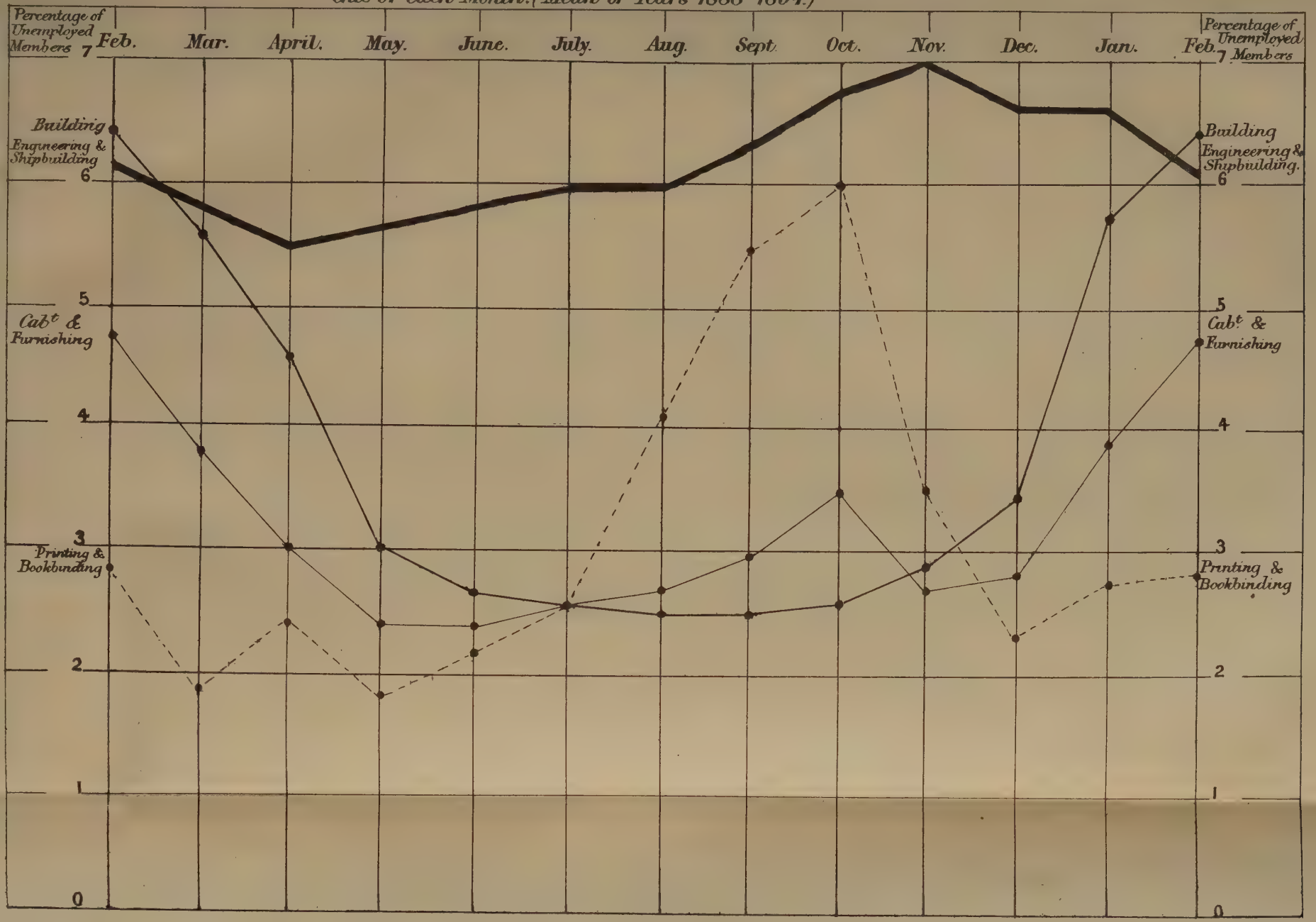
II.- SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS IN EMPLOYMENT.

Chart showing Variations in Mean Per-centage of Unemployed Members of Trade Unions making returns to the Board of Trade, at the end of each Month. (Mean of Years 1888-94.)



Wyman & Sons, Ltd, Lith, 63, Carter Lane. 7142. 4-95.

-bers of Trade Unions connected with certain Groups of Trades, at the end of each Month. (Mean of Years 1888-1894.)



Wyman & Sons, Ltd, Lith.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

variations are shown by the building and printing trades, though the slack season of the one corresponds roughly with the busy season of the other.

Chairman.

4580. The line in the printing and book trade is much more eccentric; the building trade is very even in its ups and downs, but the printing and book trade goes zig-zagging about all over the place. It is an interesting fact, but I do not know whether it is very material?—With regard to the small fluctuation in April, in the printing trade, I am not convinced that, if we had taken a longer period of years instead of only seven years to take the mean upon, we might not find that that was due to accident; it may be due to the fact that our period of years is not long enough. The shipbuilding and engineering trades, it will be seen, have a high percentage of unemployed; but they do not show any very marked seasonal fluctuation as a whole. I find the mean difference of employment due to seasonal causes between the best month and the worst month is, for engineering and shipbuilding, only $1\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., and in building it is about $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4581. Have you anything to say about the cabinet or furnishing trade, by way of comment, before we leave this chart?—No, I have no special comment to make upon it, except in answer to any question that may be put. I pass next to the fourth chart (*see Chart IV.*). Here we are leaving seasonal changes and passing to cyclical changes. The chart is based on the figures showing the mean proportion of unemployed from year to year in the table, and it will be seen that the best years were 1889 and 1890, and that after that the percentage of unemployed increased gradually until 1893, when it again gradually diminished.

Chairman.

4582. It began badly in 1887, apparently?—I cannot say definitely what it was in 1886, because 1887 was the first year in which these figures were collected.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4583. One thousand eight hundred and eighty-six was worse?—It was probably worse; we have no means of knowing precisely.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4584. Does this line headed "1894" include the year 1894?—It includes the year 1894.

4585. Therefore the end of your diagram is the end of the year 1894, is it?—It is the mean for 1894.

4586. What I mean is, there appears to have been, according to this chart, an improvement as between 1893 and 1894?—That is so.

4587. The percentage of unemployed in 1894 is less than it was in 1893?—Yes, to put it into figures, it was 6·9 in 1894 compared with 7·5 for 1893. Again I have decomposed this cyclical curve in Chart 5 (*see Chart V.*) into a series of curves which show the same kind of cyclical variations in various groups of trades, and it will be observed from this chart that the position is now reversed. The group that is most violently affected by oscillations, as I have already stated, is the engineering and shipbuilding group, while the building and furnishing, and the printing trades, are far less influenced by these changes, though they, all of them, are influenced to some extent. Thus the mean difference in employment in the engineering and shipbuilding group due to cyclical causes is no less than 9·2 per cent., while in the building group it is only $3\frac{3}{4}$. In other words, the cyclical variation or difference in the unemployed in the engineering and shipbuilding group between good and bad years is over six times as great as the difference between good or bad months in any one year, while in the building trade the cyclical difference is only slightly in excess of the seasonal.

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

Chairman.

4588. The last years 1889 and 1890 were the best for all trades apparently?—They were the best for all trades. And I should like to call the attention of the Committee to the very remarkable fact that these trades in which there is a difference in all other respects as regards oscillation of employment show nearly an identical percentage of unemployed at the best time of employment. In 1889 and 1890 the percentages in the printing trades, in the furnishing trades, in the building trades, and in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, differ very slightly. The curves all interlace at that point, whereas they diverge very greatly in times of depression.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4589. In other words, all the percentages go down to about 2 per cent.?—Yes, there seems to be an irreducible minimum of about 2 per cent.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4590. Would that represent men permanently unemployed, men of the loafer class?—It rather suggests that that is the percentage which is unemployed at the best of times, partly, perhaps, in order to enable the industry to go on.

4591. Would this table include sickness?—It would not include sickness.

4592. It only includes benefit by reason of being out of employment?—That is so; it would not include strikes.

4593. I would suggest for your consideration whether it would not be desirable to include sickness?—Yes.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4594. And perhaps you would also put in superannuation, because, as trade gets brisk, men will go off superannuation?—I will bear those suggestions in mind.

Mr. *Cream.*

4595. As it stands, it simply represents want of work?—Want of work. I have the figures with regard to the building trade here, in case any honourable Member would like to have the actual figures for any month or any year, but I have not had them handed round.

Chairman.

4596. As the heading of the table stood, it showed the percentage of those "who were in receipt of unemployed benefit, but I understand it includes men out of employment who are excluded from unemployed pay?—Yes, men who have run through the unemployed pay to which they are entitled, and have still not got a job so far as we can obtain that number. In order to bring out further the character of these cyclical oscillations of industry, I have some more figures here which show the same thing in rather a different way, that is to say, the variations in the amount per head paid by certain trades unions for unemployed benefit over a period of years. I can take this over a longer period of years than that for which I have given the other figures, because we can go back in the published reports earlier than we could collect these figures. I have taken the period from 1883 to 1893. I find that in the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders Union, which has in its ranks a very large proportion of the persons engaged in shipbuilding, the amount paid in unemployed benefit varied from 2*s.* 4*d.* in one year to 1*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* per head per year; that is to say, in the worst year of the cycle it was 17 times as great as in the best year.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4597. Which was the worst year?—It was in 1889 that it sank to 2*s.* 4*d.* per head, and in 1884 that it was 1*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4598. Do you mean that is the contribution per member?—No, I mean the payments per head, not the contribution.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4599. You mean the payment by the society of a sum which divided over the whole number gives that amount?—That is so. Next, if I take the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, it varied from 7*s.* 8*d.* to 2*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, that is to say, in the worst year it was seven times as great as in the best year, as compared with 17 times as great in the Boilermakers Union.

Mr. *Acland.*

4600. You used the words friendly society, that of course means trades union?—It is a trades union, but the name is Friendly Society of Ironfounders. Then in the Amalgamated Engineers it varied from 9*s.* 9*d.* up to 1*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, that is to say, in the worst year it was three and three-quarter times as great as in the best year. I now take the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners; in their case it varied from 9*s.* 3*d.* up to 1*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, which shows that in the worst year it was three and a-half times as great as in the best. That is apparently not quite in keeping with the evidence I gave before, but I should explain that the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners includes a considerable number of ship's joiners in some centres which are affected by the variations in shipbuilding. In the case of the Amalgamated Cotton Spinners it varied from 9*s.* 11*d.* to 1*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, showing that the amount paid in the worst year was two and three-quarter

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

times as great as in the best year; finally, in the Typographical Association, which is the largest union in the printing trades, it varied from 4*s.* 7*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.*, showing in the worst year that the amount given was rather less than twice as great as in the best year.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4601. Of course the aggregate amount paid would depend upon the amount of benefit given by the particular trades union, would it not?—Yes, it is only the range which is comparable. These figures are backed up by the returns published yearly as to the tonnage of shipbuilding turned out from the United Kingdom. It shows enormous variations. I have the figures, but perhaps the Committee will not care to have them in detail.

4602. Do they more or less confirm this chart that 1889 and 1890 were the best years?—Yes, they confirmed this chart; for instance, if I take the tonnage built in 1884 (which is the first year that I have the figures for) as one thousand (just to give us a standard), in 1889 it was 1,453, and in 1890 it was 1,381. Those are the two maximum figures. In 1886 it was down to 564. I could read the figures, they are not long, if honourable Members would like to hear them.

4603. Do the figures come down to the year 1894?—They come down to the end of 1893. The tonnage built in 1884 was (omitting the odd hundreds) 588,000 tons; in 1885, 441,000; in 1886, 332,000; in 1887, 377,000; in 1888, 574,000; in 1889, 855,000; in 1890, 813,000; in 1891, 809,000; in 1892, 802,000; and in 1893, 585,000.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4604. Where are your figures of the tonnage built got from?—They are not collected by the Labour Department at all; I took them from the annual statement of navigation and shipping for the United Kingdom which is published annually, but I can inquire into the source of them; I have not gone behind those figures.

4605. Are shipbuilders bound to make any such returns?—I will find that out.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4606. Have you got the figures relating to the miners' unions showing the money paid to the members?—I have not got the figures here for mining, but, of course, I have the materials for getting them, and I will get them out.

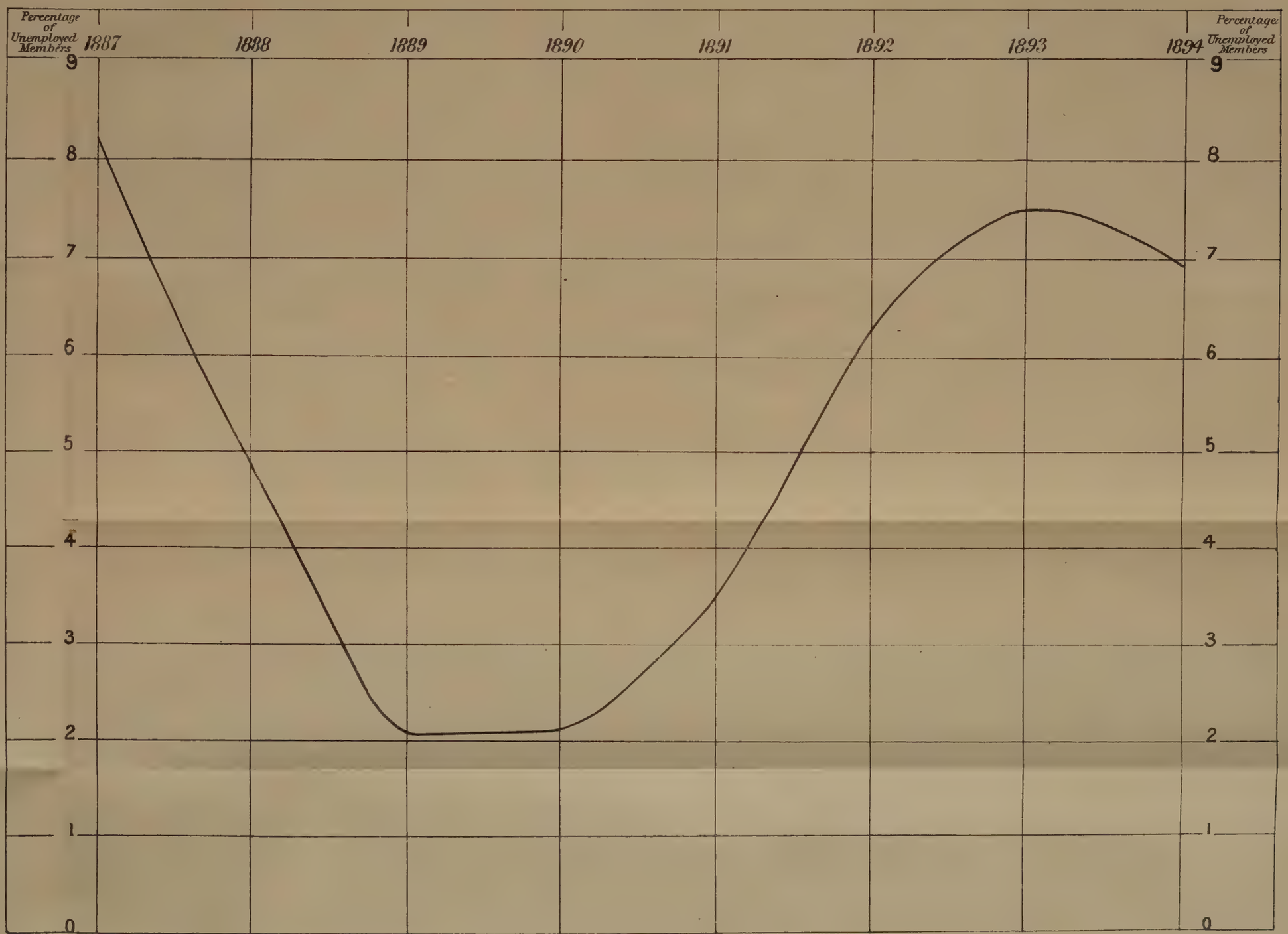
Mr. *Jackson.*

4607. Have you the figures for any other trades besides those you have given us?—Those are the only ones which I have brought the figures for, but any others I could get.

4608. You have the materials?—I have them with this limitation, that in the case of unorganised trades in which there is not unemployed benefit paid, we cannot get the percentage. Passing away from the cyclical changes, the next set of figures I have are to illustrate the irregular fluctuations of an industry affected by all kinds of

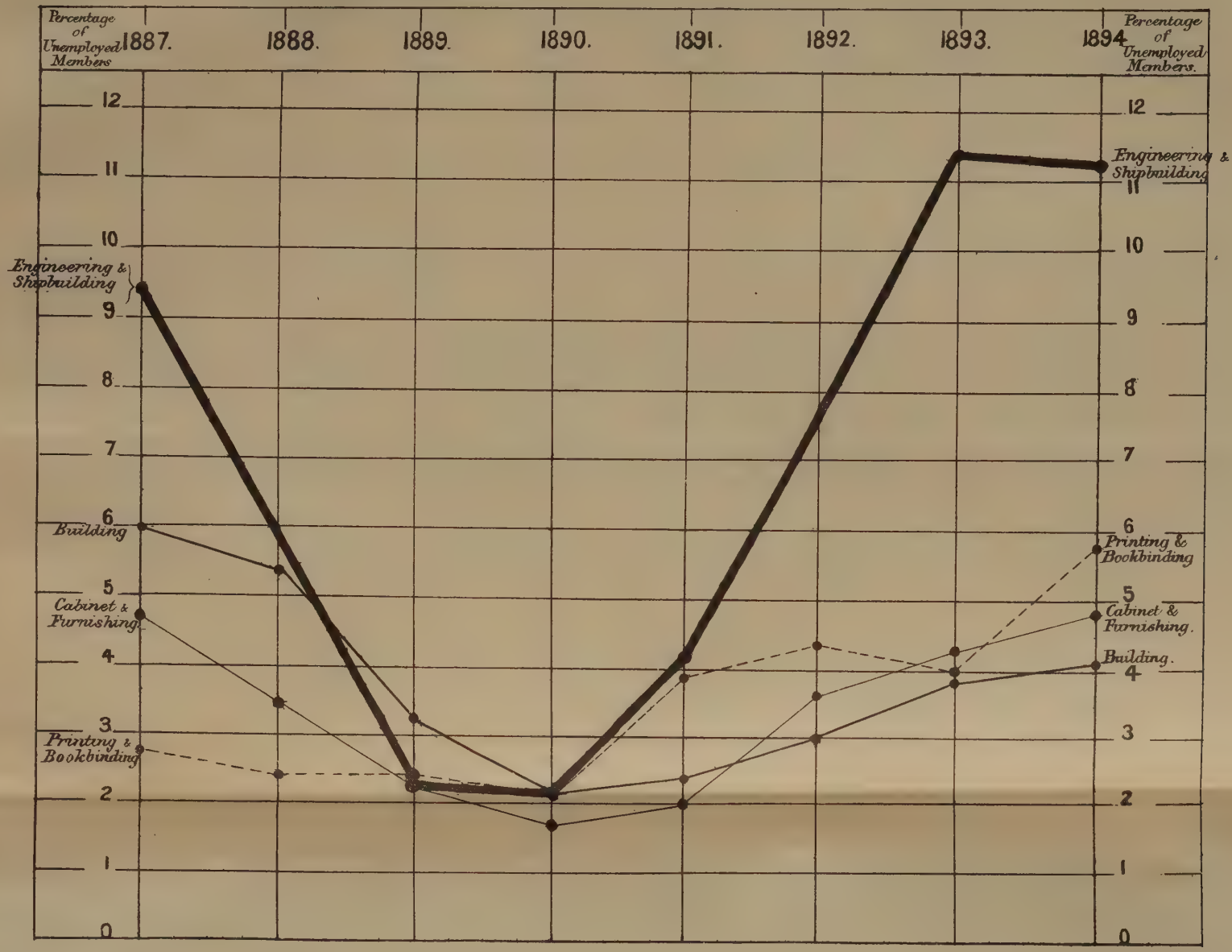
IV._ Cyclical Fluctuations in Employment. (1887-94.)

Chart showing Variations in the Mean Percentage of Unemployed Members of Trade Unions, making returns to the Board of Trade, during each of the Years 1887-94.)



V.- Cyclical Fluctuations in Employment in Special Trades. (1887-94.)

Chart showing Variations in the Mean Per-centage of Unemployed Mem-bers of Trade Unions connected with certain Groups of Trades, during each of the Years 1887-94.



Wyman & Sons, Ltd, Lith, 63, Carter Lane.

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

of oscillations due to seasonal, cyclical, and local causes, and to weather; I mean dock labour in London. I have already explained to the Committee how we measure these fluctuations by comparing the computed number of persons taken on at the docks at different times. The figures I have here cover all labour employed by the dock companies either directly or through contractors.

4609. Does that refer only to London?—It is simply a study of the dock employment in London. I may say in most ports where the labour is employed direct by the shipowners, it is a much greater business to collect it. It is not centralised in the same way. I have here the average monthly numbers for 1893, 1894, and the first two months of 1895, and the effect is shown that in 1893 the average monthly number ranged from 7,305 in December to 5,584 in March, and in 1894 from 7,817 in November to 6,308 in March. Of course it will be understood that the greater figures show the better trade, because we are dealing with the number of people employed, not the number of people unemployed. The average for 1894 was 369 in excess of that for 1893. I thought that figure might be interesting to the Committee as showing whether the employment of dock labour in London was greater or less last year than the year before.

4610. From November to March?—November was the maximum and March was the minimum. The first was December, but December and November were brisk months.

4611. And March was a slack month?—March was a slack month.

4612. In both years?—In both years.

Mr. *Billson.*

4613. What proportion is that on the number employed?—About 5 or 6 per cent.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

4614. Do the figures apply to all the persons employed in the docks or to the permanent staff only?—They apply to all the persons employed by the dock company either directly or through contractors, but those figures which I am now giving you do not apply to the labourers engaged directly by shipowners. I have those figures now, but I have only got those since the beginning of the present year, and therefore I cannot use them for comparative purposes.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4615. Do those figures apply to what are known as the A., B., C., and D. men?—Yes, it applies to them all.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4616. Just to clear this up. When you say November and December was the best time, and March the slack time, does that mean that those figures show that November and December is the busiest time of the whole year, and that that is the maximum, and that March is the opposite?—That is so for those two years. The reason is a clear one. An important wool sale (of course there are several wool sales in the year) is in November and December, and that employs a great number of people.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4617. Have you the figures for January and February 1895?—Yes; the average number in January was 6,985 and in February 6,371. The average for the two months was 612 less this year than last; that shows the effect of the weather, but it was 306 greater than in January and February 1893.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4618. That is the increase monthly?—That is the average daily increase over the two months. Those figures apply to averages; but in order to show the actual daily fluctuations, which are very marked in an industry of this kind, more clearly, I have prepared a chart (*see Chart VI.*), which I have not been able to have printed, but which I should like to hand in. That chart shows the actual daily fluctuations in the employment of all dock labour employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee, that is to say, the London and St. Katherine Docks, the East and West India Docks, the Albert and Victoria Docks. It does not include Millwall and Surrey, because we are not able to get more than a weekly average for those. You will notice the very remarkable synchronism of the fluctuations. In spite of the irregularity, the big movement up and down occurs very nearly at the same period in each year, and the most important cause of that is the periodicity of the wool sales. The dates of the wool sales I have written down on the chart, and it will be noticed that the most potent elements in the great fluctuation in the employment of that class of labour are the wool sales.

Mr. *Billson.*

4619. You will have this chart put in with the others in the Appendix?—If it is thought worth while: I am having a chart prepared for a longer period of years and trying to get more scientific results from the figures. These are rather provisional.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

4620. Why should the wool sales affect it?—There is a considerable amount of labour wanted for unloading, and also for work connected with the warehousing. I do not know whether the Committee would like to have the detailed figures of dock employment from month to month, but if so I can hand them in.

Chairman.

4621. Yes, they had better go on the Notes. [*The Table was handed in, and is as follows*]:—

Dock Labour in London

Table showing the estimated Daily Average Number of Dock Labourers employed during the undermentioned Months by the Dock Companies in the Port of London (excluding Tilbury).

Employment by Dock Companies.

Month.	1893.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
	1893:	1894:		
January	6,317	7,491	1,174	—
February	6,428	7,089	661	—
March	5,584	6,308	724	—
April	6,797	6,428	—	369
May	6,103	7,059	956	—
June	6,638	7,017	379	—
July	6,880	7,310	430	—
August	7,092	6,586	—	506
September	6,947	6,840	—	107
October	6,699	7,126	427	—
November	7,151	7,817	666	—
December	7,305	7,293	—	12
	1894:	1895:		
January	7,491	6,985	—	506
February	7,089	6,371	—	718

4621A. What is the next point to which you wish to refer?—The next point I want to illustrate is the effect of trade disputes in producing fluctuations of employment in associated trades. It will be understood I am not referring to the persons actually affected directly by stoppages of work, people on strike or locked-out. I am not referring either to any loss of trade which is attributable to disputes, but simply to the temporary effect of the stoppage of one industry on employment in another. A very striking example of this is afforded by the statistics of employment of blast furnace men, which, as I have said, we have obtained nearly complete from month to month. I have taken the number employed in January 1895, as the standard on this chart, and I have constructed the chart which is marked No. 7 (*see Chart VII.*). I have not the percentage of unemployed, but the total number employed from month to month, and it is only necessary to mark the dates of that English coal dispute and the Scotch coal dispute to show the effect which it had upon employment in that industry. Of course I need hardly say the effect is not always, as in this case, in the direction of contraction. Sometimes the stoppage of one trade causes an inflation in a kindred trade.

Mr. *Wootton-Isaacson.*

4622. That was the case with the Scotch coal trade?—No doubt that caused an inflation of the English coal trade in some districts. I have the actual figures on which that chart is based.

Mr. *David Randell.*

4623. I think you said you had not taken into calculation the blast furnace men employed in the steel trade?—No, it is simply pig iron.

4624. You exclude that?—Yes.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4625. But it does include the blast furnace men employed in Scotland, and employed in England and Wales?—Yes, but it does not include steel works. We are extending it to that this month.

4626. Will you tell us how you read this chart, and what it shows?—This chart shows that for every 1,000 men employed in those blast furnaces included in the return in July 1893, only 796 were employed at the end of November 1893, the period between July and November being that occupied by the great coal dispute in England. From that time, the dispute having been settled in November, the numbers gradually rose until they reached 1,011 (for every 1,000) at the end of May 1894, and they have declined until they fell to 969 at the end of August, and 976 at the end of September, that period from June to October having been occupied by the Scotch coal dispute, after which they rose again to about their former level. I do not think there is any important conclusion to be drawn from the chart, but it brought out the effect so clearly that I thought it might be interesting to have it in this shape. It is a very obvious thing that the stoppage in one trade must affect a kindred trade, but it is not often that it is so marked.

4627. It is a closely allied trade?—Yes.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4628. May I ask whether you are issuing a chart which will include the Welsh coal trade as well as the English coal trade. We have only the English and Scotch in this chart?—If the Welsh miners should strike we should include it.

4629. But they did strike?—They only struck for a comparatively short time during the English coal dispute, and the effect upon employment, of course, was merged in the general effect of the English coal dispute. Perhaps it would be more accurate to describe this as the English and Welsh coal dispute; it occurred during the same period.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4630. The miners only struck for a day or two, and there were only a few of them?—It was a comparatively short dispute.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4631. Before we pass from this, could you give the Committee a little more information as to what you include in the engineering trades. Do you, for instance, include what we call machine makers?—Yes, we include machine makers.

4632. "Engineering" is rather a wide term, and you couple it with shipbuilding?—We include tool makers, iron founders, and pattern makers, although, of course, they are not working in metal. The exact title of the group is "engineering, shipbuilding, and metal." We include machine makers and smiths, steam engine makers, engineers, ironmoulders, brass workers and brass founders, and a number of other classes.

4633. Practically, then, you include the whole of what are known as the engineering trades?—Yes.

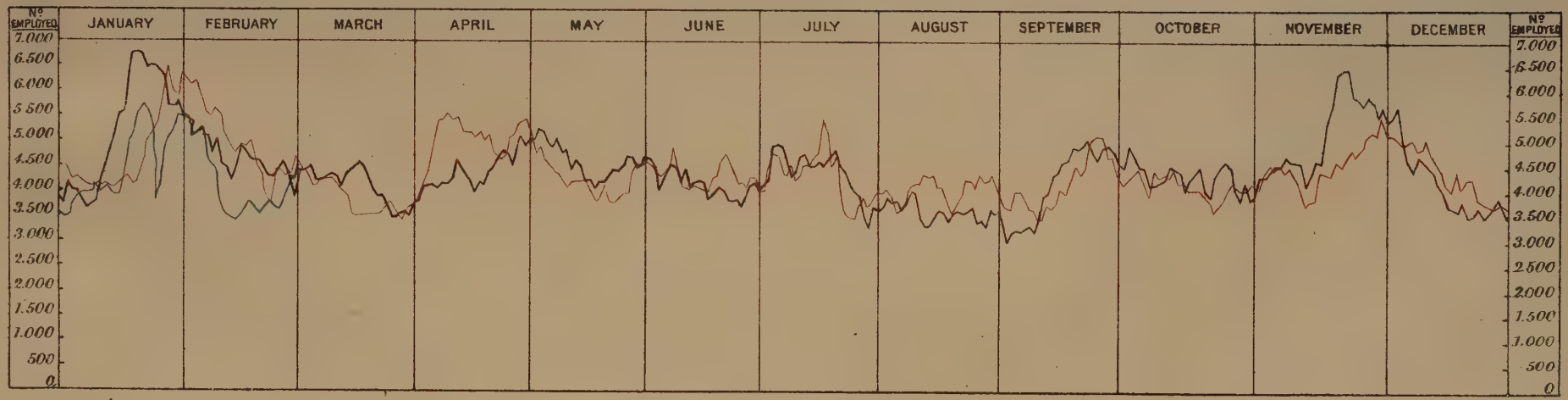
4634. Do

(Paper handed in by Mr H. Llewellyn Smith (See questions 4618-4619.)

VI.-FLUCTUATIONS IN DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

CHART SHOWING FLUCTUATIONS IN DAILY NUMBER OF DOCK LABOURERS EMPLOYED BY THE LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS JOINT COMMITTEE* IN 1893, 1894, AND PART OF 1895.

The red curve is for 1893, the black curve is for 1894, and the blue curve is for 1895



WOOL SALES.

1893.	1894.	1895.
From 21st January to 18th February.	From 12th January to 7th February.	From 15th January to 5th February.
" 7th April " 3rd May.	" 27th February " 15th March.	
" 20th June " 21st July.	" 30th April " 31st May.	
" 19th September " 5th October.	" 3rd July " 26th July.	
" 28th November " 13th December.	" 18th September " 12th October.	
	" 19th November " 6th December.	

※ *Exclusive of Tilbury Dock.*

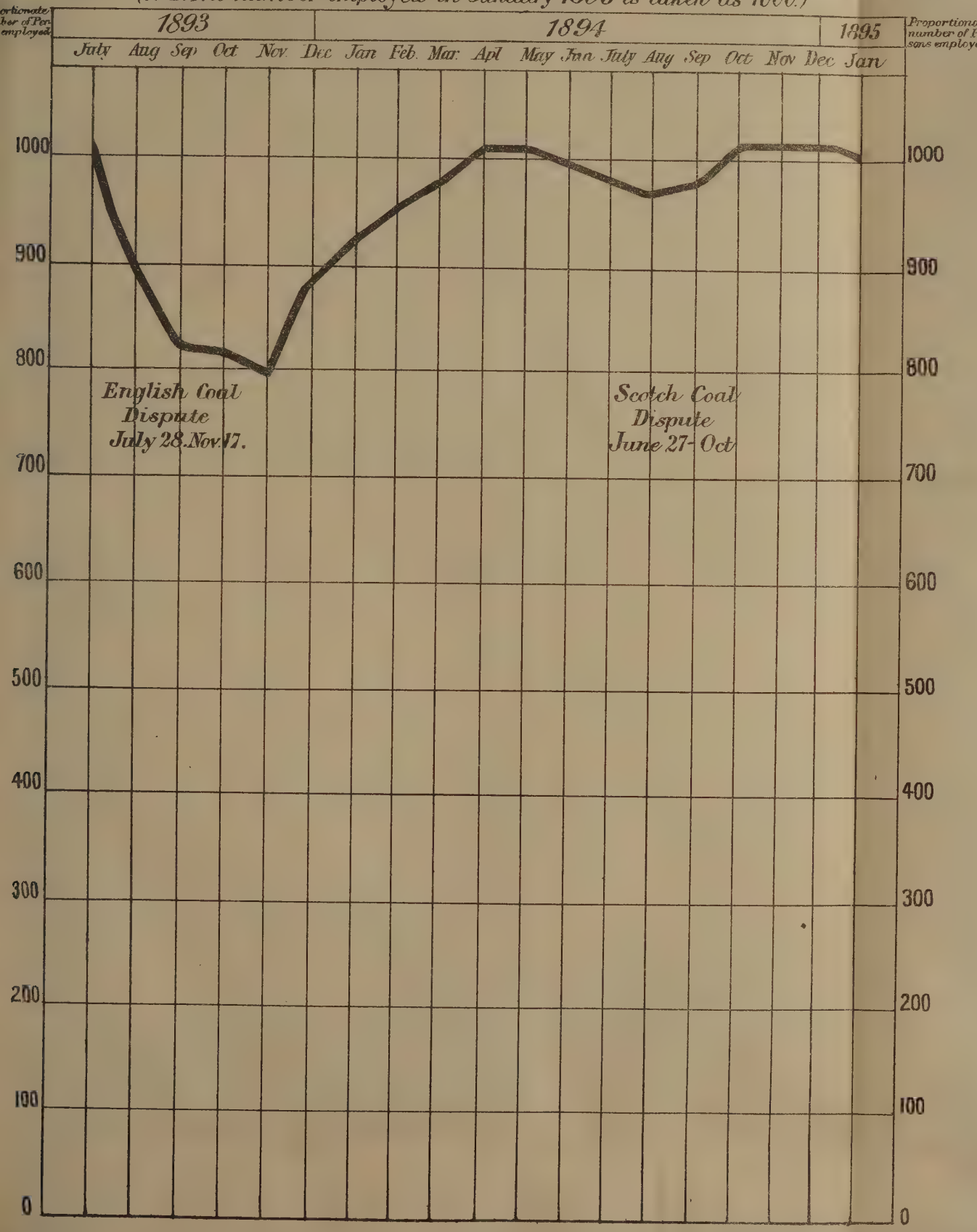
Wyman & Sons Ltd. Lith. 7140-4-95

VII.-FLUCTUATIONS IN EMPLOYMENT OF BLASTFURNACEMEN.

Chart showing the Fluctuations in the Estimated Proportionate Number of Workpeople Employed in Pig Iron Manufacture, in the United Kingdom, during each Month, July 1893-Jan^{y}. 1895.

[Based on returns made by Iron-masters to the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.]

(N.B. The number employed in January 1895 is taken as 1000.)



Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Lith. 1142. 2. 95

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4634. Do you include steel smelters?—Yes, we include them.

Chairman.

4635. Could you give the Committee any information as to the distribution of loss of time among the members of these trades; how far it is spread over a large proportion, or how far it is concentrated on a comparatively small unemployed class?—That is a question on which the actual percentages which I have quoted throw no light; they simply show that a certain percentage are unemployed on an average from time to time, but they give no indication as to the extent to which that percentage always consists of the same people or is continually changing. This question is one of great difficulty, and it is one on which we are now trying to make a special inquiry. Any results that I give now, therefore, will be very provisional and partial. We have been allowed to analyse the Vacant Books of the Engineers which have been kindly placed at our disposal to ascertain exactly over how many individuals the unemployed benefit is spread, and for what period of time during each year those individuals drew the benefit, but the results of the analysis are very incomplete, and I could only give figures that would probably have to be greatly modified.

4636. You used a technical phrase just now, "Vacant Book"?—I mean the book on which each member of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers has to sign his name in order to qualify for unemployed benefit. The list of names is the record.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4637. He signs that every day, does he not?—Yes, as a rule; so far as our figures go (I want to qualify this as being very partial, because they only apply to a particular district and to a particular year) they showed that 78 per cent. of the members obtained quite regular work and did not come on the books at all during the year.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4638. For what period is this?—This is a period which is 1888, 1889, and 1890; it is not really a representative period to take, and I do not suggest that the actual percentages are of very great value, but I give them for what they are worth. On the other hand, 3 per cent. lost over three months in the year, and about 1½ per cent. lost over half the year. So that it shows a certain small percentage which is practically continuously on the funds, a percentage of 3 per cent. who are more than one-fourth of their time on the funds. Then there is a considerable percentage, 19 per cent., which were on the funds for some time less than three months, and the remaining 78 per cent. were not on the funds at all, and did not sign the Vacant Book during the year.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4639. That includes the two fat years of 1889 and 1890?—In this particular district for which we analysed these Vacant Books 1890 was not a fat year. It was Leeds, and there 1890 was a year of comparative depression in the engineering trade. While the actual figures I give are not very conclusive, I may state that it appears clear that on the whole most steps which are taken towards a more elaborate organisation of industry, or perhaps I should say towards a better organisation of industry, tend to discriminate more sharply between the employed and the unemployed; that is to say, to concentrate the unemployment, if I may use the phrase, on a smaller margin of persons, who, however, may be unemployed over longer periods.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

Chairman.

4640. To concentrate it on a smaller margin?—That is to say, to increase the percentage which do not lose any time at all, but there might be a corresponding increase in the average period of time lost by those who do lose time.

4641. You mean an increase of men who were partially employed?—No, a decrease.

4642. And it rather throws the non-employment on to a smaller number of individuals?—I think that is the tendency.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4643. Is the fact of this number being more constantly out of employment different to their being less skilful workmen?—The fact that they and not others are unemployed will be because they are less skilful workmen, no doubt, that is, less skilful, or less trustworthy, or less efficient in some way, but that would not account for the fact of there being some out of work. It would rather make the difference whether it should be one man or another.

Chairman.

4644. I think what Mr. Jackson's question leads to is the idea that the non-employment is, as it were, precipitated on those who are the less skilful workmen?—That is so; I think that would exactly describe it.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4645. At the first pinch the men are thrown out who are the least efficient?—Yes.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4646. Does your return include men who are working overtime?—There would be no record of overtime in these books. It only shows those who are unemployed who signed the Vacant Books.

4647. Without assigning any cause?—Without assigning any cause, except that it must have been such a cause as would qualify for the unemployed benefit. It would not be sickness, and it would not be strike.

Chairman.

4648. Have you anything to tell us by way of illustration taken from an individual trade with regard to this?—I think that we might take the example which I have already taken of dock labour in London. I think the recent re-organisation of work at the docks, that is to say, the considerable increase in the permanent staff, and the classification of men in divisions A., B., C., all of those in A. having the preference for employment over those in B., tends to increase the tendency which has been described to precipitate the

Chairman—continued.

the evils of unemployment on the less efficient or skilful. There is a tendency for a greater number of people to get practically permanent work; and, perhaps, at the same time, at all events in the transition stage, there are a greater number of people who get very little work.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4649. You told us that some of the dock companies employ their own men and had a different system?—They have for a long time employed their own men, but the change has rather been that in some of the docks, such as the Albert and Victoria Docks, a large proportion of the labour is not employed now by the Dock Company.

4650. Can you tell us why that change took place?—No, I do not know why the arrangements were made. They were made in the course of 1891, most of them.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4651. Is it known whether the total number employed since the re-organisation of which you speak is less than it was before?—The figures which I have given for 1893 and 1894 tend to show that last year the numbers were greater than in 1893.

4652. But 1893 is since the re-organisation?—That is so. The numbers in 1893 are on the whole less than in 1892. I have not got the exact figures with me, but I think there is no doubt they were less than in 1892, and further back than 1892 I cannot go, because the books were not kept in such a form as to show the total figures. I can go back to about April 1891, but I cannot complete the year 1891.

4653. Probably the effect of the re-organisation to which you refer has been to give full employment to a less number and partial employment to a less number also?—I should like very much, and I hope to be able, to test that when we get out the figures in a more complete form, but the difficulty is to discriminate between the effects of the change in system and the effects of the depression in trade which has been going on alongside of it in diminishing the export and import work of the port.

4654. Have you any suggestion, or can you give us any information on that, because it is rather important; does the Port of London, let us say, compare with the other ports, or is there any special cause, or does the Port of London show a falling off in trade?—I should like to note that, and see if I can get you the figures. (*See* Appendix.)

Chairman.

4655. I think it would be better to go on with Mr. Llewellyn Smith's direct evidence, and any question can be put afterwards by any Member if necessary. (To the *Witness.*) Have you any information to give the Committee as regards the state of employment in agriculture?—I should like, speaking with regard to agriculture, to deal separately with the state of employment in agriculture before the exceptional conditions

Chairman—continued.

due to the late frost began, and during those conditions. The first comparison that I have to make relates to the state of employment in agriculture up to the middle of January.

Mr. *Jackson.*

4656. From when?—From the beginning of the autumn.

4657. But does it cover a period of months, or a period of years?—It covers a period of months merely. This information is not statistical. We cannot get the percentage in agriculture in the same way as we get it for the organised trades; but it must be remembered, of course, that the districts in which any considerable amount of irregular employment in agriculture exists are comparatively restricted. In Scotland, where the long period of hiring prevails, work or employment is generally regular, and also in districts which are purely pastoral, such work as tending animals is by the very nature of the case fairly regular. The chief centres of irregular employment in agriculture are therefore the arable districts, or such of the arable districts where short engagements prevail. I should say the chief centres of irregular employment in agriculture are the eastern counties, and the east midland counties. Now there is evidence that the prophecies which were made at the beginning of the autumn that employment in these districts would be more irregular during the winter of 1894–5 than it had been in 1893–4, those expectations were not up to the time of the frost realised. Up to the middle of January labourers in the eastern counties, and elsewhere, generally speaking, had more continuous work this autumn than in the previous autumn. The reason for that is twofold. In the first place the scarcity of work for agricultural labourers in some parts of the eastern counties during the winter and 1893–4, which was generally attributed to the agricultural depression, and, of course, was partly due to the agricultural depression, was also largely influenced by special circumstances; for example, the exceptional weather in the previous summer, which had the effect of getting farm work forward. During the recent autumn, and early winter, these special causes were not present. And the second reason is the fact that there has been a considerable fall of wages in the eastern counties. The farmers who were prepared to discharge men in order to economise owing to their inability to pay for labour, have, to some extent, retained them at a lower rate; and the men have accepted that position. There has been unquestionably a fall of agricultural wages in the eastern counties this winter, and that has had the effect of making employment for the time more continuous.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4658. And lower prices of produce?—No doubt. We have no information about that, but, no doubt, that is so. That is a general summary of our information up to the beginning of the frost. Of course I need hardly say that the frost and the snow rapidly stopped field work, and that

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

that where the short period engagements prevailed it caused a great deal of want of employment. I do not know whether the Committee would care to have the districts specified.

Chairman.

4659. Yes, I think so?—The reports that we have received seem to show that the rural districts where want of work has been acutest during the severe weather are parts of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, West Norfolk, West and North-East Suffolk, Wiltshire, and Essex. I do not mean to say that that is an absolutely correct statement; there may be some other districts, parts of which would be as bad as parts of those, but we had information to the effect that there was a considerable scarcity of work in the districts I have named.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4660. That information rests upon your local correspondent's reports, does it not?—No, not as regards agriculture; we have a special agricultural correspondent.

4661. Does he go round the whole country?—He goes round, and is in touch with a great many correspondents, but not the local correspondents who report on urban trades for us. They have nothing to do with agriculture.

4662. Your comparison of one district with another as regards agriculture does not depend on the comparison of one local correspondent's report with that of another?—To some extent no doubt it does; that is to say, different people take a slightly different view of the same facts; some are more pessimistic than others. I am to a great extent dependent for this information I have given to the Committee on Mr. Wilson Fox's view of the information that he has received from these correspondents and his knowledge of the circumstances. I rather give it on his authority.

4663. Has he visited the district as well?—Yes, he visited the eastern counties, and he reported on many of these districts for the Royal Commission on Labour, and also for the Royal Commission on Agriculture, and in that way he is in touch with a great number of persons qualified to give information in the different districts.

Chairman.

4664. You refer to Mr. Wilson Fox?—Mr. Wilson Fox. He is now our agricultural correspondent.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4665. Can you tell us how many acres of land are in cultivation in those districts?—No, I am afraid I have no information about that. I think it would be given in the Special Reports to the Agricultural Commission.

Chairman.

4666. You have been speaking of the condition of things antecedent to the late frost?—I was, at first. Then, with regard to many of these districts, I was referring to the state of things during the frost; and, finally, we have reports since the thaw commenced.

4667. What can you tell us as to that?—Those reports show that after the end of the frost, which was about the 20th of February, men began gradually to return to work in a number of districts; but the thaw was very gradual, and, there being usually frosts at night up to the end of the first week in March, work was not resumed so soon as it had been anticipated. Most districts now report that work is in a very backward state owing to the frost, and that, if the weather is favourable, the prospects of agricultural employment for some time to come are good. With regard to agriculture I am speaking solely of continuity of work; I am not speaking of wages in the least.

Chairman—continued.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

4668. The fall of wages was antecedent to the frost?—Yes.

Chairman.

4669. Now let us come to a further part of the question. Will you tell the Committee how employment in various trades compares with its condition a year ago?—For our purposes I think it would be best to draw a distinction between the temporary and abnormal state of the labour market during the recent frost and its condition before and since the frost, which may, of course, be taken as a better indication of the general state of the labour market. The charts which I have handed in give a general indication of the state of employment in 1894 as a whole, as compared with 1893 as a whole, and perhaps on that subject I need say no more; but I have some figures showing for certain trades a comparison between the end of December 1894 and the end of December 1893; the end of January 1895 with the end of January 1894, and the end of February 1895 with the end of February 1894. Perhaps I had better take the trades in order. With regard to coal-mining I am afraid I cannot give a comparison with 1893, because the figures were not calculated then, but during December 1894 the average number of days worked by the collieries per week was 4·97; in January it had fallen to 4·7; and in February it had risen again to 5.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4670. Is that all England and Scotland, or the 1,100 pits?—Yes.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4671. In the United Kingdom?—In the United Kingdom. As regards the blast-furnace men, if we take (as I have taken before) those employed in the beginning of this year as 1,000, there were employed at the end of December 1894, 1,010 compared with 891 in the previous year, when, of course, this trade was largely affected by the coal strike. At the end of last January it was 1,000, compared with 932 in 1894, and at the end of February (that is the last month for which we have returns) it was 992, compared with 956 in 1894. Then, turning to the trades for which we have percentages out-of-work, if we take shipbuilding, we find that at the end of 1894 (*i.e.*, before the frost began) the percentage out of work was 18, a very high percentage, but not much greater than at the end of December 1893,

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

when it was 17·1. At the end of January last it was 17·3, which was considerably worse than at the end of January 1894, when it was only 13·8. At the end of last February the percentage out of work sank to 16·3, but that also was considerably more than in 1894, when it was only 12·5. So that on the whole you may say that, judged by the percentage out of work, the shipbuilding has fallen off. Then, taking the engineering and steel trades, I do not know whether I need read all the figures, but I may state the general conclusion from them, and then I can answer any question put upon them. The percentage out of work at the end of last February was slightly less than for the previous month, or than for the corresponding period of the previous year. Things were rather better. Building, on the contrary, was considerably worse, both than in the previous month and than in the corresponding period of the previous year, showing the great effect of the frost.

Chairman.

4672. Was it worse independently of the frost, do you think, before the frost began?—Before the frost began, that is to say at the beginning of January or the end of December, it was a little better; hardly so much better that you could found any inference on it; the percentage unemployed was 5·7 compared with 5·8; therefore, it was very much the same. Then by the end of January it had risen to 8·2 compared with 6·7, and at the end of February it had risen to 10·1 compared with 5. It was practically double what it was in the previous year. That was the full effect of the frost.

4673. So that the effect of so severe a frost as we have had on the building trades is, after all, only one-tenth?—Yes, but there the reservation comes in which I made with regard to seasonal changes. I do not think our figures give the full force of seasonal changes; because many of the outdoor building trades do not give unemployed benefit, and those are the more severely affected. The figures show some change, but they do not show it to quite the full extent. Then I have the figures for furnishing and woodwork, and printing and bookbinding trades; and I can give the details if necessary. The furnishing trade follows much the same lines as the building trade, it was a little better than in the previous year before the frost, but the percentage was up to 7 at the end of February, as compared with 5·8 the year before.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4674. Have you any particulars of the tinplate trade?—That is included, so far as we have any returns, in the engineering and metal group. There is one union, not a very big one, that makes a return of the proportion of the unemployed, but it has only just begun to make it. I could not give a comparison, therefore. I can give the figures for dock labour. With regard to the number of seamen shipped during the month we get complete returns from a number of the chief ports, and they show that the number shipped during February was nearly 17 per cent. less than in the corresponding month of last year. In January it was about 11 per cent. less than in the corresponding month of last year, and in December it was 1·2 per cent. less. It was throughout a little less, but considerably less in February. No doubt that would be attributable to the bad weather.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4675. There remains the printing and bookbinding trade?—The printing and bookbinding trade was better than the previous year. At the end of December the percentage unemployed was 4½ compared with 6·1; at the end of January it was 5·3 compared with 6·1, and at the end of February 4·8 compared with 5·8. In all three cases it shows an improvement.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

4676. Have you the figures for the boot trade?—The boot trade unions do not give unemployed benefits, and we cannot judge of it in this way, but we have information of a general kind by which we can compare the state of employment in the boot trade, but it is not an accurate statistical comparison. For example, in the boot trade during February the reports say that there has been full employment in most of the centres, but partly owing to the anticipation of a stoppage. I am speaking now of the wholesale and the machine branch of the trade. In the previous month, that is, during January, employment in the machine boot and shoe trade was reported to have improved in most important centres, but short time was still worked in some districts and the bespoke trade was slack, and so on. I can give it to you for any month if I am asked.

Chairman.

4677. The comparison you have been giving to us relates to the want of employment; can you go further, and have you any information which would enable a comparison to be made between the state of distress connected with want of employment during the present and previous winters?—I know of no method directly of measuring the distress, because, as far as I know, there is no unit to measure it with. The only method we can use is to apply certain tests, of which the state of employment is one, the proportion of pauperism is another, and perhaps, with certain qualifications, the numbers applying to local authorities for relief work would be a third. Neither of those tests is a perfect one, for it is impossible to get a perfect test, but each of them is a useful indication so far as it goes. As regards the proportion of unemployed, I have given you some information. As regards the proportion of pauperism I have nothing to add to Sir Hugh Owen's evidence. I can, if required, bring the facts a little more up to date, but probably it would be better to get those facts from him. I only derive them from him. I should like to say a word as to the relation between distress and want of employment. The two are, of course, related, but they are not by any means in strict proportion. It does not always follow that you can estimate the distress from the unemployed, or the unemployed from the distress, because distress

is

Chairman—continued.

is the result of complex causes to which scarcity of work and other causes contribute. For example, it is largely influenced by the prevalence of sickness, quite also by the severity of the weather, quite apart from an increase in the number of the unemployed. Another point which is sometimes not sufficiently borne in mind is that the distress, which may be said to be due to a given amount of scarcity of work, will be more acute towards the end of a cycle of depressed trade than at the beginning, owing to the gradual exhaustion, during that interval, of savings and resources. The pinch will come more quickly because there is less resisting power; therefore, I should like to guard myself by saying that any comparison of distress in 1893–94 and 1894–95 is only of a very general kind. With that reservation, I should say that, during the whole of the recent autumn, that is to say before the frosty weather, the distress associated with want of work appears, so far as can be judged, to have been less acutely felt than in the previous year. Throughout the autumn of 1893, beginning even as early as September, there was very considerable pressure on local authorities to provide relief work. No doubt the distress arising out of the prolonged coal dispute to some extent contributed to that; but I find, at all events, going through the reports that we received for the purpose of the "Labour Gazette" in that year, that during October considerable distress is reported in several London districts, and in November we were informed of several local authorities in London providing work for the unemployed, and a considerable number of others were maintaining a temporary register of the unemployed. During the latter part of January (I am still speaking not of this winter, but of last) the weather became mild, and employment showed a marked improvement in London, there being an extraordinary demand for dock labour, and in February and March any sign of distress rapidly appeared to diminish. There was mild weather, and the effects of the coal dispute had worn off. Now, the present winter has shown a marked contrast to this state of things; the autumn was mild, and with slight exception there was very little pressure on local authorities to provide work during the autumn, at least so far as was shown in the reports that we received. I have no doubt at all that on the whole the state of employment was better in the latter part of 1894 than in 1893; but this state of things was immediately changed by the severe weather which began at the end of January, and the absence of resisting power, which I have called attention to, at the end of a long period of depressed trade was shown by a rapid increase both of pauperism and of applicants for relief work, and for other forms of relief, which occurred during the frost. As to those applications, you have more complete information by the queries sent out by this Committee than anything I could give.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4678. I suppose you cannot bring equally up to date any information that is available as regards the quantity of dutiable articles consumed per head of the population?—I do not think that can be done more than annually, but I can go into it.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

Chairman.

4679. Have you anything more to say to us with regard to this question of comparative origin of distress?—No, I think I have nothing more.

4680. Now with reference to the various schemes which have been tried for dealing in some way with the unemployed, what have you to say to the Committee?—It will probably be unnecessary to detain the Committee by going over again the kind of various agencies dealing with the unemployed which are described in the Board of Trade Report on the unemployed, which I think is in the hands of the Committee.

4681. Can you add to that information in any way?—Various parts of it I can bring up to date, or I can give additional information with regard to the various sections. For that purpose, perhaps, the schemes dealt with in the Report may be summarised as: first, schemes in the nature of insurance against want of employment, of which the unemployed benefit funds of trades unions afford the most characteristic example; secondly, relief of destitution out of the rates under the Poor Law; thirdly, relief of distress due to want of employment by various voluntary charitable agencies; fourthly, the assisting of workpeople to obtain work of which the work of the labour bureaux is a good example; fifthly, the provision of work for the unemployed either in labour colonies or in the form of temporary relief work. With regard to the second of those five classes (the Poor Law) I have nothing to add; Sir Hugh Owen has given evidence on that. I have nothing to add with regard to the general work of charitable agencies.

4682. With regard to the first, is insurance against want of employment confined to the trade societies, or is it provided to any extent by friendly societies and other organisations?—By far the most extensive agency for insuring against want of employment is provided by trade societies. I find that, in 1893, 332 trade societies, with a membership of 743,133, paid an amount not far off half a million (to be exact, 461,575*l.*) in unemployed benefit. In 1892, 297 unions, with a membership of 745,648, paid 386,956*l.* in unemployed benefit. In 1891, 202 unions, with a membership of 682,025, paid 222,088*l.* in unemployed benefit. So that that is by far the most extensive agency, and it is described in detail in a section of this Report. All I have done now is to bring the figures two years further up to date. Friendly societies do not as a rule provide unemployed benefit, but a few societies make some provision for their unemployed members, either by remitting subscriptions or by giving travelling relief, or by separate distress funds. I have little to add to what has been said with regard to friendly societies in this Report (there is a chapter on them there), but I have some information with regard to a few experiments which have come under our notice since its publication in the way of local unemployed insurance. I do not know that the matter is of any very great importance, but it is a feature that I did not know of before; I allude to unemployed insurance funds not confined to special

Chairman—continued.

trades, but carried out in special localities. I do not think the system is at all common in this country, and I have only information as regards one such society in this country, and that a very small one.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4683. Where?—It is in a small town in Essex.

4684. What is it called?—I could give the exact particulars if the Committee desire.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4685. Why should you not?—The society is at Loughton, near Epping Forest, a parish of about 4,000 inhabitants. It is called the Loughton Mutual Labour Aid Society. It is quite small. It only has between 30 and 40 members.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4686. There are many of those all through the country; they are called hard-up clubs in some neighbourhoods?—I have no statistics of them.

Chairman.

4687. Will you tell us what the nature of this one is?—They pay a small subscription per week; 2*d.* per week, and they draw 1*s.* a day when in distressed circumstances owing to being out of work. The members of this particular society are to a large extent connected with the building trades, but they are not entirely so. It is not a building trade club. The fund would not be financially sound as a pure unemployed benefit; it depends for its soundness on the fact that the members do not draw upon it until they are in distress through being out of work. The society is registered as an ordinary friendly society.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4688. May I ask on this point if you have not an official record of what are known as labour loan societies for meeting exceptional distress amongst members through lack of employment; could you not get that from the Registrar of Friendly Societies?—So far as they are registered. (*See* Appendix.)

4689. Have you got any information of those which are not registered?—We have not in the Department.

4690. Have you general knowledge as to their existence in and around London?—I have no statistics as to the unregistered labour loan societies, and no statistics as to the registered ones, except those that are published by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Turning to other countries, particularly in Switzerland, there has been a movement in some of the Swiss cantons to establish local schemes of insurance against want of work, and the funds are partly raised by contributions from the workpeople and partly by municipal grants. The system has not been tried sufficiently to make any examination of its results possible; in fact, I only know of one such fund which is actually in operation, that is in Berne, but Acts authorising them have been passed or proposed in other cantons.

Chairman.

4691. You do not know how they are worked, or what the result has been?—I could give you the figures for Berne itself.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4692. May I suggest on this that if Mr. Smith has not information with regard to these labour loan societies to deal with exceptional distress arising from want of employment that he should consult with the Registrar, or perhaps the Registrar could hand in a statement direct?

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4693. I should be very glad to hear what you know about Switzerland?—In Berne a voluntary system of insurance exists. The control is vested in a committee of seven, three chosen by the Town Council and two each by the employers' and workmen's unions.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4694. That was only projected; it was not passed into law?—The system is in existence. The subscription is one hour's wages per month, and the employers also subscribe, and the deficit is made up by the Commune. Relief is given to all those who subscribe six months at the rate of 10*d.* per day for single men (I have translated the money into English so as to make it more easy to compare), and 1*s.* 3*d.* for married men. In 1893–94 there were 354 subscribers, of whom no fewer than 216 applied for relief during the year. Fifty of these obtained temporary work. Apparently it acts as an agency for getting work as well. The total expense was 313*l.*, of which all but 38*l.* went in relief. The men's subscriptions amounted to 45*l.*, the employers subscribed 38*l.*; 40*l.* was given in donations, and 190*l.* was made up by the Commune. The other districts in which these funds are contemplated are the cantons of St. Gall and the town of Basle. In St. Gall the law is passed, but financial difficulties apparently have been met with in starting the scheme. In Basle I have not heard that the Bill has been passed, but a Bill has been introduced.

Chairman.

4695. You were saying something when I rather called you back to the first head of insurance about voluntary charitable agencies, your third head?—I have nothing to add to what was said in the Report on that.

4696. Now take the fourth head, the labour bureaux?—With regard to labour bureaux, since the publication of the Report the Department has received and published statistics of the work of the more important permanent labour bureaux in this country. I am speaking of permanent labour bureaux, not the temporary registers of the unemployed which are started for the purpose of getting the names of people to admit to relief work, so that we have very full and comparative statistics of the work of labour bureaux which were not then in existence. For example, on page 90 of the March "Labour Gazette," which is in the hands of Members, these figures will be found for the month, and similar tables appear in all previous numbers. They state for the nine principal

Chairman—continued.

principal bureaux which make monthly returns the number on the register, the number of new applications from workmen and from employers during the month; the number engaged by private employers and by local authorities through the boroughs, and the occupation of the persons on the register. I have briefly summarised those figures for the year 1894, and perhaps I may hand that in. (*The Table was handed in, and is as follows*):—

LABOUR BUREAUX.

Work during 1894, and First Two Months of 1895.

Number of Bureaux.	Number on Register at end of Month.	Number of Fresh Applications during the Month		Number of Situations found during the Month.	Month.
		From Employers.	From Workpeople.		
					1894:
7	1,809	331	1,934	497	January.
8	2,402	347	2,378	471	February.
8	2,053	362	1,607	350	March.
9	2,364	434	1,921	503	April.
9	2,236	413	1,844	517	May.
8	2,080	372	1,663	501	June.
9	2,204	327	1,792	412	July.
9	2,270	373	1,777	409	August.
	2,262	468	1,905	534	September.
9	2,490	432	2,548	585	October.
9	2,704	508	2,373	664	November.
9	2,337	393	1,389	580	December.
					1895:
9	3,408	532	3,331	657	January.
9	3,395	629	3,020	*2,599	February.

* Includes 1,090 employed by Distress Committee at Plymouth.

The *Witness.*] In addition to those figures summaries of the work of the labour bureaux have been prepared and included in the Abstract of Labour Statistics which was published by our Department last year. The reference is to pages 64 and 65, and it gives an analysis of the occupation of persons using the bureaux during a period of six months. It appears from that that the workmen who used these bureaux most largely are either building operatives, general labourers, carmen, stablemen, porters and messengers. Among women, charwomen and domestic servants hold the first place.

4697. Are these labour bureaux managed by the local authorities, or by voluntary agencies, or how?—Some are managed by local authorities and some by voluntary agencies. Those in London that make returns to us are managed by

Chairman—continued.

local authorities, and also there are a few, like Salford and Plymouth in the provinces, which are managed by local authorities; others are managed by voluntary agencies. The power which the local authority has to expend money upon maintaining a labour bureau is a matter of some doubt, and many local authorities may have been deterred by doubt as to their power.

4698. Are they purely local, or do they play into each other's hands and communicate with each other?—At present their work is almost purely local. The Labour Commission which went into the question of labour bureaux recommended that the Labour Department of the Board of Trade should open up communications and act as a medium of communication among these bureaux so that by supplying information to each bureau of vacancies and demands elsewhere they might promote the circulation of labour. With that view a scheme was prepared and submitted to the managers of the various bureaux, to obtain daily returns from each bureau of the vacancies and the demands for work that they received but were unable to deal with. These would have been tabulated in the office and a printed list circulated the next day to all the other bureaux, showing to each the number of unsatisfied demands either for work or for workpeople at each centre. But no further action has as yet been taken in this matter because the answers received from the bureaux indicated that until a much larger number of bureaux were in existence in various parts of the country the advantage which such communication would be to them would hardly make it worth while to carry out the scheme. They were dealing with local labour, and they did not consider there would be much gained. Therefore at the present moment the matter is in abeyance, but should there be any considerable development of bureaux it might come up again.

4699. Can you add to anything that is said in your report as to the state of things in other countries with regard to labour bureaux?—Yes, there have been some rather interesting developments in the way of labour bureaux in various other countries since that report was published. In the first place, I might call attention to a system of labour registration which had been started a few months before that report was prepared, but which had not come before us at that time. That is a system of labour registration through the medium of the Post Office which is carried out in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. It appeared to us to be of sufficient interest to make it worth while to send an investigator to Luxemburg in order to study its work on the spot. We published an account of it in the "Labour Gazette" of August 1894, which I will put in. I might state briefly that the system came into operation in the end of 1892, and that the registers seemed to be used chiefly by domestic servants and by persons using minor handicrafts, and not very largely by the larger employers. Since then I find that up to the end of 1894 it has dealt with 1,904 applications from workpeople, of whom it was said that 1,701 have been provided with places. The total cost of the system is borne by the State, there is no charge

Chairman—continued.

made either to employers or on workpeople for registration. I have further particulars of that system of labour registration in case any Member should ask any questions about it.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4700. The "Labour Register" of Brussels was a failure, was it not; I think I remember seeing a consular report to that effect?—The only report that I have seen of the Labour Registry did not appear to show very marked success; I was not able to say whether it had been a failure.

4701. It fell off after a time?—It fell off, I think.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4702. What have you to say about the Bourse du Travail of Paris?—The work in Paris is fully described in this report on the unemployed.

4703. Has it not been closed since then?—The only thing to be added is that it has been closed.

4704. That is a very important thing, surely?—The Bourse du Travail has been closed in Paris, but the official journal of the French Labour Department now contains statistics of the works of the labour bureaux in France up to date, something on the model of what we have here.

4705. Has there been a reason assigned for the closing of the Paris Bourse du Travail?—It was dissolved for non-compliance with certain provisions of the law of 1884 regulating trade associations. I have not the full particulars with me.

4706. Will you put that in?—Yes. (*See* Appendix.)

Chairman.

4707. If you are not able to give a positive answer to a question just now, on correcting your evidence you can put in the answer?—Yes; we published an account of the circumstances which led to the closing of the Bourse du Travail.

4708. You can put it right in your evidence. Is there any other country in which there has been any fresh development of labour registration during the past year to which you wish to call attention?—There has been a considerable movement in Germany for the revision of labour registries, arising largely out of dissatisfaction with the existing registries.

4709. North Germany?—Throughout Germany; the various classes of registries in existence are said to be open to different objections; there are those conducted by employers, or workmen's unions in particular trades. Often the workmen have not confidence in the employers' registries, and the employers have not confidence in the workmen's registries. There are also those connected with charity organisation, especially labour colonies or the relief stations connected with labour colonies. Those labour bureaux have very largely been a failure. Then there are those managed by societies, or groups of societies, formed for the sole purpose of bringing employers and workmen together; voluntary

Chairman—continued.

labour bureaux, which have no other object than to provide a registration office. These are described in an article on the labour registries in Germany which was published in the October number of the "Labour Gazette," at page 304, and it gives a number of figures about them. The new form of labour registry, which seems to be coming into existence in consequence of the dissatisfaction with existing agencies, is controlled by a committee composed of equal numbers of employers and workmen elected by the assessors of the local industrial court from their own number, the president of the court having the duties of chairman, and the whole expense is borne by the municipality. A number of towns have started within the last few months registries on that principle, and I could give the Committee a list.

4710. You, of course, do not yet know of the success they have had?—It is far too soon to say what success can be attributed to them. We have a good deal of information with regard to the preliminary steps of starting these bureaux; but they are too new to judge of results. The new idea is the utilisation of the members of the industrial court as managers of the labour registry.

4711. We have nothing corresponding to that industrial court in this country?—No. Then I have some information about the work in finding places for people of the Labour Department in New Zealand and in Ohio. We gave a description of the work of the New Zealand Department in the Unemployed Report, but since then we have later statistics. The Department acts as a labour bureau for the purpose of putting persons in situations with private employers, and, secondly, it provides work for them chiefly by the method of co-operative contracts which were described briefly in that report, but I have now a great deal more information with regard to it. I will not deal with that at this stage, because that does not come under the heads I have given, but in the Reports of the New Zealand Department I find the following figures: that, in 1892–93, the total number of persons employed in one way or another was 3,874; out of those the persons sent to private employment was 2,518, and the number sent to Government works was 1,356; that is to say, about two were sent to private work for every one that was sent to Government work. But if we take the figures of 1893–94 the number employed was 3,371, the number sent to private employment was 1,019, and the number sent to Government work was 2,352; that is to say, about one to private work for every two sent to Government employment. It shows that the function of providing work is rather swallowing up the function of getting work under private employers.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4712. What was the work?—The Government work is, very largely, making roads and making railways.

4713. Clearing the bush?—Yes. The report ascribes the falling off in the extent to which the bureau is used by private employers to the indisposition of the employers to make use of the machinery, and, secondly, to the slackness of work,

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

work, and, thirdly, to the influx from Australia Of those 3,371 men assisted in some way, 2,565 are described as general labourers, 214 as bushmen, and 278 as various. Those three groups cover 90 per cent. of the whole number.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4714. You mentioned Ohio?—Yes, Ohio has a public employment office which has attracted a good deal of attention. I should say in general that the effect of the statistics is to show that on the whole they are chiefly used by women or men occupied in domestic or personal service, rather than the ordinary manual trades.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4715. Will you give the towns?—There are five registers, Cincinnatti, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, and Dayton. I have not got the separate statistics out, but I have the materials for giving them if they are wanted for the separate registries. With regard to Columbus, I have some particulars. In a certain week in April 1894, 126 men applied for situations, of whom 15 were placed in situations; 87 women applied for situations, of whom 46 were placed in situations, which shows that the proportion of work done was very largely among women.

4716. They are mostly waiters or waitresses, or domestic servants?—I gather that from the report.

Chairman.

4717–18. Are there any other countries to which you would refer as regards labour registers?—The only other country that I would mention, and I do not propose to go in detail into it because the conditions are so different to the conditions in this country, is Italy, where there has been a development of so-called "chambers" of labour within the last year or two, but there is nothing which throws any great light on our problems.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4719–20. Have you any information with regard to the protests against the existence of labour bureaux, or labour registries; have you any information of bodies of workmen, particularly in the building trade, objecting either to registries or labour bureaux in this country or others?—I cannot call to mind any definite organised protests in the sense of resolutions passed by societies. I have heard incidentally apprehensions expressed by individuals that labour bureaux might not be an unqualified benefit, but I cannot for the moment recall anything more.

4721. Will you look that up?—I will.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4722. What are they supposed to apprehend from them?—To some extent it is apprehended that they might simply be depôts at which workmen might be obtained at any moment to replace strikers, and so be used as weapons to break up disputes.

Chairman.

4723. Then the next of your headings was as to works instituted by public authorities with a view to relief in times of distress?—There is a very detailed account of the measures taken by local authorities in the winter of 1892–3, contained in the Report on the Unemployed, at page 185. That was further summarised in the Abstract of Labour Statistics, on page 67, which showed in that year a total of 96 local authorities in Great Britain making some kind of provision of work for the unemployed. The total number of separate individuals employed for a greater or shorter period by 77 of the principal of these authorities was 26,875. I have no such complete figures for any year since. It was not considered necessary to make an equally detailed inquiry in the following year, as there were no new features that we heard of. So all we did for the year 1893-4 was to collect information with regard to a few of the more important cases of relief work, and those were published in the "Labour Gazette" in March and May 1894. I could give some account of the measures taken in 11 important districts. The districts were Leeds, Leicester, Halifax, Sheffield, Coventry, and in the following districts of London and neighbourhood: Mile End, Shoreditch, Hackney, Bethnal Green, West Ham and Poplar; but I may say quite briefly, that there was no new feature in those that will throw any additional light on the question beyond what is contained in the Report on the Unemployed. With regard to the present winter the Circular which was sent out by this Committee has brought in such complete information, and has gone out so very widely, that although I was prepared to give such information as I could, I think it would be really wasting the time of the Committee, because it would be simply overlapping the information contained in papers which have been already handed in.

4724. Could you tell the Committee of any similar provision of temporary relief work of unemployed in other countries: whether you have heard anything of that, or whether the pressure on local authorities is peculiar to this country?—No, it is by no means peculiar to this country. We have information, and reports are published from time to time in the "Labour Gazette" which show that the municipal authorities in various parts of Germany, and in Holland, and elsewhere, are experiencing the same kind of pressure as those in this country to provide work. There are not any special features of interest in the kind of work provided: street-sweeping, road-making, and work of that kind; but the fact that this pressure is being felt in those countries, I think, is of some interest, because those are the countries, Germany and Holland, which have tried labour colonies on the largest scale, but that does not prevent the authorities from being subjected to the same pressure in the winter time. For example, in the January number of the "Labour Gazette" we published a report showing that the town of Hamburg had voted 10,000*l.*, Altona 5,000*l.*,

Chairman—continued.

Darmstadt 1,250*l.* Duisburg and Weisbaden 1,000*l.* each. They had voted these sums for the purpose of providing relief for persons out of work, in such occupations as road and sewer making, and earthworks. We have a number of other reports from other districts which are somewhat similar to the kind of reports we get from our own local authorities. In Holland an experiment has been reported to us in Amsterdam with the view of providing work by means of establishing workshops, and the municipality have established workshops for the manufacture of articles required by the poorest classes, manufacturing bedding and bedsteads of various kinds with the view of giving employment to the various workmen out of employment in the winter. The necessary capital was supplied by public subscription, and by the supporters of the scheme. The funds do not seem to have been provided from municipal sources. I understand from the report received from Sir Horace Rumbold, Her Majesty's Minister at the Hague, at the end of February, that this scheme has not, in the opinion of the Consul, at Amsterdam, proved a success.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4725. I suppose the other bedstead makers did not subscribe? — The enterprise was feebly supported, and it was limited in its operation and several times threatened to collapse. I have no further information about it. There is a great deal of useful information as to relief work for the unemployed in the United States, especially in Massachusetts, in the recent report on the unemployed published by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labour Statistics, a most important report. They give a very detailed account especially of the work in Boston, where over 28,000*l.* was expended during the winter of 1893–94 by the Boston Relief Committee, and work of some kind was provided in that way for nearly 10,000 persons. The money was provided by public subscriptions and from other sources. Also there is a further account of schemes for relieving the unemployed in various States of America (this is an unofficial document I am quoting from) in the report published in the Journal of Social Science containing the Transactions of the American Association, 1894. The other schemes that I have to give any information about are not in foreign countries, but in two of our colonies, New Zealand and Victoria.

Chairman.

4726. Do you know what amount of success they have had?—The unemployed in New Zealand are employed on a system of co-operative contracts. An average number of about 2,000 people are at work according to the latest reports on that system, chiefly in making railways and roads. The railways are divided into short sections, and each section is entrusted to one set of men on a system of piece-work, and the piece-rates are fixed in such a way as to be slightly in excess of the average wage that will be paid by

Chairman—continued.

a contractor for an eight hours' day. That is the system on which the rates are supposed to be calculated. The work is measured monthly, and payments are made to the head man of each set. It is let out to gangs in that way. The men are selected by the Government Labour Bureau, and various classes (*e.g.*, married men, men that have not previously been employed on Government work, men in the neighbourhood of the works, and men who have been longest not employed by Government) have priority for employment, and if there are more men than can be taken on of those classes they are selected by ballot. The sets of men to whom the work is let average about six, and rarely exceed 10 or 12. There is a mass of official information published by the New Zealand Government with regard to that system. I have a number of documents on the subject which are at the service of the Committee.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

4727. Do I understand the men receive a wage above the regular rate of wage in these New Zealand Co-operative works? — They do the work at a piece-rate slightly in excess, but as the men employed are no doubt a good deal below the average, probably the time wage earned on that piece-rate would be below the current rate. Then I have a report prepared, at the request of the Agent General for Victoria, by the Railway Commissioners of that colony, with regard to a somewhat similar system carried out there.

Chairman.

4728. What you have given us refers only to New Zealand?—That refers only to New Zealand. I may now give what refers to Victoria. There, again, the work provided is the construction of railways on what is known as the Butty-gang system. It was commenced in February 1892, and it was adopted to provide work without delay for the destitute of Melbourne, and the detailed arrangements were such as gave inexperienced men an opportunity of joining in the work along with those who were accustomed to it. In giving employment, all destitute deserving men who were not on account of physical weakness or infirmity quite unfitted for the work, were to have an equal opportunity, but men supporting families were given the preference. The work is paid for by measurement at prices fixed by the engineer at such rates as to allow efficient industrious men to make the market rate of wages in eight hours' work. The amount earned is equally divided among all the men in the gang, except when any are reported as having been absent during working hours, when a *pro ratâ* reduction is made from them for the time lost. There is also a certain system of sub-contracting in it. Some of these men are paid piece-work, and a few, but this is the exception, are paid by time rates. This is only when it is not possible to fix a price beforehand which can be depended upon, but whenever it becomes possible to revert to payment

Chairman—continued.

payment by measurement at fixed prices this is always done. The hours worked average a little over eight per day. The earnings vary from 50 per cent. over, to 50 per cent. under the rate of wages fixed by the department. The rate of wages as fixed by the department was at first 6*s.*, and afterwards 5*s.* a day. That is simply as a standard from which they estimate the piece rates. The earnings actually made by the unemployed varied from 50 per cent. over, to 50 per cent. under this rate of wages; the average being about 10 per cent. below that rate. There are some more details which I can give if necessary.

Tuesday, 26th March 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH, re-called; and further Examined.

Chairman.

4729. Is there anything you would like to add to the evidence you gave the other day; is there any point you think ought to be referred to which was omitted?—There were three or four questions asked by various Members of the Committee on Friday which I was not able to answer at the moment, and I said I would look into the details. Perhaps it would be the most convenient course that I should go through them; it will only take a few minutes.

4730. Will you please do so?—The first question was as to the source of our information as regards the fluctuations in shipbuilding, in the tonnage turned out year by year; Mr. Stuart-Wortley asked whether shipowners were compelled to make a return to the Board of Trade. I find that the figures which are given are supplied by the officials of the Board of Trade who have to do the actual measurements of the vessels; therefore they come to the Board of Trade in that way. The second question Mr. Stuart-Wortley asked was, whether we could bring up the statistics with regard to the consumption of dutiable articles per head of the population up to date. I find they are brought up to the end of 1893 and can be seen in the Statistical Abstract. There is a monthly statement in the monthly Trade Accounts of the total amount of various dutiable articles retained for consumption; but I do not think that monthly statement would be of any value for this purpose, because one cannot assume that what is retained during a month for consumption is actually consumed during the month; the error would be too great. The third question was a question asked, I think, by Mr. Jackson, whether there were any facts which would show whether the import trade of the Port of London had fallen off or not during the past few years, as compared with the rest of the United Kingdom. I have the figures from 1889 to 1893, showing the values (of course not the volumes) of the imports both for London and for

Chairman—continued.

other ports. I will hand this Table in (*handing in the same. See* Appendix). I may say that in order to make the conclusions to be drawn from the figures clearer, I have reduced them to a standard of 1,000; that is, I have assumed the amount imported in 1889 to be 1,000*l.*, and the other figures are in terms of thousands. That being so, the figure for both London and other ports being, in 1889, 1,000, in 1890 the imports into London would represent 999, and for other ports 976; in 1891, for London the figure would be 1,033, and for other ports 1,011; in 1892, for London it was 997, and for other ports 988; in 1893, for London it was 978, and for other ports, 930; which shows that the falling off in London in value on the whole has been less in proportion than other ports.

4731. There is not a very great falling off in any of them?—There is not a very great falling off in any of them. The next question I was asked was whether I had figures showing the range of unemployed benefit given by mining unions. I have those statistics for the Northumberland and Durham miners only. The amounts per head vary in Northumberland from 1¾*d.* per head in 1890, up to 19*s.* 0½*d.* in 1886; and in Durham they vary from 10½*d.* per head in 1892, to 17*s.* 11¾*d.* in 1893. But I should say that, after examining these figures and the rules of these unions under which benefit is given, I do not think these figures are of much value for comparison with those I gave on Friday for other societies, because the greater part of the contraction and expansion of employment in coal mining due to changes in trade does not take place in that way at all, but by decreasing and increasing the number of days worked per week. Consequently it is only in times of great depression, when people are discharged in considerable numbers, that you get anything like an appreciable amount of "unemployed benefit" paid; so that those figures should not be compared with the others I gave last week. The next question was a question asked

Chairman—continued.

asked by Mr. Burns, as to whether I had any information with regard to the closing of the Paris Labour Exchange, the Bourse du Travail. I have an account of that here. I may say it is mostly reprinted and extracted from the "Labour Gazette" of July 1893, August 1893, and September 1893, with a short paragraph bringing it up to date. I will just hand that in (*handing in the same. See* Appendix). Mr. Burns also asked me if I had any statistics with regard to labour loan societies; I find we have no statistics, and that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies only has statistics of registered loan societies; but the figures he publishes do not separate labour loan societies from the others. I have extracted the tables, and I will hand them in (*see* Appendix); but any further information with regard to that special class of societies referred to will have to be got from the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. We have no further knowledge on the subject. I think those are all the points raised in my evidence of Friday last which I have to refer to.

Mr. *Acland.*

4732. In telling us about the fluctuating trades you mentioned to us that in some cases like the dockers, the fluctuation was less of late years; and I think in one other trade, the boot and shoe trade, you said you thought the fluctuation was rather more; is that correct?—I think the fluctuation in the number of people employed at any given time, from time to time, in the boot and shoe trade is greater than it used to be; but I do not think the fluctuation in the amount of work obtained is greater. Before the introduction of machinery there was very little discharging of hands in the boot and shoe trade, but less work was given out if trade was bad. Now in centres where there are great factories and machinery, it is carried on more on the factory system; the machinery must be kept at work and the fluctuation would take the form of throwing out people.

4733. What I wanted to ask was, whether you have been able to make any observations upon the fluctuating trades as a whole, because I understand they are not constant in fluctuation, but that reasons arise which make separate trades fluctuate less or more?—We have had such a short period to observe the fluctuations, that it is difficult to draw any definite conclusion as to what the tendency is. I think the nearest approach to a generalisation which I could make would be this, that on the whole the more elaborate organisation of industry tends to concentrate the effect of the fluctuation on a smaller margin of the members of the trade; but, of course, to make it more intense for them.

4734. Then from the point of view of our inquiry, the tendency appears rather to be to increase the distress, if I may so put it, on the part of a certain small margin in various trades?—Yes, I am afraid that is so.

4735. Is that because a certain number of the less skilful workers sink to the bottom and get less employment?—There will always be a certain number of less skilful or less steady workers

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

in any industry, and I think modern changes tend to throw more completely on to their shoulders the weight of the fluctuation of trade which used to be spread over a larger number. If you take the dock employment, which is the industry to which you have referred, before the increase of the permanent staff at the docks in the Port of London, what work there was was shared among a larger number of people, and therefore a larger number of people had casual and intermittent employment. Now, of course, a considerable part of the work is done by men who have practically permanent employment, and during the transition stage, at all events, there is a certain margin of men who used to get casual and intermittent employment, but now find it very difficult to get any employment at all.

4736. The larger number, of course, are distinctly better off in many ways?—That must be so.

4737. You said that during the transition stage there is a minority who find it more difficult to get employment; is that minority gradually becoming fewer, taking the docks for instance?—I should hope so. I think any large industry which gives a chance of casual employment to a larger number of people will act as a magnet, and that the docks did act as a magnet to casual labour in old times; and when it becomes thoroughly known that there is much less chance of getting that kind of casual and intermittent employment owing to the increase of the permanent element, there will in the end be less casual labour attracted.

4738. In the meantime in this particular trade there must be a very large amount of distress, and a considerable number of men will continue to hang about the docks?—A considerable number of men.

4739. That kind of tendency may arise, I suppose, in other trades if a stricter organisation is established?—I think so. I think that the older men, and men less able to turn out a full day's work, usually suffer when the conditions of an industry are rendered more stringent by its being more highly organised.

4740. Do you think it would be a reasonable generalization to make, that the tendency to a more definite organisation, both of masters and men, is a tendency which to some extent increases the want of employment among the minority of workers in any particular trade?—Yes, I think it tends to make employment more full and regular for people who are in the prime of life, and up to the average of efficiency, while it has a corresponding tendency to bear hardly upon people who are outside those limits.

4741. With regard to what you were telling us on Friday about the out-of-work benefic given by trade unions, and those who are on the funds, would there be any on the funds, or any considerable proportion of those who were on the funds, not merely because they cannot get work, but because they are old and getting unfit for work?—Yes, there would be on the funds of unions certain members who are getting what is not very clearly distinguishable from superannuation, under the name of "out-of-work benefit," before they qualify for superannuation.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

4742. Of course, if the out-of-work benefit were strictly administered in the sense which the words really convey, as soon as a man got a little too old for work he would no longer get that benefit, I suppose?—No doubt the strictness of administering it differs in different organizations.

4743. There is a certain amount of benevolent feeling among the members of the union that the line must not be drawn too hard-and-fast, is there not?—I think that is undoubtedly so.

4744. How does it result ultimately if a man continues to live a good many years and is really not fit for work, he will ultimately lose his benefit, I suppose, in some unions?—Of course, a good many unions have superannuation benefit.

4745. Where there is superannuation benefit he would pass definitely from the out-of-work benefit to the superannuation benefit?—Yes.

4746. Or he might pass even from full-work to superannuation benefit?—Yes, I suppose that would be possible.

4747. Where there is no superannuation benefit there is a tendency, is there not, for the out-of-work benefit to some extent to cover a kind of superannuation allowance?—I should think that is likely, but I could not go into detail upon that.

4748. In regard to the cyclical fluctuations you spoke of, do you consider that in the main that kind of cyclical fluctuation will recur during a certain number of years?—Yes, I think we have sufficient experience of these cycles to make it very likely (it can never be certain) that what has happened before will happen again, and that it is probable that to three, or four, or even five years' bad trade will succeed a period of good trade, and again be succeeded by a period of bad trade. I do not think we have at present sufficient data to be able to fix the length of the cycle.

4749. You think already there is sufficient historical knowledge on the subject to show there are definite cycles, although you cannot name the exact number of year?—Yes, I think so.

4750. Could you tell us how far some of the other causes you spoke of, such as the effect of fashion or the introduction of machinery, affect these cyclical curves. I suppose they must affect them to some extent?—They must to some extent. If there was a very sudden and important development of machinery, or change of fashion, in any given year, it must displace the curve; but these changes usually come gradually; they spread themselves over a period of years; I do not suppose it would very largely affect the curve.

4751. It would not affect the whole curve of depression, but it might affect, I suppose, the curve of a particular trade to some extent?—Yes; it might do that.

4752. That was what I was rather alluding to. In the case of the printing trade, for instance, at the present time, do you suppose the introduction of machinery lately has had any effect which would alter the curve at all?—There is an extensive introduction of machinery now going on in the printing trade which has already had a considerable effect in displacing labour in America, and is bound, of course, to have important effects upon the future of the printing trade in this country.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

4753. You showed us in your third chart that there had been a considerable fluctuation in a given year in the printing and book trade?—Yes.

4754. Have you ever watched a trade like the printing trade enough to see whether special bodies who have large printing work to do, like the Government for instance, in any way affect a curve like that by the time at which they have their printing work done?—I should say the printing trades, especially in a big centre like London, are considerably influenced by a matter of that kind. For example, you can distinctly trace changes in the percentage of unemployed at the period when the registers for elections have to be prepared, not, of course, that that is Government work.

4755. That is an illustration of exactly what I meant. You say that when a great mass of registers have to be printed at a given time, you see its effects on your figures?—Yes; the effect is clearly seen.

4756. Then that would show that, not only in this trade but in other trades, I suppose, it might be to some extent possible for the authorities or for firms who have a great deal of business, so to distribute their work as to somewhat lessen the fluctuation of these curves?—I think that is a matter that requires a good deal of inquiry. I think it would be worth while to inquire into the distribution of the work of some typical public bodies, as to how far there is a possibility of that. I am not prepared to speak to that at present.

4757. There are some trades, like the building trades, where winter work is difficult in any case, I presume?—Yes, during frost.

4758. You think it would be an inquiry worth making, for instance, in connection with Government contracts and employment, to see how far they did affect the fluctuations of which you have told us?—I think it would be interesting certainly to find out more about that. There would be difficulties that I need not go into in such an inquiry. You would have to fix the time at which the work was done as well as the contract given out.

4759. At present I understand you have not followed up such an inquiry, and could not give us any definite information?—No; I have thought about how such an inquiry could be made, but I have never made it.

4760. In speaking of labour colonies, did you give any illustration from England itself?—I did not in my evidence on Friday go into the question of labour colonies. I did not say anything in addition to what was in the Board of Trade Report on the Unemployed. There there are some references to three experiments in labour colonies in this country. The first is the farm colony of the Salvation Army, at Hadleigh, in Essex; the second is a small colony up in Westmoreland; and the third is a small training farm at Langley. The only one of those as to which I have any later information is the Salvation Army Colony.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

4761. Could you briefly add anything you think would be interesting with regard to your later knowledge of that colony?—Mr. Wilson Fox, our agricultural correspondent, visited the farm a few days ago to see if there had been any material change which would make it necessary and desirable to bring our figures up to date, and his general report was that there had not; that the figures, of course, had slightly changed, but that you might regard the figures given in the Board of Trade Report as fairly representing the present time. The numbers there are slightly larger, viz., about 350 as compared with about 310 when I was there. Of this 350 about 100 appear to be the regular staff, who are paid, as distinct from the colonists themselves. They have about 300 acres of market garden, and they have been employed in making roads, in the brickfield, in enlarging ponds, and so forth. I think the general effect of the report I had made to me was that I can tell the Committee that on the whole the account given in the Board of Trade report fairly represents the present state of things.

4762. In answer to Question 4669 you gave the Committee certain figures with regard to coal mining, as to the average number of days worked per week; you said that at the end of February the average number was five days per week; that is rather a high average, is it not?—It is a high average. No doubt employment has improved during the month.

4763. The average in December, which was very nearly five days per week, is also high?—Yes. I ought to explain, perhaps, what we explain in all the reports in which these figures are given, that the figures we give are the number of days on which coal was hewn and wound in the colliery; that is to say, the number of days on which the colliery employing people was at work; it is not necessarily implied that all the miners worked actually all the days.

4764. Probably the figure, if you gave it for the men, would be a very different figure?—No doubt there would be a difference.

4765. Because it is a fact, is it not, that in many coal mines the men hardly ever work more than five days a week?—Yes, I have heard that said.

4766. And that in slack times four days a week or, perhaps, three days a week are very common?—That is so.

4767. I ask that question because I thought your point was rather to indicate something wider in the way of difference than what we have got here, namely, that in times of bad trade it is arranged that the individual men shall work fewer days, considerably fewer than, for instance, 4·7, the lowest figure mentioned in your answer. Your figures, I understand, indicate the number of days on which the pits are opened; I thought that in speaking of this method of lessening work when there was not much work for the men, if the days when individual men were working were taken, it would indicate a lower range; that is to say, bring it lower than an average of four days?—No doubt if it was possible to collect the figures showing for each individual man how many days, as a matter of fact, he had been down the pit for each week, the figures would come out less than those I gave on Friday; but I am afraid that that is not possible. The figures I gave give a test of the change in the trade.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

4768. From one point of view the figure of the actual employment of the workers (assuming we could get it) would be an important figure, would it not?—Yes, if you could qualify it by excluding all those who had an opportunity to go to work but, as a matter of fact, did not avail themselves of it, because it is not fair to count those men as out of work.

4769. You described this method of meeting the want of employment by lessening the number of days worked; have you considered at all how far that method is applicable to some other trades which do not now adopt it, but dismiss a certain number of workers altogether?—No, that is not a matter that I could say I had gone into at all. In general terms I said on Friday, in answer to a question put to me, that I thought that those trades in which employment was lessened or expanded by decreasing or increasing the amount of work altogether rather than by discharging men, were very largely piece-work trades, and of course there is an obvious reason why that should be so. When a man is employed at time rates it may be more profitable to meet a contracted demand by dismissing the least competent men; whereas, if they are employed at piece-work rates, all the men are more or less at the same standard of competency; if they do less they get less. I think there is that point to be considered.

4770. And the fact that a given trade is based upon piece work and another given trade is based on time work is no doubt due to considerable experience as to what is considered by those who organise the trade to be the best method?—Yes; and that opens up a very big question, of course.

4771. I do not know whether you have considered whether what seems the easier method, so far as employment is concerned, might be extended; but I suppose that is a very difficult question?—It is a very difficult question, and I could not, I am afraid, give you any official information upon it.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

4772. You stated in your evidence at the last sitting of the Committee, that a good deal of distress arose in places where particular trades had changed, or the fashion of the trade changed; for instance take the town of Nottingham, which I suppose at one time was very much engaged in textile fabrics, a good many of those fabrics have gone down; in other words, machinery has supplanted manual labour; has there been great difficulty in finding employment for the hands thrown out there?—I am afraid our method of collecting these statistics and observing the fluctuations is so new that we could hardly go back over a sufficient period to illustrate the change in Nottingham.

4773. Is it the case that in Nottingham a good many of the hands who formerly were employed in textile fabrics have now found employment in the manufacture of ironworkers' tools, such as lathes and fittings for iron and brass work?—

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

Certainly, the industries have become more diversified; whether individuals have passed from one to another, I do not know.

4774. You do not know how long it takes them to go from working in what is called a soft trade to working on hard materials in the shape of brass and iron?—No, I do not know.

4775. But it is a fact, is it not, that in course of time they are able to adapt themselves to the altered circumstances of trade?—There is a great power of adaptation, but the degree to which that is possible differs very much with the character of the trade, and also, of course, the age of the men.

4776. You stated in your evidence that the mean average of unemployed during 1894 was 6·9; can you tell us the aggregate of the unemployed during last year?—No; the figure 6·9 represents the proportion of the members of trades unions making returns to us who were unemployed.

4777. It is not the unemployed all over the country?—No.

4778. Further, you stated with regard to the shipbuilding work of 1894, that 18 per cent of the whole trade had fallen off, and on looking at Chart No. 3, as regards engineering and shipbuilding, I find in January and February it is very much down; is not that so?—According to that chart the proportion of unemployed in January and February is lower, not greater, than in the autumn months.

4779. Is that caused by the severity of the weather, because they were not able to work out of doors?—It is the proportion of unemployed that is lower; not of the employed.

4780. If the weather had been good there would have been a great deal less unemployed, I suppose, than there were?—No doubt; of course the outside work of shipbuilding is clearly affected by the severity of the weather.

4781. It was so very bad in the month of February that it was quite impossible to handle shipbuilding materials, was it not?—During last February that was so; but the month of February as shown on the chart is the mean of the seven years 1888-94; it does not refer to last February at all.

4782. I think you stated that in 1894, on the whole, 18 per cent. of the trade had fallen off?—Eighteen per cent. of the members of the unions connected with this trade were unemployed, at the end of that year.

4783. Then would you say that at the present time the shipbuilding trade is in a very good state?—No, I should not say that; but the information we have with regard to the prospects, so far as it is of any value, indicates that there is more work in hand than there has been for some little time.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4784. Over the whole of the United Kingdom?—Yes. The tonnage under construction at the end of last year, as shown in Lloyd's returns, was higher than at the end of the previous year.

Mr. *Mather.*

4785. Do you happen to know roughly the number of persons of adult age of both sexes of the so-called working classes throughout the United Kingdom?—No; I am sorry to say there is no return in the census which enables that question to be answered.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

4786. You cannot even state it approximately from your own observations and investigations?—No, I could not state the figures. I can give you the total number of persons of all ages returned as "occupied," or I could give the total number of persons above the age of 20, that is, the total number of adults returned as "occupied"; but that would include both producers and dealers, employers and employed.

4787. That would not answer my question, which was put with a view to ascertaining whether the Labour Department has any information as to what really constitutes the number of the so-called working classes of the country, that is, those employed at weekly wages or at work as wage-earners?—No, the Labour Department has never made an industrial census, which is what the answer to that question involves. This census is entirely made in connection with the general decennial census, and that does not afford the means of answering your question. I should add, however, that a distinction has been drawn in the last census of England and Wales between employers and employed, but there are obviously very great difficulties in making a distinction of that kind statistically correct, and the Registrar General, in his General Report, reports that he did not consider that the returns of the number of employers and employed were trustworthy, and as a matter of fact, they are not summarised in the report.

4788. Then, as a matter of fact, you are not able to state what number of persons of both sexes are employed in the various industries of the country, except, perhaps, in the agricultural industry?—The industries in the country are analysed in great detail in the census, and under each of those heads I could state the number returned as occupied. That would include dealers, and it would include employers; but from the knowledge of particular trades it is often possible to make suitable deductions for those, and arrive at an approximate number.

4789. You have not that information by you, I suppose?—I have not it with me.

4790. Have you any knowledge of the number of persons engaged in the skilled trades as distinct from what are called the labouring classes? The only information with regard generally to the distribution of people among the different occupations is that contained in these returns of occupations in the census. With regard to certain special trades there are other returns. For example, I can give you the number of people engaged in mining, because returns as to that are made to the Home Office, and there are certain trades of that kind which can be given with a certain degree of exactitude.

4791. You do know, in fact, the number of persons such as I have described organised in a trade union?—Yes.

4792. As regards those, you have these positive statistics based upon facts?—Yes.

4793. Are we to take it that the statistics you have presented to the Committee, together with the charts you have constructed from them, are chiefly

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

chiefly derived from the organised trades unions of the country?—Yes, they are chiefly derived from that source, with the exception of the chart as to dock labour, and the chart as to blast-furnace men, which are derived from returns showing the total number of employed in those industries.

4794. Have you any idea what proportion the number returned to you as belonging to trades unions throughout the country, both men and women, bears to the total number in the skilled trades of the country; let me give you a concrete case, take one of the most highly organised of the trades unions, that of engineering and machine making and its accessory industries; what proportion of that industry would be organised into trades unions?—I could give you the exact number of the members of trades unions belonging to that group, but I cannot give you an equally definite figure for the number of persons of all kinds engaged in the industry.

4795. You have no knowledge or means of knowing how many persons are skilled in that particular trade and who are not within the union?—No.

4796. With regard to non-union men, you have no statistics?—I have no statistics.

4797. Of course, not one-half of the persons engaged in the engineering trade are connected with the trade union at the present time; there are some of the accessory trades which are highly organised, but, taking the amalgamated engineers as a whole, not half the members of the trade would be members of the union; have you received from employers in any trade the number employed by them week by week through a given period, and compared it with the returns sent to you by the trades unions in that same district?—I am trying to get that now with regard to the same trade you mentioned, namely, the engineering trade, in connection with our inquiry about the irregularity of employment. We have had very full particulars about exact fluctuations from the point of view of members of trade unions by an analysis of their own books, and I hope to be able to compare that with the fluctuations of employment in the way you describe.

4798. You said in your original statement to the Committee that the engineering trade, the machinery making trade and such kindred occupations, were amongst the most fluctuating of all the industries of the kind?—The shipbuilding and engineering group appears to be so.

4799. In that you include machinery making?—Yes, and tool making especially.

4800. Have you from statistics derived any information as to what would be the average earnings in that trade of a skilled workman; that is to say, the yearly income, supposing that while at work they were receiving a higher rate than the minimum wage specified by the trades union itself?—I am sorry to say I have not come to-day prepared with any wages statistics.

4801. My point is this: if that is a fluctuating trade even at the best time (as I gather from the information you gave last Friday) although the wages are high during periods of trade prosperity, the average annual income of an engineer

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

receiving, say, 38*s.* a week would not be 52 times 38*s.*, would it?—Not in a year of depression.

4802. Taking good and bad years together, there would be, would there not, throughout that trade a very large allowance to be made from year to year, even off the amount which he would receive if he were in regular work throughout the year?—There would be a considerable allowance to be made in a year of depression. I should say in a year of prosperity it is probable the overtime he would make would counterbalance that; but I could not say definitely without going into the figures.

4803. You have no statistics referring to overtime in this engineering trade?—Not at present.

4804. You do not know whether the aggregate overtime worked in a given year would in the main equalise the amount of time lost?—Times of pressure of work, such as the years 1889 and 1890, would be the time when I should expect that to be the case, but certainly not in periods of depression.

4805. Have you any information showing the tendency of labourers in rural districts to migrate towards the manufacturing districts of the country?—That was a subject I made inquiries into some three or four years ago, when I was not connected with the Board of Trade, and the statistics I obtained are not official statistics.

4806. Have you any idea that there is a gradual stream, be it either quick or slow, moving from the rural districts to the manufacturing districts?—Yes; the census figures make it quite clear that the rate of growth of population in urban districts is far greater than the rate of growth of population in the rural districts, even where the rural districts are not actually going down in population.

4807. Is there any counter current at all discernible from the manufacturing districts to the rural districts?—Not an important industrial current. There is a certain small current of old people who go back to the places they came from, but it is not an important one to take into account.

4808. Would you say the statistics you have furnished to the Committee are almost entirely based upon the returns supplied to you from all the sources of organised labour, though they do not cover by any means the whole case as to the population of which you know nothing, that is, the population outside organised labour societies?—They are merely a sample ——

4809. They are a sample of the condition of things existing among those persons comprised in organised labour societies?—Yes, they are based upon that.

4810. Would you consider the colliers to be the highest organised labour of the country, so far as numbers are concerned?—Yes, it is the largest group of persons organised into unions in any one trade; it is not the highest proportion, I believe, of the members of a trade.

4811. You mean it is not a trade showing the smallest proportion of non-union men out of the total employed in the trade?—I should think the most highly organised industry in the country from that point of view would be the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders. I state that with

 reservation,

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

reservation, because of the difficulty of knowing how many are employed in the trade.

4812. Taking colliers first of all, is provision made by the colliers throughout the country for the maintenance of their fellow members when out of work from any cause other than strikes sufficient to tide them over the bad times?—The provision varies very greatly in different districts. I could not make a general statement about it.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4813. Could you give the districts where the miners do provide out-of-work benefit?—They provide for it in Northumberland and in Durham, and there are some local societies in other parts (I have not got the complete figures with me) which provide something of that kind; but the great unions in other districts do not as a whole provide out-of-work benefit, though in a time of great depression in Yorkshire they started what they called a contingency fund for the purpose of assisting members out of work.

Mr. *Mather.*

4814. In taking the highly organised trade you have named of shipbuilders and boiler makers, do you consider that they fairly well provide for all their fellow members out of work other than at times of strike or a lock-out?—I should be going a little out of my depth to go into that. You would get it better from an official of the society.

4815. From your observations at the Labour Department, have you any reason to think that the constant changes in the introduction of the machinery in the manufacturing industries to economise labour diminish in the aggregate the opportunities of employment for the working classes?—That is a very big problem to handle statistically, and I could not say that the statistics which we have had hitherto for the small number of years in which they have been collected would throw any considerable light upon that question. I could state my own personal view, but it would not be really based upon our statistics.

4816. You have no means of saying whether the introduction of machinery to economise labour, which is a constant tendency of the times we live in, and which one does not know how to check, even if it were desirable to do so, provides incidentally other employment of a different character to the men displaced from the industry that is disturbed?—It is quite clear that important introductions of machinery do open up subsidiary trades and widen demands for products in other ways, and there are a number of different compensations in that way. But the statistical problem I understand you to put is, whether in the aggregate the employment given in all these new branches balances, or more than balances, or less than balances the numbers displaced; and that problem I have not sufficient figures to go into.

4817. You are, of course, aware that in all industries the tendency to employ machinery is not only a gradual movement, but it is proceeding by leaps and bounds in all directions, competition

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

inciting men to use their brains more, and there is a continual application of machinery in all directions to save labour?—Yes.

4818. From experience in your Department, is there any intimation borne in upon your mind that that was gradually decreasing the aggregate volume of labour?—No, certainly there are no figures at all which tend to make me think that in the aggregate the opportunities of employment are diminished in that way.

4819. You have not, I presume, made a study from investigations systematically pursued as to what might be done in agricultural districts by farm colonies, or other such means of employment; you have only reported upon what exists in various countries, and the small experiments tried in England so far?—That is all we have done.

4820. All the information you have upon that subject is in the article contained in your report on "agencies and methods for dealing with the unemployed"?—Yes; I have really nothing to add to that.

4821. Have you any means of knowing, in connection with these fluctuations in trade, how far they are affected by the sudden demand or cessation of demand from foreign countries for our products?—I think that what I call the cyclical variations of employment are considerably connected with fluctuations in foreign demand for our products.

4822. Have you followed at all in your Department the demand from abroad for the various products of this country?—We do not collect, though of course we observe, the monthly statement of imports and exports for various foreign countries; and although these only give values, not volumes, they are an interesting indication of the variations in demand.

4823. Have you made no comparison between those periods of great demand from abroad and the times when trade at home has shown a high state of prosperity?—Yes. It will be clear in glancing at these charts that the years in which employment is at its best are, as a rule, the maximum years of imports and exports; they do not follow absolutely, but they are connected; the general tidal movements of trade affect both.

4824. You find a distinct connection between high states of prosperity in our trades and the exportation of our products to other countries?—Certainly.

4825. Have you any reason to believe from your statistics that these demands from foreign countries for our own products are decreasing?—You are carrying me into purely trade statistics, which we do not handle at the Labour Department; that would be dealt with by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade, under whose direction the figures are collected.

4826. Do you consider the Committee would be justified in coming to the conclusion from your evidence that we are only to rely upon your information so far as organised labour is concerned, and that the large mass of unorganised labour throughout the country has scarcely been taken into consideration in your evidence?—No. I think the evidence goes beyond that. We have only

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

only included organized labour because, in order to work out the percentage, you must have two definite figures. You must have the definite figure of the number unemployed and the definite figure of the number of persons who are employed, and we can only get those from members of an organization, but I have no doubt at all that the figures may be taken more or less as a sample; that they represent changes in employment as a whole. Without saying that the figures are equivalent, I should say that if our percentage goes up or down it means almost unerringly that the employment goes up or down.

4827. But organized labour throughout the kingdom would be better off, as regards the unemployed, would it not, under all the circumstances, than unorganized labour?—It is better off in the sense that the members of the trade would be supported, but it would necessarily be better off in the sense of having a smaller percentage not in work.

4828. But the members of a trade are mutually helpful to each other, you have told us, when the trade is organized?—Yes.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

4829. With regard to Chart No. 1, which you have placed before the Committee, and in which you show the percentage of the unemployed members of trades unions making returns to the Board of Trade at the end of each month in the period from December 1886 to January 1895, I think that shows that the percentage out of work in 1887 was a little over 10 per cent., whilst during the year just passed, 1894, it has been from 6 to 7 per cent.?—Yes; there was a month in 1887 in which it was above 10 per cent., and the average for 1894 is what you say.

4830. The average percentage for 1887 of those out of work was greater than it was in the year 1894, is not that the case?—Yes, the diagram makes that clear, but I have not worked out the mean comparison.

4831. With regard to the evidence you have given as to the tendency to recurrence of these cyclical periods, as you call them, of depression, it is correct to say, is it not, that in 1887 it reached its maximum in the early months of that year, and that the next period was the winter months of 1892?—I cannot say that the maximum was in the early months of 1887, because 1887 was the year in which these figures were first collected; the figures for 1886 might be higher.

4832. The maximum was in the year 1887, was it not?—Or in 1886, or before; the maximum point might be higher before these statistics were collected.

4833. You told us you thought these cyclical periods, which were easily recognised, were likely to revive?—Yes.

4834. Can you, from any information you possess, go beyond the figures you have placed before us in this chart, and give us what you consider were the cyclical periods previous to 1887?—No, I am afraid I could not give any figures bearing on the cyclical periods of employment before, because the collection of these figures was non-existent. The first time the Board of Trade collected these figures was in 1887.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

4835. You told us just now, in answer to a question put by Mr. Acland, that these periods of depression of trade had recurred, and were likely to recur?—Yes.

4836. Could you give us any information as to whether the period that has elapsed between periods of depression of this kind has, in recent times, been a shorter period, or a longer period, than it was 20 or 25 years ago?—Twenty or 25 years ago there seemed to be a general opinion that the period was something between 10 and 11 years, and I think of late years there has been experience of a shorter cycle of more like seven years, but this does not decide the question whether the more usual cycle will not still be 10 or 11 years.

4837. Was not that period of 10 years more in regard to the value of money than to the employment of labour?—I think it was not exclusively with regard to the value of money. The researches of Professor Jevons (whose name is chiefly connected with it) had special connection with commercial panics, and periods of depression, and inflation of trade, with regard to which the value of money (by which I understand you to mean the rate of interest on short loans) was only one factor. Of course the particular labour statistics similar to those in these charts were not then in existence, and could not be tested; but I was assuming in my answer to Mr. Acland that the two things went together then, as they have been shown to go together now. There are various tests, such as imports and exports, and the tonnage of shipping cleared, and various tests of commercial prosperity or depression.

4838. May we take it from you that you consider that when money is specially cheap it is generally accompanied with a period of depression with regard to the employment of labour, and that, on the contrary, when money is specially dear, there is a period of good employment?—I could not say, without going into the question, how far the variations in the value of money would fit with the general periods of inflation and depression.

4839. But the information you would desire to place before the Committee generally is that, in your opinion, the period that elapses between the recurrence of cyclical trade depressions is now shorter than it used to be?—Yes, we have lately had experience of one or two shorter cycles. I wish that answer to be accepted as extremely provisional, because I do not consider we have quite sufficient data yet to fix the period, and we may be thrown out of our calculation next time.

4840. Could you give the Committee any information as to whether you consider that the length of period of depression is now greater than it was at an earlier date, or that it is shorter?—Subject to the reservation in my last answer, I should say there have been shorter cycles lately.

4841. You would say that the actual period of depression now is shorter than it used to be?—Yes; such figures as we have got, I think, rather point to that conclusion, but I do not wish more reliance to be placed upon that answer than it is worthy of, because the data are very imperfect.

4842. Coming to another point, can you give us any information at all with regard to the em-

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

ployment of female labour in the country. The "Labour Gazette" gives an enormous amount of information with regard to the employment of male labour, but a comparatively small amount of information with respect to the employment of female labour; can you give the Committee any idea as to whether female labour is replacing, in any of the main industries of the country (especially textile industries), male labour to a large extent?—There is a great deal of information bearing upon that question to be extracted (some has been extracted) from a comparison of the Census Returns of 1891 with those of 1881, and in the "Labour Gazette" for February and October 1894 some information derived from these sources was published. Moreover, in the Abstract of Labour Statistics, on pages 136 to 141, we compare the proportion of persons employed in certain important occupations in 1891 and 1881, first for men and boys, and then for women and girls; and from those two tables a good deal of information can be gained as to the extent to which any replacement is going on.

4843. Would you be able, for the information of the Committee, to put in a Paper giving the best available statistics you have with regard to the replacement of male labour by female labour, in the textile industries, for instance?—Yes, I could put in a Paper; but I might just say perhaps that a report on the subject of the employment of women, and the bearing of the census figures thereon, is now in proof form, prepared by our Lady Labour Correspondent, and will be presented to Parliament within the next few weeks I hope; and that I think will give the whole particulars.

4844. Could you state to us whether, in your opinion, there has been any considerable replacement of male by female labour owing to the changes in machinery, which is much lighter work than it used to be in many cases?—I should like to refresh my memory as to the figures.

4845. Perhaps you will put in a general Paper about the matter?—Yes, certainly. (*See* Appendix, No. 16 (A.)

4846. The honourable Member for Battersea suggests that it would be well to add particulars as to the amount of women labour displaced by boys and girls; could you add that information also?—I will try to do so. (*See* Appendix, No. 16 (A.)

4847. There is one other point I wish to ask if you could give the Committee any information upon, and that is this: whilst you told us it was not the duty of your Department to watch the relative import and export trade of the country, have you any statistics available by which you could give the Committee any information as to the amount of labour, say, in the textile industries in foreign countries, spread over a period of recent years, taking the case of Germany, Italy, and Russia, or some other countries?—I think the examination of their Census Returns would give the particulars; I could look the matter up; (*See* Appendix, No. 16 (B.) I have not the figures with me. I think you said the textile industries?

4848. I only suggested that as being a limit; otherwise the inquiry would involve looking into so many figures?—The figures for mining are

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

contained in a Return presented to Parliament in 1894 [Parliamentary Paper, No. 317].

4849. Is it not the case that there is a general feeling in the country that there is a very considerable amount of labour now employed in manufacturing in certain countries abroad goods which used to be produced by labour in this country, and which, under the protective tariffs of certain countries in Europe, are now mainly produced within those countries themselves?—I think there has been a great advance in manufacturing industries certainly in many countries that are now making for themselves things which they used to import.

4850. Is it your view that there is a constantly increasing development in those foreign countries?—I think you will have to distinguish between the countries.

4851. I specially referred to those that have made great changes in their tariffs in recent times?—I am not prepared to trace the alteration in tariffs as connected with the amount of manufacture carried on in foreign countries. But a report on the question that would throw a great deal of light upon it was presented to Parliament within the last year or so by the Board of Trade, but not by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. The reference number is [C.–7349, of 1894.]

Mr. *John Burns.*

4852. Is not the loss of commodities exported from England counterbalanced to a great extent by the machinery made for and bought by other countries for the manufacture of those articles; in fact, what Nottingham and Lancashire lose in lace and textile fabrics, do they not almost gain in making machinery for countries where goods alone were previously supplied?—There is no reason to believe that the total value of exports has permanently fallen off.

Mr. *Bartley.*

4853. As regards the cycles that you speak of, can you give us any information as to the general causes which lead to these cycles of want of employment?—I could only say they are connected with the general movement of trade depression and inflation, and the recurrence of commercial panics.

4854. All over the world?—Not quite simultaneously, perhaps, but they are often all over the world. They move very fast. But as to what the ultimate causes which lead to them are I am not now prepared to give an opinion.

4855. The information you have is not broad enough yet?—Quite so.

4856. I suppose in time it may be so?—I think it may be.

4857. I wish to ask you one other question with regard to labour bureaux and labour registries: did I understand from your evidence on Friday that you consider that the trades unions object to these registries?—No; I have not heard that the trade unions as a whole have made any objection to the introduction of labour registries. In fact, many resolutions have been passed by trades unions and trades councils in favour of such registries. But there has been, no doubt, an expression of apprehension by individual members of trade unions that labour registries

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

registries might be used as a method of interfering with trade disputes.

4858. You do not share that view?—I think it may be a danger that will have to be watched, but I should say that it was quite easy to make regulations to prevent its being so.

4859. Do I understand you that, supposing that labour registries did have that effect, that would be a reason for not having registries?—It would undoubtedly make them unpopular, and the moment a registry becomes unpopular in the neighbourhood it loses much of its utility; people will not resort to it.

4860. Is not a registry the most obvious arrangement for collecting information concerning want of employment?—I do not think a registry is of much value for collecting information as to want of employment, except to the degree to which it becomes a regular thing for a man out of work to put his name on it. If for any reason it is passed by, and people do not as a fact use it, then it loses its value, because first the employer will not use it, and secondly, the statistics you get from it cease to be representative.

4861. Still, would you not think that that was one way in which a general knowledge of the unemployed could be obtained throughout the country?—Yes, I think it is certainly one way. We collected the figures for that reason.

4862. So far, you think it would be a useful thing if it could be established all over the country?—Yes, in so far as it enables people to get work. If it was proved in any district that the labour bureau was found not materially to assist people to get into work, it would cease at once to be a useful barometer of the state of the market, because there is no other inducement to people to put their names down, and that is a very important point.

4863. Would it not necessarily follow that the labour register must be less useful in times of depression than in times of inflation?—I think so.

4864. Is that one of the great difficulties of it?—That is one of the great difficulties; in other words, it does not increase the volume of work that is going.

4865. Of course it cannot do that?—It cannot.

Chairman.

4866. A series of labour bureaux might help depression in one district by drawing from the inflation of another district, might it not?—That is an idea that has been very frequently promulgated, and it was put a good deal before the Royal Commission on Labour by various witnesses. I do not think at present there are a sufficient number of labour bureaux to make collective action very valuable.

4867. It would have to be a pretty elaborate system, I suppose, to have that effect?—The most elaborate attempt of that sort that has been made is in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, where the Post Office has been used for the purpose.

Mr. *Bartley.*

4868. In times of general depression it would not help, because there would be no work to give anywhere?—No, unless the authorities undertake works and take the men on.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

4869. Taking the general depression we have now, how would the labour bureaux and registries help us in this present situation?—The extent to which they do help us is shown accurately, I think, in these statistics of the operation of the bureaux, to which I called attention in my evidence. It is not very great, but it is something. A certain proportion of those who put down their names at registries are enabled to get situations through them.

4870. My point is this: there is a general depression in every trade in the country; how would the labour bureaux or the registering of names help the employment of men at the present time?—It would only help it to a limited extent by increasing to some extent the chance which a man who is out of work has of meeting with a suitable place.

4871. But there is no demand anywhere for labour; there is in every district at the present time abundant labour, in fact more than is wanted. What I want to know is whether you have thought out the question of how a national system of labour bureaux and registries would help to relieve the depression that exists at such a time as the present?—It could not possibly counteract the effects of the depression.

4872. Would it be any use in easing off the pressure upon the unemployed at the present time?—I do not think it would be of very great service. It might be of certain service, because it is not the case that all trades are depressed in all places at the same time equally; for instance, there are local demands in the building trades owing to accidental causes, and there may be a brisk demand in one place and no demand in another, and to that extent it may be of some help to spread knowledge with regard to the labour market.

4873. This Committee has been brought into existence by special circumstances which I think, speaking of them broadly, are national in their application. Even a complete system of labour bureaux all over the country would not help us in the situation we find ourselves in at present, because I take it there is not a trade but what is affected by depression. Is there at the present time a trade where there is not a superabundance of men?—There is no great depression in the building trade except to the extent to which the frost stopped work. Of course, while the frost lasted the building trades were very badly off, but I do not think the building trade could be described as depressed otherwise.

4874. You would not recommend the system of labour bureaux as being a panacea for the present depression?—I am really not prepared to make recommendations.

4875. You were asked a question or two with regard to the effect of organisations on depressions in trade, and I think a question was put to you by Mr. Acland as to whether the organisation of trade did not increase the volume of unemployed; is it your experience that organisations have had the effect of discharging what is called, I think, the inferior men?—I think there is no doubt that a trades union with a standard time rate of wages has often a certain small margin of members on its unemployed books because they cannot earn the standard rate of wages, and

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

the union prefer to pay them unemployed benefit rather than allow them to reduce the standard rate of wages by competition. It is a very small margin, but it is unquestionably an element. In other words, the unemployed fund of the union acts both as an insurance against out-of-work and an insurance against lowering the standard rate of wage. To that extent the answer to your question is, yes.

4876. Is the consequence of organisation that men are out of employment who otherwise would be employed?—The people I am referring to are in receipt of unemployed benefit; are supported by the unions.

4877. They would not be in those circumstances if the trade organisation had not existed; is that what we are to understand?—Yes.

4878. Then are we to understand that if the trade organisations had not existed the volume of unemployed would not have been so large as it is?—No, that would be a very unsafe generalisation; because the margin I speak of is a small proportion, and the general effect of trade organisation upon the volume of unemployed would not be largely affected by it. It is to be remembered that unions help their members to get employment in various ways.

4879. But I understand that where men work by time and not by piece the result of organisations amongst employers and employees is that the inferior men, as they are called, are discharged?—That is true.

4880. The further result is that if there had not been trade organisations these inferior men would not have been discharged?—They would have had their chance with the others; but I do not say that the volume of want of employment, including partial want of employment as well as total want of employment, would have been any less, but that the action of the higher organisation of industry does tend to precipitate (to use the Chairman's expression) the want of employment upon a small margin of men, the inferior workmen.

4881. You spoke of these people getting out-of-work benefit in times of depression; do you not think that these organisations are really useful in the country in the way of providing out-of-work benefit to such members of the union?—I think they are very useful.

4882. Supposing there had not been out-of-work benefit, and these men were out of employment, how would the men have existed?—I cannot say.

4883. If there had not been a trade organisation, and a time of depression had fallen upon them such as we have now, where would the men who are now being paid out-of-work benefit have got subsistence?—I do not know; I can only say their state would be very much less desirable than at present.

4884. Therefore the organisations are useful?—Very useful.

4885. As regards the influence of strikes on the unemployed, you said in your statement on Friday, "In the sixth place, I should like to notice the influence of trade disputes on employment in allied trades"; do you mean just immediately when the strike is taking place, or have you in mind the more remote application?—I meant when I used the illustration its influence when the strike is taking place, or immediately after; but no doubt there is a more remote application which I had not then in my mind.

4886. Would you think that the strike which took place in 1893 in the coal trade would have any influence upon the depression at the present time?—I could not give any exact information on that point; it had a very considerable influence at the time, and during the succeeding winter.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

4887. A trade organisation requires, does it not, a minimum wage to be paid to those that belong to it?—There is not always a standard of that sort. A certain number of unions have a minimum wage, but it is not an essential feature.

4888. I understand that you have no local agricultural correspondents?—We have one central agricultural correspondent, and he is in touch with a large number of local correspondents, but they are simply responsible to him.

4889. Do all the agricultural reports come to you through Mr. Wilson Fox?—That is so.

4890. Do you know at all the class of persons he is in communication with?—They are very various. When he visited the various districts for the two Commissions for which he inquired into the state of agricultural labour, he came into touch with a large number of people, and he noted those whom he considered in each district (independently of their status) to be the most trustworthy and the most useful in giving information. Those are his agricultural correspondents. Some of them are farmers, some are land agents, some are labourers, some are clergymen, some are relieving officers, and so forth.

4891. Some are actual labourers, you say?—Yes, and some are secretaries of labourers' unions.

4892. Do you take any steps to find out what various classes of informants he has in different parts of the country, or do you leave it entirely to him?—It is left largely to him; but before I came to give evidence I went into the matter with him in case the question should be gone into.

4893. Are you able to say from the result of his investigation that his correspondents embrace all classes in the agricultural world?—Yes, but of course not all classes in all the districts; that is to say, he has not a member of each class in every district.

4894. I understood you to say that there had been less lack of agricultural employment this winter than had been anticipated?—Yes, up to the frost.

4895. Before the frost employment in the agricultural districts had been fairly continuous?—It had been less discontinuous than had been expected. It was very generally anticipated at the beginning of the autumn that in a district such as the Eastern Counties, where work is liable to irregularity of this kind, farmers would very greatly curtail their labour bills by discharging men; but, as a matter of fact, in many cases they curtailed their labour bills by the reduction of wages instead.

4896. Do I understand that that applies solely to agricultural labourers, or would it also embrace the

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

the kindred employments of the men who go with engines and do the threshing work, and the thatchers?—Yes, it would include them.

4897. You think their work has been fairly continuous?—It varied a great deal from district to district, and I should rather make further enquiries with regard to those particular classes before answering the question definitely.

4898. And, also, will you enquire whether it has been as well paid as usual?—I will make enquiries as to those two points. (*See* Appendix, No. 16 (C.)

4899. You have spoken as to the migration of agricultural labour to towns?—Yes.

4900. A great number of those who have come to towns have come there engaged for particular purposes, such as policemen and railway men on the line?—Yes.

4901. Are there any great number of men, to your knowledge, who come from the country to the town simply because they cannot find employment in the country?—I have no doubt there is a certain element of that kind. I have no doubt the impulse that drives some to come is because they cannot get work in the country, but I think that those would be a small proportion of the whole; I mean those who come up without a definite prospect of work in the town.

4902. The bulk of those coming to London come with a definite prospect of something to do in London?—Yes, I think so.

4903. You said you judged the volume of migration from the country by the Census Returns?—That was one of the tests, the most useful on the whole.

4904. That would refer, would it not, not only to migrations from the country to London, but to migrations from the country to all urban districts?—Yes.

4905. Then suppose a labourer lived on the edge of a suburban district and the boundaries of that district were enlarged so that his dwelling house was taken in, he would count as one of those who had migrated from the country to the town, though he might still be working on the same farm as before?—That would be so; but then I should not use the Census Returns without further inquiry for the purpose of judging of the total number who had migrated, but simply to show the broad fact that certain urban districts have increased very largely, and were therefore presumably the centres to which there have been migration.

4906. You have no means of checking how far the apparent total increase was due to the alteration of boundaries or the alteration by migration?—Except by special inquiries with regard to the particular district. My own investigations were solely concerned with London, and in that case there had been no re-adjustment of boundary during the period in question.

4907. I understood you to say you had a recent report from Mr. Wilson Fox with regard to the Salvation Army colony at Hadleigh?—Yes. It was an informal report; he simply went down there to visit it.

4908. Do I gather that at present 350 men are engaged on 300 acres of land?—The market garden is 300 acres, but the total acreage is a good deal more.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4909. Is it not about 1,800 acres?—I think it is about 1,500 acres, excluding tidal waters. The colonists are very largely not employed in farming.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

4910. A number of those men were employed in road-making, were they not?—In making roads and in the brickfields, and they have been engaged, at least in past times, making a bridge and tramway.

4911. On work which we may describe as making land apart from the cultivation of land?—That is so.

4912. That experiment has not proceeded far enough for you to be able to say how many men can be permanently employed remuneratively upon those 1,800 acres in agricultural operations?—No, I could not say.

4913. Have you in your Department any information with regard to labour colonies in the colony of Victoria?—We have information with regard to the employment of the unemployed in Victoria in the construction of railroads; but I gather that is not quite what you refer to.

4914. No, that was not what I meant; I only got my information from newspapers which I read some months ago; I believe an Act of Parliament was passed in the colony of Victoria under which farm settlements have been attempted?—Yes, I know there has been an Act passed.

4915. Perhaps you would look into the matter and let us know how far those settlements have been successful?—I will do so. I have some information with regard to the same thing in New Zealand.

4916. I am referring especially to Victoria; would you kindly look up the information upon the point?—Yes, I will make a note of it. (*See* Appendix, No. 16 (D.)

4917. I think the information you have been putting before the Committee relates solely to employment in manual work; you could not tell us how many brain workers are out of employment?—No.

4918. Or whether any distress exists among the population of clerks of one kind or another?—I could give you no figures. Of course, clerks can usually register at labour bureaux.

4919. You have no figures to show how many are out of employment?—No.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

4920. I should like to ask a question with regard to what you said about cyclical variations; would a depression or inflation caused by war be regarded as a cyclical variation, or would the war be regarded as a disturbing cause, the effect of which would have to be eliminated in determining your law of industrial cyclical variation?—It would have to be regarded as a disturbing cause, the effect of which would have to be eliminated.

4921. Now you have drawn a distinction between stable and fluctuating trades, and you have told us the two classes shade off one into the other; my question, then, is this: have you formed, or can you form, any rough estimate of the comparative number of persons employed in trades, which, according to your standard, would certainly be stable, and the number of persons employed in trades which, according to the same standard,

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

standard, would certainly be fluctuating?—I tried to do that a month or two ago; I found it very difficult, and the results did not completely satisfy me. I have not brought them with me, but it is possible to make three columns, a column of those which are certainly stable, a column of those which are certainly fluctuating, and an intermediate column, and so get some rough idea. It would, however, involve a good deal of guesswork, and those approximate statistics are rather harmful than useful sometimes.

4922. You prefer not to give an opinion; it is too problematical?—It is too problematical in the present state of our statistics.

4923. Then I will not press it; you have told us, with regard to these percentages of unemployed, that we cannot, from the percentage that you have given, infer that the same percentages rule in the trade of the country generally?—That is so.

4924. But, confining your attention to any one of those trades of which you have given us statistics, my question is this: what is the relation between the percentage of unemployed among the unionists of that trade and the percentage of unemployed among the non-unionists of the same trade?—Before I answer that question, may I say this: you will understand, with regard to these charts, that the building trades curve, for example, represents the percentage of unemployed in such unions in the building trades as give unemployed benefit. I am not clear whether you mean to ask if this percentage shown by this curve is higher or less than the percentage of the persons unemployed in the total building trades or in those particular trades which have unions on which we based these returns.

4925. Perhaps I had better put the question in a leading form. What I really want to get at is this: is not the percentage of unemployed among the non-unionists, probably, at least, larger than the percentage of unemployed among the unionists in the same or cognate trades?—I could not say that, because they have opportunities, to some extent, of more continuous employment at lower wages.

4926. Who have?—The non-unionists. In trades where there is a standard rate the inefficient non-unionist might get more employment at a lower rate than the inefficient unionist. Against that is, of course, to be set the fact that many of these unions contain the cream of the trade, men whom the employers would wish to take on and keep on, and, also, that the unions help their members in various ways to get employment; but which of those considerations outbalances the other I am not prepared to say.

4927. You have told us that there is a growing tendency to dismiss, when the pinch comes, the less efficient workmen?—Yes, there is that tendency in some trades, and I think it is growing.

4928. Obviously you would agree with me, I think, that a union is interested in acquiring a certain standard of efficiency in those whom it admits to its membership?—That is so.

4929. So that the standard of efficiency would be higher inside the union than outside?—I should think so. You are rather referring, I presume, to unions that have a standard time rate.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

On the other hand, there is a certain element of people who do not belong to an organization, not because they are inefficient but because they do not care to belong to it.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4930. But there is a standard efficiency rate in nearly all unions, is there not?—Nominally perhaps, but I think it is much more enforced in some than in others.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

4931. You have been asked about the change of the trade in Nottingham. There is another town I want to ask about, and that is Coventry; have you followed at all the changes in recent years in the trade of Coventry?—That is a very remarkable instance of a town in which the staple trades have changed; the watch-making trade has gone and the cycle trade has come in, and I think I have heard it stated that there has been a real transfer of people from one to the other.

4932. There has been a transference of the same persons from one trade to another?—Yes. I am speaking from information I have received, not from any statistics we have in the Board of Trade. I have heard it stated.

4933. Coventry used also to be famous for its ribbon manufacture, I believe?—Yes.

4934. Do you think there has been any transference of those who were employed in the ribbon manufacture to the cycle manufacture?—That I could not say.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4935. You have given us the necessary statistics with regard to the proportion of unemployed in those trades that have unions and are fairly well organised. Have you any means of ascertaining the proportion or the number of unemployed women, lads, and girls, in which no organisation exists?—No; there are no means that I know of of getting figures for the proportion in the absence of an organisation. We know there are fluctuations in the employment of women and girls and boys and lads.

4936. But with regard to the girls and lads and women, there are at present no reliable data on which to found even fairly accurate opinions as to the proportions of their unemployed?—There are no figures that I know of; I have seen none, and I do not see how to get them.

4937. Have you any reason to infer that the proportion of women who are unemployed without organisation is as great as unorganised male labour?—No; I should say that all the evidence there is would point to its being considerably less with women.

4938. That women have the adaptability and greater opportunities of getting odd jobs than unskilled unorganised labour?—At all events, from whatever cause it proceeds, though women may get low wages, there is not the same difficulty in getting work.

4939. Not the same difficulty in getting work for women as for unskilled male labour?—That is so.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

4940. Is that due in your opinion, or on your information, to the fact that women frequently have employment found them by individuals and by charitable agencies where male labour could not so be employed?—That may have some effect, but I do not think that that would have any appreciable effect on the great staple industries in which women are employed.

4941. But apart from staple industries like the textile trades, where a large proportion of women are employed, what do you say to these other industries?—No doubt there are miscellaneous women's industries in which what you say plays a part.

4942. Does the Labour Department contemplate taking steps to get something like a better census of unemployed women?—We do contemplate most certainly taking all the steps we can to improve the statistics with regard to the employment of women, and, of course, that incidentally throws light on the non-employment. We have not seen our way to suggest, or attempt anything like a census of unemployed, either of women or men.

4943. Do you know the census that was taken in March 1887 of the unemployed in four typical districts of London: St. George's-in-the-East, Hackney, Deptford, and Battersea?—Yes.

4944. At that census, covering a population of 125,313, there were roughly 30,000 men examined?—Yes.

4945. And 8,008 of those were out of work?—They stated themselves to be out of work.

Mr. *Bartley.*

4946. Who took the census?—It was taken under the superintendence of Dr. Ogle, the Superintendent of Statistics, who, however, in his report, threw considerable doubt on the value of the figures.

Mr. *John Burns.*

4947. Of that 30,000, 8,008 were out of work?—I should again qualify that by saying "stated to be out of work."

4948. And out of that 30,000, 5,964, or 74 per cent. of the 8,008 who declared themselves to be out of work, said that they had been out of work for 12 weeks, or more, is not that so?—Yes, that is so.

4949. Then out of the 30,000 there were 1,132 who derived assistance from parish clubs, or charity alone; is that true?—I think that is a proportion of the 8,008; not of the 30,000.

4950. Now I want you to go from those figures to the wages of those men as showing their incapacity to tide over bad times. The average earnings of the 30,000 skilled and unskilled was 24*s.* 7*d.* when in work?—Yes. I will take that figure from you.

4951. The average rent was 6*s.* 2*d.* when in work, was it not?—I have not the means of following your figures, but I have no doubt that it is so.

4952. While the out-of-work rent was 4*s.* 8*d.*?—Yes.

4953. That census, if reliable, would approximately represent what happened during the severe weather of 1894, would it not?—I am very much puzzled to know what it does represent when I read the report and compare the figures, because they do not seem to be consistent with themselves. I feel incapable of drawing inferences from them, except as to the difficulty of taking a census in this particular way.

4954. But even if we subtract 25 per cent., or even 50 per cent. of the gruesomeness that these figures indicate, it would indicate an incapacity on the part of the average workman, particularly the unskilled labourer, to have the means by which he could tide through a particularly depressed period?—The statistics of wages and of rent would bear that construction, but then on the other hand I find that the great majority of these people stated they had done no work for 12 weeks or more, and, nevertheless, only 1,132 of them had received any kind of relief either from parish, club, or charity, and only 2,288 had derived any assistance from earnings of other members of their family. That leaves 4,588 who asserted they had been living, themselves and their families, most of them for three months or more, without any kind of assistance. That would indicate a very great power of tiding over, and that is the kind of inconsistency which I see in the figures, and which I cannot account for.

4955. And at the same time the figures did not give the number of men in trades unions, or does the term "club" comprise trades unions?—"Club" would include the benefit of trades unions.

4956. For the purpose of comparison the 1887 census is not fairly applicable to what was produced by the severe weather of 1894 and the beginning of 1895; would you take that view?—I think that the want of employment in the winter of 1886 which gave rise to this particular census was not produced by a state of prolonged frost, but was a general depression. What we have been experiencing during the last month or two is an exceptional paralysis of outdoor trades due to the prolonged frost, and not I think an exceptional depression. To that extent I think the cases would not be parallel.

4957. You differentiate between the conditions brought about by the sudden paralysis of trade and industry through the severe frost and that brought about by a depression spread over a longer number of months than the frost prevailed?—Yes, I should draw that distinction, and also point out that the frost would only paralyse particular groups of trades, and no doubt within those trades the effect would not be very distinguishable.

4958. You said the Amalgamated Society of Engineers spent in one year 1*l.* 17*s.* per member for unemployed benefit; I am taking the 1893 report. That was the unemployed donation alone. Would you not add to that a certain proportion of the money that that society spent out of sick benefits, and which could clearly be traceable to want of work or illness through want of work, a large or a small portion?—I suppose that in some of the branches there may have been people who received sick benefit who might equally well have been put on unemployed benefit, but I have no detailed knowledge on the subject. I should have imagined that that would

Mr. *John Burns* continued.

would be only true in individual cases, and that it would not be to any large extent true.

4959. Supposing, in 1893, the Engineers' Society spent 1*l.* 17*s.* on unemployed donation alone, that there ought to be added to that, due to unemployed, to be paid out of sick benefit superannuation increased owing to want of work, and benevolent grants and other funds, an amount that would add 8*s.* to the 1*l.* 17*s.*, or making the contribution for each engineer 2*l.* 5*s.* directly and indirectly due to unemployed benefit?—I could not say anything definite about the 8*s.* you suggest; I have no doubt there would be an element of that kind.

4960. But if an experienced official of the Engineers' Society were to say that 2*l.* 5*s.* was the amount that the Engineers' Society spent in 1893, you would take that as a fairly accurate amount?—Expended either directly or indirectly on the unemployed, you mean?

4961. Yes?—I see no reason to doubt that figure. If you made a similar calculation with regard to each benefit, and added to the sick benefit people whose sickness was partly due, as it might be, to want of work, and then add to the superannuation benefit a certain amount from the same cause, you would get a total amount of expenditure which would be in excess of what they actually spent. We are dealing with the question of over-lapping, and there is a give and take between the benefits.

4962. But overlapping operates less with the unemployed benefit than it does with any other?—Yes, I think that is likely.

4963. Is it not a fact that in 44 years the Engineers' Society (I mention them because I know most about them) spent two millions of money on unemployed benefit, or 52*l.* per member in that period of 44 years?—Yes, I have no doubt those figures are correct.

4964. And if it were possible for the average skilled and unskilled labourer to be able to spend that amount the question of lack of employment would be met to a very large extent?—Yes, in trades in which the chance of being unemployed was not greater than the engineers.

4965. And in the event of this provision not having been made in those 44 years by engineers do you think that the community in other ways would have to have spent a similar amount either in poor law relief, or in relief works, or in other agencies?—I have no doubt there would have been a considerably greater expenditure in poor law relief.

4966. Then trade unions, as apart from conferring trade union benefits on their members, are frequently rate-reducing associations?—I think all these provident societies and friendly societies are of that kind.

4967. We now come to the various remedies and agencies that have been suggested for the unemployed. Have you paid much attention to labour colonies?—No, not apart from the information which is embodied in the Board of Trade Report.

4968. Did you yourself visit the colonies, an abstract report of which appears in your volume?—No, that was done by Professor Mavor, who is now in Toronto, who visited the colonies on behalf of the Board of Trade.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

4969. Have you yourself personally inspected the labour colonies?—No, except the Salvation Army colony at Hadleigh.

4970. The colonies that you describe in your Unemployed report, where they are not penitentiary and reformatory, are positively penal in their character and constitution?—There are penal colonies in Belgium and there are some in Holland, but the German labour colonies are free colonies, as they are called. They are not of the penal kind at all, nor are the Dutch so-called free colonies of the penal kind.

4971. Is it not a fact that in these colonies that are called free labour colonies the percentage of chronic vagabonds, tramps, and discharged prisoners, is very large and is proportionately increasing?—It is very large in the German labour colonies certainly; in fact, the figures show that 76 per cent. of the inmates have been at one time or another in prison, chiefly on charges of begging, vagabondage, and drunkenness.

4972. Then, apart from the penitentiary and compulsory reformatory labour colonies, and the free labour colonies which you have mentioned, which have 75 per cent. of their population discharged prisoners, there are no labour colonies as we understand the term in England?—Not unless you include that little colony at Starnthwaite conducted by the Home Colonisation Society.

4973. Have you any evidence with regard to Starnthwaite?—There is a short account which we published in this Unemployed volume, but I have not made inquiries since.

4974. What is the number of people in the Starnthwaite colony?—My figures are not further up to date, but I believe the number is very small.

4975. There are less than 40, are there not?—There were 22 persons at the time we made the report.

4976. The evidence to be adduced from an experiment of 22 persons would hardly be applicable to a labour colony of 2,000 unemployed workmen, indiscriminately selected, would it?—I should think it would certainly not be applicable to an indiscriminate selection of 2,000 persons.

4977. How do you view labour colonies as a remedial agency for the unemployed?—That is rather asking a question of opinion on policy.

4978. I will put it in another way. Have labour colonies, where started as a remedial agency for the unemployed, met with any success?—I think you may certainly say that the German labour colonies have not practically touched the question of fluctuation of employment in Germany; they have a floating population which use them, and come into them and go out of them, and come back again; but as regards the ordinary efficient unemployed workman, he does not choose to be one of the 24 per cent. of persons who have not been in prison in the colony. The classes will not mix.

4979. Would you compare these labour colonies with the old English casual wards?—They keep them a considerably longer time.

4980. These colonies are not places to which the average respectable workmen would gravitate even

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

even if they were out of work?—No; that is certainly so.

4981. Generally speaking, they are viewed with repugnance by the average workman and trades unionists on the Continent, are they not?—They do not seem to be regarded as places to which the efficient out of work workmen will go.

4982. Then beyond the 75 per cent. of discharged prisoners and the very poorest and unorganised of the unskilled labourers, labour colonies are not patronised?—I am speaking now of the German labour colonies; they are not. Of course, in Holland, it is quite a different system.

4983. Was it reported to you that the tendency of these labour colonies has been to reduce the relative high rate of wages in seasonal trades?—No; I cannot say that. The report we had tended to show that the influence of the colonies on the rates of wages in the ordinary market was practically insignificant, but that was due to the very fact that they did not embrace within them any large number of efficient workmen.

4984. I see that on page 287 of your own Report you say, "While this class of labourers would find it hard indeed to live were it not for the colonies, the apparent tendency is for the colony, in common with other forms of relief, to diminish the relatively high rates of wages in seasonal trades." Do you adhere to that paragraph in your report as applicable where it applies?—That paragraph refers, I think, to the effects which would be produced by colonies which embrace a considerable number of ordinary workmen. I have no doubt at all that any scheme which would find a subsidiary employment in the slack time for persons in seasonal trades would eventually tend to reduce the relatively high wages of persons engaged in the seasonal trades.

4985. Then a labour colony in your opinion, and in the state of your information, rehabilitates men, and where that is done by a non-competitive industry good is done to the men so rehabilitated, but where competition with other trades enters in then the proportion of the unemployed in the non-labour colony workmen is increased; is that so?—I hardly meant that. No doubt to the extent to which these agencies rehabilitate men they do an unmixed good. There is not much evidence that they rehabilitate men to any great extent in the German labour colonies, but if they do it I should regard it as an unmixed good without any counterbalancing danger that I can see, but, in speaking of reducing the relatively high wages in seasonal trades, I do not mean to say they would reduce the chance of employment in seasonal trades.

4986. They would lessen the prices?—What I mean is, supposing at present there is a trade which can only be carried on, let us say, nine months in the year; on the whole there will be a tendency for the rates of wages, while the men are employed, to be rather higher than they would with an equally skilled and eligible trade which went on for 12 months, and if some artificial means were found for supplying the three months' gap so that all the people employed in the nine months in the seasonal trades get another trade in three months, the forces which operate to keep up the wages in the nine months would no longer operate, and, in the end, the rates would fall.

4987. That assumes there is not already a trade existent for making over the 12 months what you anticipate will be made in the three?—No doubt.

4988. But is that so?—That is not so, but I thought you were still referring to this paragraph on page 287, and it was in connection with that, that my answer was given.

4989. I will take you to another paragraph on page 288 of this Report: "In the case of the colonies in the cities, it is said that brush makers, toy makers, and others whose industries are interfered with, look upon the colonies with no favourable eye;" is not that generally applicable to labour colonies all over Europe, whether they are free or reformatory?—It is applicable, more or less, to any efforts for finding work of any kind for people of a kind which is already carried on in the labour market. It is equally applicable to our casual wards, for example.

4990. But of course to a greater extent as machinery is used?—The more the volume of production the more the complaints are likely to be.

4991. Have you yourself visited the Hadleigh Colony?—Yes.

4992. Have you collected sufficient information or seen sufficient to enable you to give an opinion as to the wisdom of following that in other parts of the country?—The whole organisation of the social wing of the Salvation Army is so unique that it is difficult to contemplate its being multiplied all over the country. It is all part of one organisation, with its labour bureau, and its workshops and its farm colony.

4993. Do you think that the evidence furnished by Hadleigh Colony is sufficiently good for the municipalities to generally adopt such a system in connection with the recurrence of the unemployed question every year or two?—I do not think there is sufficient positive evidence at present, certainly.

4994. How long has it been in existence?—The social wing was first founded in 1891 and the farm colony was established in the course of the same year, but my personal knowledge of the colony is entirely based on a visit in the summer of 1893, when it had been going on for less than two years, I think.

4995. Are they all single men at that colony?—They are all either single, or living apart from their families.

4996. At Hadleigh, as in the Belgian, Dutch, and German colonies, the colonists are single men or married men living apart from their families?—Excepting the Dutch. The Dutch colonies are for men and their families.

4997. Do you think that a labour colony formed on the Hadleigh lines would be applicable to the married workmen?—No, I do not see how it is applicable to a man with a family.

4998. Do you think that, generally speaking, the workman, skilled or unskilled, in London or in any other big city, would voluntarily go to a labour colony for two or three months, or even for six months, rather than run the chance and risk of not finding employment for one or two months in a city of which he was a citizen. He would rather stay in the city, would he not?—

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

There is always a great difficulty, certainly. The city man wants a strong inducement to go out into the country.

4999. The city man has a great personal repugnance to country life?—Yes, that is so.

5000. And where he has a family that repugnance is increased?—I should think so in many cases.

5001. And generally speaking relief works and agencies for the unemployed in cities must generally be found in the cities themselves rather than in the country?—That is just the point on which I would rather the Committee drew its conclusions on the question of policy.

5002. In collecting information have you not gathered sufficient to form that view?—Most of the relief works are in the cities.

5003. Is it in the direction of starting new workshops in the country or distributing work over a wider number that the cities can provide for their unemployed?—I have little official information on this subject. We have not been administering relief works. It is rather from a statistical point of view that we have collected information.

5004. You have not overwhelming testimony on the part of the unemployed themselves in the cities of a desire for labour colonies and for agricultural employment?—No; both those have been frequently mentioned as possible remedies, but no experiment that has been carried on in this country can be regarded as conclusive in this sense.

5005. Is it not a fact that as contact with the difficulty of running labour colonies on agricultural work takes place, labour colonies are less popular to-day than they were 10 years ago for the unemployed?—It seems to me there has been so little done in this country, that probably the ordinary unemployed man has no knowledge on the subject.

5006. But is not the fact that there has been so little done rather proof that the average man in the street does not attach much importance to labour colonies?—There may be a great deal in that; but, on the other hand, it is only in times of depression that you get much serious discussion of these questions at all.

5007. Have you heard anything of complaints made by wood choppers and others of the competition of philanthropic agencies for relieving distress arising from want of employment?—Yes, I have heard of complaints.

5008. It has been said against the Salvation Army and the Church Army, and many of these philanthropic agencies?—Yes, undoubtedly complaints have been made.

5009. Would not a series of labour colonies scattered all over the country do with agricultural labour precisely what the Salvation Army has done with regard to the wood choppers?—I think that the allegation (I do not say with what truth the allegation was made) was that they undersold or sold at less than the market prices.

5010. But even if they sold at the same prices would not the increased volume of goods at the same price tend to lower the prices?—No doubt.

5011. And consequently operate to the disadvantage of the *bonâ fide* wood chopper?—No doubt every experiment which increases the production without increasing the demand must tend to lower the prices; but I think the specific complaints that I have in my mind were with regard to the underselling.

5012. With regard to the labour bureaus, their number is slowly increasing, is it not?—Yes; I think you may say that.

5013. Generally speaking, they have been established at the request and on the initiative of the trades unions in the district which, knowing the advantage of registration and organisation for their own unemployed, want labour bureaus for the unskilled unorganised; is that not so. Trades unions have shown no special antipathy to them?—Trades unions have shown no special antipathy to them, but I do not know that I could say that I have any information which shows they have been largely established on their initiative. I do not say that it is not so, but I did not know it.

5014. Would you say that the balance of advantage lay in local authorities having the labour bureaus open than otherwise?—I think there are certain advantages in their being in the hands of local authorities, but at present they have no powers.

5015. Some local authorities allege they have no powers, while others actually have labour bureaus, and they are both operating under the same Act?—The case has not been tested in the Law Courts that I am aware of.

5016. Do the figures which you have in your possession lead you to the belief that overtime in certain trades is increasing as compared with 10 years ago?—I am sorry to say we have no statistics of overtime. They are some of the most difficult statistics to collect. I have not neglected the subject, but I know nothing that really would throw much light upon it.

Chairman.

5017. Do you think there is any reason to suppose that trades unions pursue a plan of endeavouring to obtain a higher wage for their members by keeping a number of men always on the out of work list?—I do not think the trade unions consciously or deliberately pursue a policy of that kind; but I think the fact of the existence of unemployed benefit and also of a standard of time wage enforced by the trades unions must, to some extent, which would vary in different trades, tend to keep a certain small margin of their members on unemployed benefit, who, if there was no such thing as a standard wage or unemployed benefit, might be in employment at lower rates, and to that extent the unemployed benefit promotes the policy of the trade union in maintaining the standard wage.

5018. I think one of the most salient points shown by your chart and by the information you have given us is, that there remains apparently under all circumstances a certain almost inevitable residuum of men constantly out of work?—There remains a certain residuum permanently of men out of work, but they are not necessarily individually permanently out of work.

5019. There is a certain margin as is disclosed by the trade union figures?—Yes.

Mr. JOHN THOMAS PILDITCH, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

5020. YOU are surveyor to the Vestry of the Parish of St, Mary, Battersea?—Yes.

5021. Your vestry has from time to time made, I believe, elaborate and careful provision for meeting distress arising from want of employment?—We have endeavoured to do so for several years past.

5022. It would be perhaps convenient for you and for the Committee to take the years as they come in order; will you say what the vestry did in 1891?—In 1891, and I may say in 1892, the most we did in those years was in connection with snow cleansing. We spent in 1890 and 1891 between 600*l.* and 700*l.* in snow cleansing. In 1892 the weather was not so severe, and the amount was less, something under 300*l.*

5023. In those years the number of unemployed was not so great as subsequently?—No; we had not the difficulties then to contend with in those years that seem to have grown upon us lately.

5024. In 1892 there was not so much snow to clear, and therefore you did not spend so much in clearing it?—No, we did not feel the difficulties in those years so much. In 1892–93 it became somewhat difficult. In that year we endeavoured to put together all the work that we could possibly put our hand upon, which mainly consisted in the making-up of new roads, painting and repairs, and reinstating buildings, masonry, and paving works, and in fact everything that we could think of. During the winter time of that year, including the snow cleansing, which was not very heavy, we spent between 6,000*l.* and 7,000*l.* That was the total cost.

5025. What average number of men did you employ?—The total number of extra men was about 427, exclusive of the snow clearing. We put on 1,142 men in addition to that for snow clearing during that year. Passing then to 1893–94, that was an exceptionally severe year, and we endeavoured to find, and succeeded in finding a vast amount of work to do during the winter months, so much so that the amount we spent in round figures was nearly 14,000*l.*

5026. In what precise period?—It extended into the May of 1894, but it was from the autumn of 1893 to 1894. That was mainly new roads.

5027. Can you state how much you spent in painting, how much on snow clearing, how much on road making, and so on?—We spent about 1,400*l.* in sewer works; we spent in paving and masonry works 200*l.* to 300*l.* Then during the winter months we purposely built some chalet conveniences for the use of the public which took another 1,000*l.*, and we made up a number of new roads amounting probably to some 3,000*l.* We put up a new concrete wall by the river, and inclosed a portion of the river for the benefit of the public, making a garden there, and we spent over 2,000*l.* Then we had a large amount of painting to do; we painted all our buildings and public conveniences, and that sort of thing which otherwise might have been done during the summer; we availed ourselves of the unemployed men and painted them during the winter. We spent, I daresay, 1,000*l.* upon that. Altogether we spent from first to last on the painting, new roads, sewers, and other things, something like 13,000*l.* or 14,000*l.* altogether.

Chairman—continued.

5028. You reclaimed a small portion of the foreshore of the Thames?—We did, and built the river wall that I have mentioned. We have since converted that into a garden for the pleasure of the public.

5029. In other words, by looking ahead, you put aside certain works to be done in the winter in order to have something on which to employ men who were out of work?—Yes; as an illustration of that, I consider that we have practically got over the unemployed difficulty, now that we are getting out of March, because by the end of March it is practically all over. We have a quantity of work coming on now which we shall in all probability not touch till the end of the year. I have recently received instructions in fact to set aside some paving works that otherwise would have gone on this summer, till the end of the year, amounting to 10,000*l.*, and I have two other matters coming on, and probably in the course of another month I may be able to say I have something like 12,000*l.* to spend during the winter even if nothing else is placed in my hands.

5030. Is that the kind of work that can be done during frost?—I am sorry to say frost puts a stop to most things, but, as long as you get anything like open weather it can go on. For instance, it was open weather until the turn of Christmas, because we did not experience any frost until January set in. Right up to Christmas we had a free hand, and we could work as fast as we liked.

5031. You have given us the figures for 1893–94. Can you say anything of this winter which is now ending?—For 1894–95 I have not got exactly what our expenditure is up to this last week, but we have already spent very nearly 5,500*l.* in works we have been carrying on during the winter. I should not be surprised to find that next year we shall have 15,000*l.* to deal with at least.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5032. Very much less than you had last?—Yes, we did not have so much work to put our hands on. Of course we do not make the work, but if we can reasonably create work for the benefit of the parish we do so. We found during the winter months a great many of our sewers were out of order, and we found we might as well put those sewers in order as keep them to the summer.

Chairman.

5033. The winter being open, you could do it?—We worked right through the winter; in fact, it was an exceptionally fine season for work of that nature.

Chairman—continued.

5034. Who are these unemployed which you employ on these works, and how do you select them?—We take them on through the labour bureau. I used not to, but I do now. The labour bureau has been started for that purpose as the centre through which labour can be obtained, and therefore we take them through the labour bureau. I do not take the men through the labour bureau indiscriminately; I endeavour to get such men as I feel will do justice to the work on which I am employing them; and, in addition to that, if there is a preference to be given, I prefer to give it to the married man with five or six children to the unmarried man with no encumbrance.

5035. Do you confine it to men resident in the parish?—We have done so.

5036. Is the labour bureau maintained by the public authority?—It is maintained by the vestry; in fact, it is attached to our public buildings.

5037. Do you find that successful?—I find no difficulty with it whatever.

5038. Does it attract the men; do they come and register themselves?—I find more in the winter months than in the summer months. There is not that application to the bureau of what I should term the better class of artizans, and so forth, that there is in the winter months, when men are actually out of employment.

5039. Do you know of any circumstances connected with your parish which would imply that it is different from its neighbours at all; do you think the same course could be followed by other vestries that has been followed by you?—Most decidedly, I think so. We have experienced no difficulty. We give employment at the time of year when distress is in existence.

5040. The difference appears to be that you look ahead and prepare beforehand subjects for work during the coming winter?—That is so, we endeavour to create as much work during the winter months as we can; that is what we do.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5041. In your parish you have transferred nearly all your local parish work, have you not, from contract labour to direct employment?—Yes.

5042. You have now practically a regular staff, have you not, employed on your roads, in dusting, scavenging, and so forth?—Yes.

5043. Your men work eight hours, do they not?—Yes.

5044. Have you reduced overtime, if not absolutely abolished it?—We do not admit overtime, except very rarely.

5045. Why have you abolished overtime?—To give as much employment to the greatest number of men as possible.

5046. In the event of a local improvement being contemplated, do you adapt the carrying-out of that improvement (provided there is no sanitary disadvantage) to the condition of the labour market?—Yes.

5047. From 1890 to 1895 your parish has spent under those conditions the sum of 42,000*l.*, has it not?—I should think it would represent something like that sum.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

5048. You contend that in spending the bulk of that money between the months of October, or, say, November, and the end of February, you really prevent a lot of distress, and give the *bonâ fide* genuine unemployed men an opportunity for tiding through the winter more easily than they would have done if that amount of money had been spent without any regard to lack of employment?—I think so.

5049. May I put it in this way: that if that 42,000*l.* worth of work had been afforded in the spring and summer and autumn probably, with a great deal of overtime, instead of in the winter, probably your local poor rates or your private charity would have had a greater demand upon them than they had under your conditions of employment?—Yes, I think the distress would have been greater.

5050. You think that more men would have gone to the stone-yard?—Yes.

5051. That is to say, the men who by your present method of arrangement of your work now have done the repairs of the roads and sewer work, snow-sweeping, and so forth?—No doubt our system is the means of preventing many men from applying to the union for relief.

5052. You have simply, in Battersea, re-apportioned and re-organised the local work to be done to climatic and industrial contingencies?—That is all.

5053. Generally speaking, you think the parish receives no harm from it, whilst the *bonâ fide* unemployed receive some measure of good?—I think so.

5054. Did I understand you to say you have put aside, if this frost had not come in the way, something like 10,000*l.* to be spent in the winter for new roads, and the making up of old roads and channelling?—No, I said we had 10,000*l.* provided for works, which, in ordinary circumstances, but for this question of employment, we should go on and spend now, but rather than do that we have postponed it, and propose to spend the 10,000*l.* next winter.

5055. In deferring that amount of work to be done you inflict no injury upon your district, do you?—None whatever; the work can keep, and I rather fancy it is a benefit, because it gives us a little more time to organise the work.

5056. On this work, whenever it is carried out, you exact a full day's work, the same as you would if it were carried out in May, June, or July under ordinary conditions?—Just the same.

5057. Your supervision is no less strict with what I might term the unemployed workmen in regard to the money that is earmarked for that purpose than it would be if you had not this unemployed contingency at all?—No, because in the winter time, to which this money is devoted, we can get better men than at any other time.

5058. You get a better class of men?—A better class of men apply in the winter than apply at this time of the year.

5059. Am I to gather that you have a greater variety of higher grade of skill between October and February to select from than you would have in May, June, and July?—Undoubtedly.

5060. Consequently, you get a better class of workmen?—Yes.

5061. Do

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

5061. Do you consider your district suffers in any way any disadvantage from this system of ear-marking and allocating the work?—I cannot see any disadvantage. I know of none.

5062. Generally speaking, you believe it does a great deal of good to the genuine unemployed workmen in your district?—Undoubtedly they get the benefit at a time of the year when they most want it.

5063. As regards such work as painting water carts, painting lavatories, and painting of street name plates, and many other pieces of work ordinarily done in spring and summer, do you find any difficulty or waste in doing that kind of work in the winter?—No. Of course we are subject to changes of weather that affect it.

5064. But I mean apart from very severe frost?—Apart from very severe frost and continuous heavy rain, there is none.

5065. A normal winter generally enables you to carry on all the class of work you as a surveyor want to do in your parish?—Yes, an ordinary normal winter would.

5066. Have you gathered anything from the unemployed men themselves about what I may call (to put it frankly) the loafer, do you find the genuine unemployed men as a rule resent the taking on of a loafer?—Yes, they do.

5067. And generally speaking in your district do they talk very plainly to him?—Yes, they do.

5068. And rather straightly about him?—Yes; in fact, I am never troubled with that class of man except when the genuine workman is out of employment.

5069. When the genuine workman comes to you for work the loafer expects to get on for two or three days so as to get sufficient money for two or three days' drink, and then he tries to get on again?—He swells the number.

5070. Do you find generally the average workman is down on him?—Yes, they do not care for working with him either.

5071. As a rule, do you find that the workmen co-operate with you and eliminate him?—Yes.

5072. Have you formed any opinion as to the moral effect upon the men of recurring relief works?—We do not call ours relief works.

5073. Yours is unemployed work, regular work?—Yes, then there is nothing to reflect upon the men. They take our work the same as they take any work.

5074. Supposing that 4,000*l.* were spent on the employment of able-bodied men by the guardians in your district in stone-yard work and picking oakum, and so forth; and supposing that instead of spending the 4,000*l.* in that way it was given to you, do you not think you could spend the money on your roads and streets with greater advantage morally and physically to the men and to the parish than results from the authority spending it in the stone-yard?—I think so.

5075. You think there would be less demoralising effects, and the parish would get more value for their money?—Yes; but probably we should not be able to dispense the money over the same number of persons, because I presume they would dispense it at a lower rate.

5076. I am speaking of able-bodied men?—I do not suppose that an able-bodied man would get with them the 6*d.* or 7*d.* that we should pay.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

5077. Supposing the 4,000*l.* was spent upon the able-bodied men in the stone-yard by the Poor Law authorities, would you not, as a surveyor employing men at current rates of wages, under your discipline and *régime*, even if you employed the same men as are now working in the stone-yard, get better results both from the point of view of the men themselves and of the parish by the expenditure of that money yourself?—Yes; I have taken men from the stone-yard and employed them upon our roads.

5078. Have you been doing that?—They asked me to take for two or three years some 200 men, and I took them. They sent me down a list of able-bodied deserving men, and I took them and employed them on various works on the roads.

5079. Is it not a general impression that if a man in the stone-yard earns, say 3*d.* an hour under the stone-yard superintendent, under your clerk of the works he does earn his 6*d.*?—Yes; we should not employ him a second time if he did not.

5080. You get a better quality of work out of the man at 6*d.* an hour than they get in the stone-yard at 3*d.*?—Yes.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

5081. Do you pay the same rate of wages in winter as in summer?—Yes, just the same.

5082. And you get a better class of men in winter, you say?—We get a better class of workmen in winter than in summer.

5083. So that you get better value for your money?—Yes.

5084. So that it is really an economical advantage to do the work in winter instead of doing it in summer?—Yes.

5085. Do you know if that system is adopted elsewhere?—I believe not; I believe we were almost the first parish to take the question up in the spirit we have.

5086. Have you taken any steps to make known its advantages to mankind in general?—No, I have not.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5087. You have told us, I understand, that this amount of work increases from year to year?—I think I said that it increases or diminishes according to circumstances.

5088. Is it not the fact that in 1892-3 it amounted to 6,700*l.*, and in 1893-4 it amounted to 14,000*l.*; then it fell, but you are providing for 1895-6 a large sum for this purpose?—Yes.

5089. That is correct is it?—That is so.

5090. Do you think that people in the district rely upon this work instead of looking out for work for themselves?—Now that they find that we are adopting the system they begin to look for it towards the winter months.

5091. It is becoming looked upon as a natural thing, and they expect to get this work?—They do.

5092. Do you think that is an advantage?—It is an advantage only from one point of view, namely, that it finds work for men in the winter months who otherwise would not be employed; that I take it is an advantage.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

5093. You think it is an advantage for a continually increasing number of men to depend upon work which you provide for them in the winter in this way?—I think if every parish were to adopt the same system, it would give a vast amount of gratification among the labouring class to know that there was a certain amount of work which they could reasonably look forward to during the winter months.

5094. You think that is an advantage, do you?—I do.

5095. Why is it that ordinary people do not do this sort of work in winter time?—I believe contractors think that they can do their work to greater advantage in the summer time than in the winter time; there may be a little in that; but I do not think there is very much.

5096. Do you not think that building work, such as you have referred to of various kinds, is better done at the time of year when there is no chance of frost?—I have no doubt that is so to a certain extent, but when you look at the benefit that is obtained by the masses, any little loss that you may sustain in that direction is, I think, counteracted.

5097. You think it is a good thing in every parish to make the mass of the people feel that that they can depend upon you for work in the winter months?—No; I do not think that they should depend or make sure that they are going to have work, but I think they should have an idea that the local authority in the parish in which they reside are doing the best they can to provide employment for those who are out of work.

5098. Is it not perfectly well known that you are putting by this money which you speak of for next winter?—Certainly; but if I had three times that amount to spend I do not suppose I could employ a tenth of the men who will apply to us for work; but the mere fact that we are doing something to alleviate the distress, and find employment during the winter months, give satisfaction. The people who get employment are satisfied, and those who do not get employment express a certain amount of gratification that you that you have done what you have done.

5099. You think that is an advantage?—I do.

5100. You think that overcomes the disadvantage of a large number of actual persons in the district depending upon you, although you can only find work for a comparatively small number of them?—It gives the amount of satisfaction I have stated. I am certain that both last year and the year before, having regard to the immense number that were out of work, if the local authorities had not done something to endeavour to alleviate the distress, there would have been a vast amount of disturbance. As it was, they took the efforts of the local authority in the spirit in which they were intended and appreciated them.

5101. Do you wish Battersea to be known as the place where this is done?—We have no objection.

Chairman.

5102. But you confine the work to your own people, I understand?—We have done so hitherto, but I am not quite sure that that will always be so.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5103. You do not wish to confine it to your own people then?—We have confined it to our people for this reason; that probably we are the only parish in London that has done it to any extent, and we do not wish it to be known all over London that Battersea is the only place where men could get work in the winter time. We are pretty well flooded as it is, and I do not know what the result would be if that idea got about.

5104. You say you are pretty well flooded as it is in Battersea?—It is essentially a working-class neighbourhood.

5105. I gather then that a great number of people are disappointed?—We cannot employ everybody who applies.

5106. Then yours is not a cure for the unemployed?—Not an absolute cure.

5107. What do you mean by "not an absolute cure"?—An absolute cure would be one which would enable us to employ everybody that applied; but, unfortunately, we cannot do that. If every parish was to give this work to the extent that we have done, no doubt the number of applicants who come to us might be diminished.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5108. Chelsea, for instance?—Yes, Chelsea, which is an adjoining parish to ours.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5109. Do you think it is possible to find work in your parish for everybody who wants work in the winter months?—No.

5110. If you cannot do it in your parish, have you any reason to think that it could be done in other parishes?—I say that if every parish in London were to do the same thing, probably the number of applications in our parish would be reduced. As things are at present we have to bear our own burden, and the burden of the adjoining parishes also.

5111. Then you think that at the present men come to your parish from outside?—I know that during last winter in the snowy season I found men who came from as far as Roehampton to Battersea.

5112. What did you do with them?—I detected two men and put them off.

5113. Do you take the trouble to investigate the case of every man whom you employ?—I cannot do so in extreme cases, such as in heavy snow storms, because you have to put these men on at six or seven o'clock in the morning, quite early, and probably before nine o'clock in the morning you have put 400 or 500 men on to work (I have done so before now), and it is impossible to check them all. I have a system by which their names and addresses are put in a book; but if a man gives a false name or a false address you have no means of testing it for the time being.

5114. That only applies to special cases of snow storms?—I am speaking more particularly of cases of that kind.

5115. Of course all parishes put on people to work on occasions of that sort?—Yes.

5116. I am referring to your regular work which

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

which you have told us about?—I have not had men from other parishes working at our regular work.

5117. You confine that to men of your own parish?—Yes.

5118. You think it is a good thing to encourage the unemployed of every parish to look forward to parish employment in the winter months?—Yes, I do, because I think the local authorities themselves would be doing a great amount of benefit by causing as much work as they possibly can to be done when work generally is at a standstill.

5119. You think that is likely to decrease the measure of the unemployed?—It must do so to a very large extent if it were universally adopted.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

5120. Can you give us any idea in regard to the rates in Battersea?—I have not the rates with me. I would have looked at them before I came if I had thought it likely I should be asked about them. Our rates, I know, are lower this year than they were last year.

5121. Is that the result of the equalisation of rates?—I think so.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5122. Perhaps I may refresh your memory; the rates in 1894 were 6*s.* 5*d.* in the pound, and the Equalisation of Rates Act reduced them down to 6*s.* 1*d.*, and they are now 5*s.* 11½*d.* this quarter?—Yes, I know they are very low.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

5123. The tendency, I suppose, has been for the rates to rise since you commenced this system which you have been describing?—No, I do not think our system has in any way tended to raise the rates.

5124. Do you not think that the expense of carrying out the works which you have carried out in winter instead of in summer tends to make the work more costly?—What I said was that the probable percentage on the cost would be a little more.

5125. Can you give us any idea what the increased cost of doing this work in the winter months would be?—That very much depends upon the season.

5126. Take an ordinary winter?—In an ordinary winter I should think the increase of the percentage is very small; but if you have a lot of inclement weather when the men are obliged to be continually standing off, and the works get saturated, the percentage of loss might increase. Everything depends upon the weather. I should say that last winter up to Christmas, before the snow set in, there would be no difference.

5127. I think you told us that the labourers you employ come mostly through the labour bureau; can you give us any information as to the numbers that have placed their names on the books of the labour bureau from year to year, for the last five years we will say; have the numbers increased?—The numbers have increased steadily year by year; but I have not got the figures here for each year. I see that in 1894, taking the

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

males, the total registered number of names was 2,361, and, taking the females, the number was 297. I have not got the last returns with me.

5128. Can you give us the figures for the year previous to that?—In the year previous to that the numbers were greater. In 1893 the total registered number of males was 3,751 and of females 678.

5129. You do not make any attempt to employ females, do you?—Yes; we occasionally go to the labour bureau for women cleaners or any work of that kind.

5130. But not to any large extent, I presume?—Not to any large extent.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5131. Are your vestry unanimous in adopting this policy; can you speak for the whole vestry?—I can only speak for it as a vestry. The majority, of course, rules. I cannot say that every member of the vestry is agreeable to the system.

5132. Is there a large minority against it?—No, I cannot say that.

5133. There is not a large minority against it?—No.

5134. You say you have a certain number of applicants for employment whom you cannot satisfy; has the number of applicants who have to be refused risen greatly since 1891?—No; I should not think so.

5135. You do require a test of residency in the case of your regular works, I understand?—Yes.

5136. Do you find it easy to enforce the condition of residency?—The men know that we adopt a system of inquiry. After we have put a number of men on, I pick them out here and there, and have inquiries made as to the truth of the statements they have made.

5137. Speaking, generally, do you find it practically easy to limit yourselves to residence in the parish in the case of works other than emergency works?—Yes.

Mr. *Mather.*

5138. Does Battersea enjoy any peculiar privilege at the present time in being able to enter upon public works; I mean any privilege greater than that which other parts of London enjoy?—None that I am aware of.

5139. Is not Battersea an outlying district, having reclaimed a small portion of the suburbs of the district into part of its township, and therefore requiring a large amount of public works to be done?—I do not think that is more so now with us than with any other parish. You might have said so 20 or 30 years ago, but you cannot say so now.

5140. Do you look forward to being able in perpetuity to find work in the winter months to the extent of 12,000*l.* or 15,000*l.* a year for your population in Battersea?—No, I should say not.

5141. What would they have to depend on; what amount would you have to spend?—All we should have to spend in the winter months if we adopted the system in the future would be any amount of money which we could set aside for

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

work during the winter months; it might be large or small.

5142. You would not, of course, create work; it would be spent upon work that was necessary for the benefit of the community?—We have always studiously avoided creating work.

5143. Of course there is no peculiarity in allocating work during the winter months; the same thing is done for in many towns of Lancashire; it is not peculiar to Battersea, is it?—It is peculiar to Battersea so far as London is concerned.

5144. Can you give us any idea of the number of the proportionate unemployed in Battersea that you are able to accommodate with work of the character you have described?—No, I have no idea of the total number of unemployed in Battersea, which it would be necessary to know before I could answer that question.

5145. Would it be a fourth, or half, or a third of the people you know to be out of employment, judging from the numbers that apply at your Labour Bureau?—At an extreme measure it might be, perhaps, a fifth.

5146. You employ a fifth of the total number requiring employment?—I should think we did during last winter.

5147. If that system was adopted throughout London, no doubt a fraction, a considerable fraction, of the unemployed would be dealt with in that way, if the other parishes had public works to undertake such as you have?—Yes.

5148. In undertaking this work, which is seasonable work, as a rule in a season not generally adapted to it, that is, in doing this work in the winter, do you find that in summer you are debarring others from employment who otherwise would have taken it then?—No, because if we were to seek for these men in the summer months we should have a difficulty in obtaining them; they are already employed in other directions.

5149. During last winter, when the frost was so severe, you could do nothing to help this class of persons, except in employing them in removing snow in the streets?—When the frost was on.

5150. That, of course, was an abnormal state of things?—Yes.

5151. As regards the four-fifths whom you were not able to employ, would you consider that on the whole they were pretty much of the same character as the men whom you did employ?—No.

5152. Do you mean that they were graded and you took the *crême de la crême*, so to speak, of the applicants, and that all those whom you did not employ were of a less efficient class?—I think we had the best of them.

5153. But you would not say that the four-fifths whom you did not take were all unworthy of employment?—I would not say that for a moment.

5154. Nor that they were all persons who would be regarded as paupers, or would be willing to be treated as paupers by boards of guardians?—No.

Friday, 29th March 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. ALFRED NICOL HENDERSON, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

5155. YOU are Clerk to the Guardians of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union?—I am.

5156. What area does that union comprise?—Eleven thousand four hundred and fifty-four acres. It is the largest union in the Metropolis.

5157. In point of population how does it stand?—The population, according to the last census in 1891, was 307,389. According to the estimated population by the County Council in April 1894, estimated for the purposes of the equalisation of rates, it is 332,542. It is the largest union in population in the Metropolis.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5158. Is that correct; what do you say as to Islington?—According to the latest published estimate, our population is 9,000, or a considerable figure, higher than Islington.

Chairman.

5159. Can you give any account of the general nature of the population; is it a working class population or a better class population?—It is comprised in six parishes, namely, Battersea, Clapham, Putney, Streatham, Tooting Graveney, and Wandsworth. Battersea would contain a large number of the working class, and Wandsworth also.

5160. The rest of the parishes are more residential, are they not?—Yes, Clapham, Streatham and Tooting would be more residential.

5161. What is the rateable value of the union?—The rateable value is 1,962,355*l.* It has about doubled in the last 20 years. It comprises an outlying district of London that has been built upon very much. For instance, in 1875 the number of houses assessed was 24,701, and at the last quinquennial revision in 1890 it was 49,110. So that in 15 years it has practically doubled; and the same applies to the population.

5162. As to the amount of the rate, can you state what it has been for some years back and what it is at present?—As guardians we do not

Chairman—continued.

have anything to do with the rate; we merely tell the overseers and the people who make the rate what we want, and the rate is made out upon what the School Board and everybody else wants. But I anticipated the question would be asked, and I have here the latest return published by the County Council; from which it appears that the total rate in Battersea parish is 6*s.* 3*d.*, and 5*s.* 11*d.* as altered by the Equalisation of Rates Fund.

5163. Those are the rates for all purposes?—Yes; I am speaking of the total. Of course the rates vary in each parish. In the parish of Clapham it was 6*s.* 7*d.*, and as altered by the Equalisation of Rates Fund it is 6*s.* 6·19*d.* In the parish of Putney it was 6*s.* 6*d.*, and as altered by the Equalisation of Rates Fund it is 6*s.* 5.45*d.* In the parish of Streatham it was 6*s.* 2*d.*, and as altered by the Equalisation of Rates Fund it is 6*s.* 1·35*d.* In Tooting Graveney it was 7*s.*, and as altered by the Equalisation of Rates Fund it is 6*s.* 10·95*d.* In Wandsworth it was 6*s.* 3*d.*, and as altered by the Equalisation of Rates Fund it is 6*s.* 2·16*d.*

5164. Can you give us how much of that is poor rate?—In the parish of Battersea, for the year 1893–94, the poor rate was 3*s.* 6½*d.*

5165. And in Clapham?—The poor rate in Clapham was 3*s.* 6*d.* In Putney it was 3*s.* 6*d.*; in Streatham, 3*s.* 6*d.*; in Tooting, 3*s.* 6*d.*; and in Wandsworth, 3*s.* 4*d.*

5166. What is included in the poor rate?—The poor rate in London is, of course, very different from the poor rate outside London. The poor rate in London includes all the County Council calls. This 3*s.* 6*d.* would include about 1*s.* 1*d.* or 1*s.* 2*d.* which we pay to the London County Council; it would include all payments to the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund; it includes the police rate, and it includes some of the overseers' expenses of registration, vaccination, and so on. I saw that the poor rate at West Ham, the other day, was stated to be very much

Chairman—continued.

lower than ours. The explanation is that the poor rate is quite differently constituted in the metropolis from what it is outside the metropolis.

5167. Could you say how much of this poor rate deals with the poor pure and simple?—I could hardly give a definite figure at the moment.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5168. Is it not 1*s.* 9*d.*?—Speaking from memory I should say that what the guardians themselves spend is not more than one-third of the whole poor rate. I know it is very small as compared with the total.

Chairman.

5169. Has it been increasing of late years?—Yes, it has been increasing.

5170. I do not mean as including all the County Council purposes, but have the expenses of the maintenance of the poor been increasing?—Yes; the number of poor have increased considerably during the last few years.

5171. Has it increased in proportion to the increased valuation?—We have no separate poor rate; it is all included in one. For instance, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, if there is a severe epidemic over London, may want 20,000*l.* one year; whereas for two or three years previously they had only asked for 7,000*l.* It is large items of that sort that affect the poor rate.

5172. Do you think that the actual money required for the maintenance of the poor in your union has increased at a greater ratio than your valuation?—I will give the figures for the in-maintenance and out-relief for the last 10 years if that would assist the Committee.

5173. Will you do so?—The in-maintenance for 1885 was 16,899*l.*, and the out-relief 6,456*l.*; in 1886 the in-maintenance was 19,034, and the out-relief 7,509; in 1887 the in-maintenance was 24,342, and the out-relief 7,578; in 1888 the in-maintenance was 23,994*l.* and the out-relief 7,940*l.*; in 1889 the in-maintenance was 27,751*l.* and the out-relief 7,707*l.*; in 1890 the in-maintenance was 27,412*l.* and the out-relief 7,284*l.*; in 1891 the in-maintenance was 28,935*l.* and the out-relief 7,530*l.*; in 1892 the in-maintenance was 32,289*l.* and the out-relief 8,129*l.*; in 1893 the in-maintenance was 31,013*l.* and the out-relief 9,441*l.*; and in 1894 the in-maintenance was 34,686*l.* and the out-relief 12,185*l.*

5174. Can you give any account of the reasons for the increases in certain of those years. For instance, the in-door relief, while the out-door relief remained almost steady, went up in 1889 from 23,000*l.* to 27,000*l.*; and again, in 1892 from 28,935*l.* to 32,289*l.*; was there any particular reason for that?—There is no particular reason for that.

5175. Was it due to bad trade?—In 1889 and 1890, or about that time, we built a new workhouse, which was more expensive to administer than the other. That would account for the increase in the in-maintenance to some extent.

5176. It gave you more accommodation, I presume?—Yes, we had more accommodation and more officers, and it is a very large place, whereas before it was all under one building. No doubt

Chairman—continued.

that would explain the difference as to the year 1889–90.

5177. You got better accommodation then?—Yes.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5178. Would it account for the fall in the out-relief in the same periods?—The out-relief depends somewhat upon the composition of the board; the board changes, and sometimes it favours out-relief and sometimes it takes rather the opposite policy.

Mr. *David Randell.*

5179. How was the population during these years; had there been a steady growth upwards?—It has been growing very fast indeed. At the last census this district showed an increase of over 100,000; so that it contributed about a quarter of the whole increase of the Metropolis.

Chairman.

5180. In 1894 there is an increase of 3,500*l.* in in-door relief and of about 3,000*l.* in out-relief?—Yes, the numbers did go up considerably that year. I do not think the out-relief has gone up in the same proportion in the year that has just ended. We had a little bother with our out-relief; we had a committee of inquiry and sifted the thing, and I think we have stopped the increase considerably.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5181. For the last year, where a great increase is noted, you had some trouble with your relieving officers, did you not; you dismissed some of them for malversation?—That was so; but there is really another year since the date represented by the figure I have given, which is for the year ending March 1894.

Chairman.

5182. Of course you have not the figures for the following year yet; it is not completed?—No; but I could give you the figures for a few months.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5183. Am I to gather that the 34,686*l.* for in-door relief and 12,135*l.* for out-relief was money spent in the same year that you had your committee of inquiry, and in which, in consequence of the committee of inquiry's investigations, certain relieving officers were dismissed and the whole district reconstituted?—I cannot say that accounts for the whole difference.

5184. It happened in the same year, did it?—The committee formed new rules and thoroughly sifted and reorganised the thing.

Chairman.

5185. They tightened the whole administration?—They tried to do so, and I do not think there has been a corresponding increase during the next year.

5186. In order to test that, can you compare the months of December and January of this winter with December and January of last winter?—Yes; I can give you every week for January 1894 as compared with January 1895, or

Chairman—continued.

or if you wish I can give the first 13 weeks of 1894 and 1895.

5187. Will you do so?—In the first week of January this year the out-relief was 257*l.*, as against 302*l.* in 1894; in the second week of January it was 269*l.* as against 281*l.* in 1894; in the third week 285*l.* as against 316*l.* in 1894; in the fourth week 291*l.* as against 314*l.* in 1894; in the fifth week 300*l.* as against 296*l.* in 1894 (you will observe this is where the severe weather set in and the number in the stoneyard increased very much); in the sixth week it was 302*l.* as against 296*l.* in 1894; in the seventh week 343*l.* as against 278*l.* in 1894; in the eighth week 375*l.* as against 286*l.* in 1894; in the ninth week 362*l.* as against 273*l.* in 1894; in the tenth week 334*l.* as against 228*l.* in 1894; in the eleventh week 317*l.* as against 224*l.* in 1894; and in the twelfth week 297*l.* as against 226*l.* in 1894. You will observe from those figures that the relief was less this year till the very severe frost set in, and then it would be more.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5188. Can you give us the thirteenth week?—No.

5189. What was the date of the last week you gave us?—The week ending the 20th of March.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5190. Can you say whether this week was more or less than last week?—I could not say. The books are not made up. I can give you the total amount expended in out-relief for the months of January and February for three years. In 1895 the total for January and February was 2,783*l.*; in 1894 it was 2,643*l.*; and, in 1893 it was 2,125*l.*

Chairman.

5191. Until the frost set in this year, you appear to have been better off than you were the year before?—I can give the numbers in the stoneyard which will show that.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

5192. Those figures will not tally, will they, with the eight weeks of detailed figures which you have given?—I think so. In the one year the figures are at the beginning of the period, and in the other they are more at the end. March is not included in the total I have just given.

Chairman.

5193. You were going to give us the numbers in the stoneyard?—Yes. The stoneyard was opened in 1894 on the 12th of December, and it is ordered to be closed next Wednesday, that is, the 3rd of April. In 1893 it was opened in November, and was closed on the 27th of February. Comparing the numbers in the stoneyard in 1894, it was opened on the 12th of December, and on the first day there were 18, whereas on the corresponding day in 1893 there were 174 there.

5194. But in the previous year it had been in operation for some time at that date, and was better known perhaps; would that affect it?—I do not think that would affect it at all. It had been opened about five years. It is usual to open it in the winter.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5195. If you would read out the weeks consecutively, we could take them more easily?—I have the figures for every day, if the Committee would like to have them.

Chairman.

5196. You could put in the full details to be printed in the Appendix, but we should be glad if you could quote to us just now one day which was a good typical day in the week?—I will give you four days in each month. On the 12th of December this winter there were 18 and 174 last winter; on the 19th of December this winter there were 25 and 197 last winter; on the 29th of December there were 75 this winter and 172 last winter; on the 4th of January there were 95 this winter and 86 last winter; on the 10th of January there were 114 this winter and 169 last winter; on the 17th of January there were 129 this winter and 188 last winter; on the 24th of January there were 136 this winter and 159 last winter; on the 31st of January there were 165 this winter and 141 last winter; on the 7th of February there were 177 this winter and 125 last winter; on the 16th of February there were 266 this winter and 134 last winter. That is during the very severe weather; 266 is the highest number we had this year.

5197. Was there severe weather earlier in the winter last year on the days you have quoted when the numbers were so much larger last year than they are this year; was that owing to frost at that time?—I do not remember. On the 22nd of February there were 239 this winter and 139 last winter; on the 27th of February there were 173 this winter and 66 last winter. Those numbers are considerably affected by this fact, that since about January in last year they only allowed them four days' work, whereas this year they have allowed them since January to work six days a week; so that the numbers are not quite comparable.

5198. Will you say what steps the guardians took this year to meet the distress; will you tell us how you instituted your stoneyard, and what conditions you imposed, and so forth?—The guardians received a deputation on the 6th of December to open the stoneyard.

Mr. *John Burns*

5199. From whom was that deputation?—From the unemployed. The matter was referred to a special committee to consider the arrangement to be made for the opening of the stoneyard, and their report was as follows: "That your committee carefully considered the question referred to them, and in pursuance of the power vested in them, gave directions for the following instructions, which were in force last winter, to be again carried out, viz. (*a*) For men applying for work in the stoneyard to be permitted to work only four days per week, and to only receive relief according to the scale, in respect of such four days." That was rescinded after about a month, and the men were allowed to work six days a week.

5200. Why was that altered?—I think the unemployed came up and said it was very hard they could not work six days instead of four days, and the board rescinded that resolution. The

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

guardians also decided that no orders to work in the stoneyard should be given to single men or widowers, and married men under 50 years of age without children dependent on them.

Mr. *Logan.*

5201. Does that mean that only married men over 50 with children were to be allowed to work in the stoneyard?—No; all married men with children were allowed to work there.

5202. But no single men were allowed?—No single men, nor married men under 50 without children dependent on them. The daily scale was as follows: for a man and wife, the man being over 50 years of age, 5*d.* in money, 6*d.* in grocery, and 4 lbs. of bread; for a man with a wife and one child, 6*d.* in money, 6*d.* in grocery, and 4 lbs. of bread.

Chairman.

5203. An extra penny was allowed for the child; that was the difference?—Yes, it is worked out on that principle. Then, with two children it was 6*d.* in money, 6*d.* in grocery, and 6 lbs. of bread.

5204. One child gets an extra penny, but a second child gets 2 lbs. of bread?—Yes.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

5205. Does that only apply to a man over 50?—If he has got more than one child it does not matter whether he is under 50 or over.

Chairman.

5206. Did you make inquiries to see whether the applicants were genuine residents in the union?—Yes; in the case of persons applying for out-door work in the labour yard the relieving officer has to fill up a form of application, and that form has to be laid before the relief committee; and one question asked on the form was, how long they had been resident within the union.

5207. Was close inquiry made into the genuineness of the circumstances alleged by the applicants?—We had so many at the busiest time that I doubt whether it was possible to make the closest inquiry, but, so far as the officers could, inquiry was made.

5208. Did you make any increase in your staff at all for the purposes of inquiry?—We did not this winter, though we did the previous winter. We increased the number of relieving officers from three to five.

5209. You thought that increased staff could undertake it?—The guardians thought so.

5210. Do you think you succeeded in enforcing the test of residence?—I think so. We drew up a special form for the stoneyard cases that the relieving officer was to fill up, and one question was, where they had lived and where they had worked. We asked for a lot of particulars. Those forms were laid before the relief committee, and every possible precaution was taken.

5211. How was the information they gave checked?—The officers visited them.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5212. Are you prepared to say they were all visited?—I believe so. I have not got the books here.

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

5213. You seemed in a previous statement to doubt whether there was thorough inquiry?—I merely said we had such a large number of applications at certain times that it might have been impossible for the officers to visit every case.

Chairman.

5214. Of course, the fact of a man living in a certain place is the easiest to discover about him; it is the first fact that could be got hold of?—Yes; I should think they were all visited. The scale of relief in the stoneyard goes up to a maximum of 15*s.* 2*d.* a week for a man with a wife and over six children. On the Saturday they are allowed a double allowance of bread.

5215. Is that to see them through the Sunday?—That was the idea. According to the number of hours work, I think, that 15*s.* 2*d.* works out at about 4½*d.* an hour.

5216. Have you reason to believe that the men did the requisite amount of work in the stoneyard, as a rule?—I think the task was 8 cwt. I have a return here showing what was broken, and it is between 2 and 3 cwt.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5217. Have you got a return for the previous year as to the amount of stone broken?—No; I have only got it for this year.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5218. Do I rightly understand that what they got through was 2 to 3 cwt. a day, and that 8 cwt. was the supposed minimum?—That was the task; but, of course, the understanding is that they work according to the best of their physical ability.

5219. And they did between 2 and 3 cwt.?—Yes.

5220. Is that the average per man?—Yes.

Chairman.

5221. What class of men were they generally; can you say anything as to their previous occupations?—Yes; I have got a statement here of the 15th of February. On that day there were 263 men in the yard; out of those there were 183 labourers and 32 painters. The next highest figure is carpenters; there were nine carpenters. Then there were nine plasterers; and the next highest figure is bricklayers, of whom there were four; there were four stonemasons. The others consisted of one clerk of the works, three paperhangers, two engine drivers, two shoemakers, two ironmoulders, three gardeners, a salesman, a zincworker, a stoker, two fitters, a lather, and two wood choppers. More than half were labourers.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5222. Can you briefly tell us how many of the building trades' people appear in that list?—Four bricklayers, nine carpenters, four stonemasons, six plasterers, 32 painters, three paperhangers, one zincworker and one grainer; and then there are 183 labourers.

Chairman.

5223. Some of those labourers may be connected with the building trades?—Most of them, I should think.

5224. You

Mr. *John Burns.*

5224. You have not an analysis of the trades for 1893–94, have you?—No, I have not. The number of children dependent upon those 263 men was 745.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

5225. At the date you have given the frost was very severe; was there any shelter over the men working in the stoneyard?—There are bunks to work in.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5226. The places are covered over where they break the stone, are they not?—The yard only accommodates a little over 100, but we did not refuse anybody, and we had as many as 226 on some days.

Chairman.

5227. How far did the guardians think they were able to cope with the distress prevailing?—Not in a single case was a person refused relief. Every one who applied to the relieving officer for work in the stoneyard, provided he came within the rules, was set to work, or he was relieved in the workhouse, and I am able to say that no one was refused. In addition to the stoneyard, the guardians have done a little painting; they have done the work without the intervention of contractors; they have done some painting at the infirmary; they painted a lot of cupboards and things, and employed a few men there. They have at present a number of painters employed in painting the relief station, without the intervention of the contractor. Of course I can only give evidence respecting the persons who have actually applied to the guardians, but I believe myself that a certain number of persons who live in the district did not apply to the guardians.

5228. Did your relieving officers give you any information in their several districts as to the distress existing; have you any report from them?—Yes, they were all laid before you by Sir Hugh Owen.

5229. Could you summarise them and give the general drift of them; did they show that there was a great amount of distress beside what you relieved by your stoneyard and so on?—I am afraid I could not summarise them; they are merely long written reports; there are no figures that I could particularly refer to.

5230. Have you reason to know there were a great many people in distress who for one reason or another did not apply to you for assistance?—Yes, I fully believe so. In fact, the members of the board have over and over again stated at their meetings that a great number of poor had not applied to them.

5231. Were they reluctant to apply?—I have not heard that. I can only speak of my own knowledge of those who have applied to the guardians, and there the increase has been only when the severe weather set in; but I believe in Battersea and Wandsworth there have been a great number out of work that have not applied to the guardians. The members of the board have at different times stated so.

5232. Have you any voluntary agencies; soup agencies, or institutions of that sort in your district?—I believe there were some. I know there was one at Clapham. I do not know very much about them.

Chairman—continued.

5233. They are, I presume, beyond the limits of your operations?—Yes. I have heard there were some.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5234. Have you heard of any in Battersea and Wandsworth?—Yes, I heard of one in Wandsworth.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5235. I see that both your out-door and in-door cases began to disproportionately increase in 1892–93; is that increase due to reasons extraneous to the actual increase of in and out poor as judged by the standard of 1889 or 1890, or is it due to laxity of administration; is it due to the fact that your district has found it necessary to reorganise the system of relief?—I could not say what was the reason. The board for the last few years, I think, have been rather more in favour of giving out-relief than they were some seven or eight or 10 years ago.

5236. Would not the reason that induced you in your district to increase your relieving officers from three to five account for the rapid increase in out-relief as apart from the increase of the population?—There is no doubt in 1892–93 we were under-staffed considerably in relieving officers. We only had three to the parish of Battersea, which has a population of something like 160,000, where we have now five. The result was that I do not think the officers could have had time to investigate and sift the cases, the relief went up in consequence.

5237. And some of the officers you did have were so faulty in their investigations that they had to resign?—There was a committee of inquiry and two officers were called upon to resign.

5238. Beyond that there was certain maladministration by one or two guardians, one guardian at least, was there not?—There was an inquiry, and one guardian was mentioned.

5339. When were the two additional relieving officers appointed?—They were appointed in 1894, about last May or June.

5240. When were these charges made against the guardian?—It would be about six months previously.

5241. I see you had altogether 263 men in the stoneyard this year, and roughly, 250 of those were men connected directly with the building trade; do you think that large proportion out of the 263 was due to the exceptionally severe weather?—It rather appears from these figures that our numbers in the stoneyard were less until the severe weather came.

5242. That heavy proportion of men from the building trade out of the total of 263 would indicate, would it not, that the severe weather had a great deal to do with it?—It appears so to me from these figures.

5243. Have the guardians ever expressed any opinion or come to any resolution with regard to the stoneyard work generally?—Yes, they passed a resolution in January last, "That the board is of opinion that the Government should at once

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

take into consideration the question of starting some scheme which will meet the difficulty of men being out of employment otherwise than by necessitating boards of guardians to open stoneyards, which are generally recognised as being calculated to pauperise and demoralise the poor."

5244. What were the reasons adduced on that occasion for that resolution?—I think the resolution first arose when the guardians received a deputation from the unemployed to open a stoneyard. There was a feeling that the men did not want a stoneyard, that they were demoralising and pauperising.

5245. Did the men express that view?—Not on that occasion, I think.

5246. But the guardians conveyed that view to them; is that so?—No, I do not think they conveyed that view to them; they passed this resolution, and sent it round to other boards.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5247. Was it passed unanimously?—I could not say.

5248. Surely the minutes of the board will show that?—I could not remember whether it was passed unanimously.

5249. Do you know whether there was much difference of opinion amongst the guardians?—I have some minutes here; I will see if I can find it. I see it was not passed unanimously; there were 12 votes for the resolution and 10 against it.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5250. Those were the numbers for and against the resolution that the Government should take the question into consideration. Neither of those figures deal with anything, but an opinion for or against the resolution being sent to the Government, they do not express an opinion about the stoneyard?—I do not think there was any difference of opinion upon the pauperising or demoralising point; it was more a question of whether the Government should take up the matter.

5251. On that, I gather from you, the guardians of Wandsworth have expressed their opinion, either by a large or small majority, or in other ways, that stoneyard working is demoralising to the men who go there, and not particularly profitable to the ratepayer who provides the employment; is that so?—They say that it is calculated to pauperise and demoralise the poor.

Mr. *Billson.*

5252. Do you think that the opinion of the guardians was unanimous on the last part of the resolution?—So far as I remember I think the board generally were of opinion that the stoneyard did pauperise and demoralise the people, but there was a difference of opinion as to whether they should press the Government to take the question up.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5253. We will go through the resolution as it was passed. The board of guardians, in their resolution, called upon the Government to adopt some scheme by means of which stoneyard work would be obviated; is that so?—Yes.

5254. Did they indicate any such scheme?—No.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

5255. Did they discuss any scheme when that resolution was arrived at?—No.

5256. Did they discuss labour colonies?—No.

5257. Did they discuss home colonisation?—No.

5258. Or emigration?—No.

5259. They did not suggest, or indicate, what the scheme should be that the Government should take up?—No.

5260. We will come now to the stoneyard; the guardians were emphatic in the condemnation of stoneyard work, both in the interests of the men and the ratepayers?—As expressed in that resolution.

5261. What evidence had the guardians before them of the demoralising tendency in the character of the stoneyard work when they passed that resolution?—I cannot say, beyond general impressions.

5262. Do you mean impressions formed on the spot by the guardians themselves in visiting the stoneyard?—I suppose so. It involves the principle that the persons are treated through the Poor Law, and have to go to the relieving officer.

5263. I gather that generally speaking, for reasons known to the guardians, they are opposed to stoneyard work?—Yes.

5264. Have you ever had communicated to the board of guardians from the superintendent a complaint as to the smallness of the amount of work done by the men in the stoneyard?—I do not think the superintendent has complained; I am not aware of it.

5265. Have you ever had complaint made to you by the men employed in the stoneyard about disfranchisement in consequence of their working there?—I do not remember anything very definite; it may have been mentioned at deputations of them to the board. I do not remember any distinct application.

5266. Have the board passed any resolutions connected with disfranchisement?—I do not remember one.

5267. Beyond the figures and official statements that you have handed in, you have nothing to add on the question of stoneyard work and the point of disfranchisement, and I gather from you that the guardians have sent no suggestions to the Local Government Board as to what the remedial work for the unemployed should be?—No.

Mr. *Billson.*

5268. Do you consider you successfully coped with the distress in Wandsworth?—I can only say that no one who has applied to the board has refused relief.

5269. But you have told us that a great number did not apply to the board; was any money raised in the shape of a charitable fund?—Not to my knowledge. I have heard casually that there have been soup kitchens, and such things.

5270. Was there any discussion amongst the guardians, or did you consider, how you could get people to apply who were in distress and were reluctant to apply, how you could make inquiries into the circumstances of people who did not

Mr. *Billson*—continued.

not apply?—No; I have not heard anything of that kind.

5271. Does it occur to you that if you had a permanent official whose duty it would be to look after cases of that kind it might be beneficial?—It has not occurred to me.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5272. As to the residential test, did you confine it to people who had lived a certain period, say six months, in the area?—No, we did not limit it in that way; we required them to be resident. On the forms we asked how long they had been resident and where they had lived before. We asked them to give a lot of particulars on the form they filled up.

5273. Can you tell us how many men worked the six days a week which apparently this winter they were frequently allowed to work in the stoneyard?—I am afraid I could not tell you that.

5274. I want to know whether they really worked regularly there, or on and off?—A great number worked regularly, and some worked on and off.

5275. You cannot say how many?—I cannot give that information.

5276. The honourable Member for Battersea (Mr. Burns) seemed to assume that the 183 mentioned by you as labourers, are practically in the building trades; did you observe the workers in the stoneyard yourself?—No.

5277. So that you cannot tell whether the 183 were not a lot of the ordinary loafing out-of-work people who are to be found in every district?—I do not know what they were, beyond the descriptions given. I had a return prepared and they were described as labourers.

5278. It seems to me of great importance to find out whether the 183 are men belonging to the common lodging-house class, or whether they are genuine labourers?—I am afraid it is impossible to ascertain that now, because they have left the yard.

5279. You say the fluctuations in the general administration of outdoor and indoor relief have been, in some measure, owing to the fluctuations of opinion. Has the administration of relief been made an election cry, during the last few years, in the election of guardians?—I do not think it has particularly; not to my knowledge.

5280. Could you give us a definite answer?—I am unable to give you information upon that point.

Mr. *Logan.*

5281. From your answers I should gather that your guardians do not consider it their duty to make any special inquiries as to whether the people are starving or not; is that so?—Everybody who applied was relieved.

5282. But did the guardians take any steps whatever to ascertain whether the people for whom they are supposed to be guardians were in distress; did they consider it their duty to make any inquiries, or did they make any inquiries?—If any of the guardians in their individual capacity knew of any particular case of suffering, I have no doubt they would have called the relieving officers' attention to it, and probably in many cases they did so.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

5283. You say "in their individual capacity" they did so; am I to understand that in their corporate capacity they are not legally bound to make any such inquiries?—They deal with all applications to them.

5284. It must come in the form of an application?—I have no doubt the relieving officer, if he heard of a case of distress, would visit it without application being made, and I have no doubt, in some cases, that was done; but there was no particular officer appointed to go round and ascertain the persons in distress who had not applied.

5285. Your board of guardians do not consider it to be part of their duty, as I gather, to institute inquiries?—The question has not been raised at the board at all.

5286. I should like to know whether your board do consider it their duty or not; you are their legal adviser, I take it?—The guardians frequently hear of cases of distress in their districts, and it is the practice to call attention to such cases. They are very careful with every application that is made to them.

5287. I take it your board of guardians, and it may apply to all boards of guardians in England, do not consider it as part of their duty to make inquiries?—Some individuals may consider it their duty and some not.

5288. Would you consider it their duty to do so?—It may be morally their duty to do so.

5289. Am I to take it that you have not advised your board that they should do anything outside, simply relieving distress when applied to?—The question has not arisen at any meeting. It has not occurred to me.

5290. To the best of your opinion, do you think the practice of the board of guardians has been in accordance with their legal duties?—I think the board of guardians recognise their duties: that they have to deal with all applications made to them. I do not think they consider it is their duty to go and visit and find out destitution. But I am sure many members of the board when such a case does come to their knowledge (as it often does) communicate with the relieving officer and have the case visited and attended to.

5291. I think I understood you to say that, if not the majority, at all events a very large number of those who were to your knowledge out of employment did not make application?—I said that I was unable to give evidence except respecting persons who have actually applied to the guardians; but I have heard it stated in the board room that there was a very large number out of employment who had not applied to the guardians.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

5292. In the course of the present winter was any action proposed in your board which you advised them they could not legally take?—I do not remember anything.

Mr. *David Randell.*

5293. I understood you to say that your board refused relief to single men, widowers, and married men of 50?—They did not refuse relief; they refused stoneyard work. They would give them an order for the workhouse if they were destitute.

5294. They refused them out-relief?—Yes.

5295. Have you reason to think that amongst that class there was acute distress as well as with other people?—I have not heard of any; they used to work in the stoneyard, but I believe the reason why the guardians shut them out was because the yard was limited in extent, and if they admitted everybody, they would have had to send away the more deserving; and so in order to make the best possible use of the stoneyard for men with families, they passed an order that single men and married men without children should not have orders for work.

5296. So far as out-relief was concerned you did nothing to relieve destitution among the unmarried men?—Not if they were able-bodied. If they were sick, of course, they had relief.

5297. If they were able-bodied they were turned away when they applied?—They would always be offered indoor relief.

5298. But they had no out-relief?—Not in the stoneyard.

5299. So far as out-relief is concerned to able-bodied men, when they applied to your board of guardians, the guardians refused to give them relief?—The object of that was that the stoneyard was small and limited, and it was in order that others with large families who were more deserving should not be crowded out. That was the origin of not allowing single men to work in the stoneyard.

5300. I only wish to have the fact: your board refused to grant out-relief to those men?—Yes. This is the order, "For no orders to work in the yard to be given to single men or widowers and married under 50 years of age without children dependent on them."

5301. Assuming these men were in a starving condition, and accepted the alternative of going into the house, I take it you would have no means of accommodation for these people?—We have a workhouse.

5302. But you could not find accommodation for all these people, could you?—No one was refused, no one would be refused. If we had not accommodation we should have taken temporary premises; we should not refuse anybody.

5303. As to the question put to you by Mr. Burns, do you of your own knowledge know of any case where, men having accepted relief, have in any way lost their sense of self-respect?—I do not.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

5304. Have you any means of forming an opinion whether the same men come back year after year for out-door relief?—Do you mean for the stoneyard work?

5305. For out-door relief in whatever form?—I believe there are a number that always work in the stoneyard every year.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

5306. Do you think there are an appreciable number of men who regularly receive out-relief every winter?—I have not got the figures here, but there are a number, I have heard the relieving officer say, who come every year to the stoneyard.

5307. Would that be the larger or the smaller number of them?—I should think the smaller number of them certainly.

5308. Can you form any idea of whether it is the fact or not that a man having once received out-relief is more inclined to come back for it?—I certainly think that that is one of the defects of placing this labour question under the management of the guardians; that it introduces people to the relieving officer, and destroys that independence which ought to exist.

5309. You think it destroys their independence?—I think sending them to the relieving officer and dealing with them in that way certainly does.

5310. Do you think that their sense of independence would be destroyed if the guardians or some official were to seek them out in times of distress and go to them, as has been suggested, instead of obliging them to come to the relieving officer: perhaps you have not formed any opinion as to that?—I think that is a very big question, and one that requires a great deal of consideration.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

5311. I want to know whether you consider the distress in Battersea and Wandsworth was general, and exceptional, and very acute?—I think it was very exceptional during the severe weather, and very acute in Battersea and Wandsworth.

5312. You think it was very acute and exceptional, and largely prevailed?—I think so in Battersea and Wandsworth during the very severe weather; but figures I have given show that we are getting on better this winter than we were the previous winter until the severe weather came.

5313. Your distress this year, as I understand, has not been as bad as in past years?—It has been more acute when the severe weather was on than it has ever been.

5314. Do not you think, if the distress had been very acute, that voluntary agencies to meet it would have been at work, and that you would have heard about them?—I stated I have heard of soup kitchens, and that kind of thing.

5315. I understood you to say you thought you had heard of one in Wandsworth?—I heard of one in Clapham, and one in Wandsworth.

5316. Did the disfranchisement of the men deter them from applying for relief at all, in your opinion?—I really do not know; it is difficult to say. I see it has been stated before your Committee by some witnesses that it has, and by others that it has not. I do not know.

5317. You say if the demand upon your workhouse accommodation had been too great you would have increased it; would you not have increased your stoneyard in the same way?—I can only explain that perhaps that did not occur to the Board. I remember that when they did not admit

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

admit single men they were anxious not to have to turn people away from the stoneyard, and they thought it would meet the case if they did not admit single men.

5318. At any rate, it would have been a much easier matter, would it not, to increase the stoneyard accommodation than to switch people off on to the workhouse with a view to the possibility of increasing the workhouse accommodation?—But there was no necessity to increase the workhouse accommodation.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5319. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Pilditch, the clerk to the Battersea Vestry, at the last meeting of the Committee?—I did not.

5320. Did you read it?—No.

5321. Are you aware that he said that in the winter of 1891–92 his vestry started the policy of reserving for the winter all the works that could be put off till then?—I was not aware of that distinctly, but I think the Battersea Vestry and Wandsworth Board of Works have continually assisted the guardians in this respect, and that we should have had a great many more applications had it not been for the work provided by the sanitary authorities.

5322. In the figures you have given I observe in the year ending March 1892, the money expended on indoor relief jumped from 29,000*l.* to 32,000*l.*, and the expenditure on out-relief jumped from 7,500*l.* to 8,100*l.*; so that in the same year in which this policy on the part of the vestry was initiated, the number of applications for relief very largely increased; have you formed any opinion as to the connection between those two facts?—I have not formed any opinion, but I may say the figures I have given include everything, the cost of buildings and so on; and there might have been heavy expense in connection with that.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

5323. You have given us the statistics for the last 10 years for out-relief; I suppose the bulk of the payments for out-relief would be to individuals who could not find employment?—No, I do not think so; the bulk of it would be to old people.

5324. I suppose it is chronic in your district that you have people out of employment who cannot get work?—I think it is so everywhere.

5325. I understand you to say that your board of guardians do not see that they can do anything more than they are doing in order to meet the distress in the district, and they wish Parliament to do something in the way of meeting the distress?—They passed a resolution to that effect.

Mr. THOMAS MACKAY, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

5326. YOU have been for many years one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Charity Organisation Society in St. George's in-the-East?—Yes.

5327. And you can describe the steps taken by that society in co-operation with the Poor Law for the relief of the unemployed?—Yes. I should like to explain to the Committee that it is entirely from the voluntary charity point of view that I am able to speak. I am not a guardian, but in St. George's the Charity Organisation Society has been working in strict co-operation with the guardians for many years, and we have adopted a certain plan with regard to the unemployed, which, I believe, is more or less unique.

5328. It is because of what we understand to be the exceptional system pursued in St. George's that we have asked you to be good enough to give us evidence?—It has been alleged that in unions where no labour yard is opened, a difficulty arises, because the guardians legally can offer nothing but the workhouse to men out of employment.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5329. Is St. George's-in-the-East a non-labour yard union?—Yes; there has not been any labour yard for many years. I do not believe that the objection is as large as it looks, because as a matter of fact the breaking up of homes very seldom does take place. There are always friends, or someone, who will take charge of the furniture and very often friends who will take charge of the families too, so that the difficulty that there is on that account is, I believe, very much exaggerated, but it is a difficulty at all events on paper, and to meet it, the voluntary charities, under the leadership of the Charity Organisation Society, have taken the following steps. We are ready at the Charity Organisation Society to relieve, without any condition at all, a man who is out of work if he can show us that he has done something to provide for himself in the time of sickness, either by belonging to a good friendly society, or by making some serious effort in the way of saving. We relieve him without any condition for a week or two, and then he generally gets into work again. On the other hand, if the man has done none of these things, if he has not belonged to any benefit club, or if he cannot show that he has looked ahead at all, we say that we are not able to charge ourselves with the responsibility of keeping him entirely, and we say that he need not break up his home, and we make this offer to him: If you, the head of the family, find it necessary to take your relief in the workhouse, we will make an allowance to your wife and children for a week; or sometimes we only ask

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

the man to go in for three days. We make the allowance to the wife and children during that time. When he comes out we give him a further allowance for a week or a fortnight in order to enable him to look round for work. Then I may say I am led to think that if the normal administration of the Poor Law is carried out on what I venture to call sound lines, the pressure upon guardians in times when there is want of employment will not be very great, and I would justify that statement by giving you the following figures. During the last three months, January, February, March (I was down there yesterday and the figures were supplied to me up to yesterday) we had only 20 applications at the Charity Organisation Society for those terms. Only three of these 20 men were members of a friendly society, or had done anything that we could recognise (and we are always anxious to give the benefit of any doubt) for themselves. Of the 20, three were relieved without any condition, and of the 17, eight accepted our conditions, and the other nine went away and presumably found relief or work, or were not, at all events, so hard they had to accept the conditions.

Chairman.

5330. That was the total number for January, February, and March this year?—That applied to the Charity Organisation Society for the terms that we are willing to give them.

Mr. *Logan.*

5331. One of the conditions was that the men should go into the workhouse; I should like to know out of these eight that did accept how many went in?—Out of the 17, eight went in, and nine did not.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5332. What were the conditions for the nine who did not?—I presume they thought they could do better.

Mr. *Logan.*

5333. Than go to the workhouse?—And get relief for their wives and families at home.

Chairman.

5334. These were all genuine residents in the district of St. George's-in-the-East?—Certainly; we should not have received their applications unless they were residents.

Mr. *Logan.*

5335. Men out of work through no fault of their own?—We cannot get to know that.

5336. That is the whole essence of the thing, is it not? A man who is out of work through no fault of his own will not go in the workhouse?—He will not, except in the last resort. We have there adopted this system, which is a supplement from voluntary sources of the ordinary legal powers of the guardians, but we have done that in order to meet the objection above stated.

Chairman.

5337. Was any relief given to the nine?—No, not to the nine.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5338. Then eight went to the workhouse and nine went away?—Yes.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5339. And three were relieved without any condition at all?—Yes.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5340. What was the relief?—We generally give 3*s.* 6*d.* for each adult member of the family, and 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.*, or something of that sort for the children, and then it would vary, of course, if there were earnings coming in from the children, or the wife might be earning something, and we should give a little less.

Chairman.

5341. Do you give it all in money?—We give the relief in money. We give it on a fairly liberal scale, sometimes 10*s.*, 11*s.*, or 12*s.* a week; a great deal more than would, as a rule, be given by a board of guardians in an out relief-union.

5342. Those are the main outlines of the plan you pursue?—Yes.

5343. You consider that there is a close connection between the normal administration of the Poor Law and the difficulty of dealing with the special form of distress which arises from want of employment?—I venture to think that that really is the whole crux of the matter. In a union that I would call a lax union, that is a union where out-relief is freely given, the first resource of a poor person is, in any crisis, the rates. This, of course, is accentuated in times of want of employment. In a union like St. George's, where no out-relief is given, this attitude is resisted, and the responsibility in the first instance, at all events, of finding employment, or of a man's maintaining himself during a period of want of employment, lies on the man and not upon the public authority, and for that reason, during a time of crisis, there is comparatively little pressure upon any public authority, and I think the figures that I have given you to a certain extent bear that out.

5344. The fact that you had only 20 applications in those three months?—Yes, and because very few, if any, able-bodied men were obliged to go into the workhouse. I do not mean to say there were not many poor people; there are plenty of very poor people, goodness knows, in St. George's, but the point is they were not driven to come upon the public authority. They had other means of getting on. Perhaps I may be allowed to develop what I have said a little further. In a union like St. George's, if a man is out of employment because his trade is seasonal, that is to say because he is a builder, or a painter, and in times of winter he cannot pursue his occupation, instead of going to the public authority and saying they must find work for him, he comes by experience to learn that he must save some money to carry him over that period which comes every winter, or some of the men might (I do not know that it is done

Chairman—continued.

so much in this country, but they certainly do so in foreign countries) learn a supplemental trade. Then again, there are a great many people (I am afraid we must face it) who are not only unemployed, but they are actually unemployable. They fail from some defect of character or want of application, and so on. I do not want to say anything hard of them, but it is very difficult for them to keep steadily at work, and I maintain that in the union where the law is strictly administered, the first step in the reform of this class of man is taken. He is obliged to face his own responsibilities. Then a third cause of want of employment, and possibly the most important, is that a trade becomes decayed. There have been several instances in St. George's-in-the-East. The sugar trade has entirely left the neighbourhood, and, I suppose, the shipbuilding trade has also, but that is a very old story. With regard to the class whose industry is decayed, the remedy for them is to migrate into some other district or to find some other occupation. If I might give a historical reference, I might remind the Committee that this is exactly the problem that had to be met under the old Poor Law, before the reform in 1834. It was mainly the able-bodied difficulty that troubled the country then, and everybody who knows anything of the history of the subject, knows the different devices that were used to give employment. A Commission was appointed, and the Commission at once said, Stop all this relief; make it absolutely illegal to give relief to the able-bodied, except under the workhouse test. There is a further parallel between this period and the period of 1834. Then, if the guardians refused relief, it was the practice of the applicant to go to the justices, and the justices then might order that relief should be given, and relief was given. Apparently, now, very much the same plan is being carried out, as I understand. When the guardians will not go beyond the discretion allowed them by the law, they go to the vestry, and on, as I venture to think, some pressure from the Local Government Board, the vestries have very largely entered into the work of relief. I know that the Local Government Board Circular is said not to recommend relief work, but it is perfectly certain that that was the impression conveyed to nine men out of 10 reading that circular.

5345. Your main principle is that the primary duty of finding employment rests upon the individual and not upon any public authority?—Yes. May I read a passage from what Sir George Nicholls, the historian of the Poor Law, who was himself one of the Commissioners, said when he was commenting on Gilbert's Act, but it really applies to all these schemes of employment, "The scheme assumes that there never can be a lack of profitable employment, and the guardians must find it near the labourer's own cottage, when, if it existed, he might have found it for himself. The labourer is thus deprived of all motive to bargain for his wages, for the guardians must make up the deficiency to him; he is certain of employment and is not called on to exercise forethought. Could a more certain way

Chairman—continued.

be devised for lowering character, destroying self-reliance and discouraging improvement." That was a comment upon the system which prevailed before 1834 when the stringent step was taken of making relief to the able-bodied illegal. I should like to mention one or two figures with regard to the administration of the law in three strict unions in London, and three unions where out-relief is freely given, to bear out my contention that where in normal times the law is loosely administered, you will get a far greater pressure upon the public authority in any exceptional times. I will give the normal rate of indoor relief out of every 100 persons relieved in Whitechapel, St. George's, and Stepney.

5346. Those are what you call the strict unions?—Those are the three strict unions. At the end of the fourth week of December 1894, that I would call the normal winter administration, that is, before the frost came on, out of every 100, 2·1 in Whitechapel, ·4 in St. George's, and 1·5 in Stepney.

5347. Of the persons relieved, those were relieved out-door?—Yes; the rest, the 98 and 99 were relieved in-door.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5348. Were these able-bodied, or the total?—That is the total. In St. Olave's the proportion at the end of December is 52 outdoor relief out of the 100; in Greenwich, 30, and in Camberwell, 56. At the end of the second week in February, that was in the height of the frost, I take it, the Whitechapel rate was 2·5; it had varied hardly at all, you may say. St. George's was 1·9, and Stepney 4·2, whereas in St. Olave's it had risen to 80·6, in Greenwich to 66·7, and Camberwell to 76·2.

Chairman.

5349. In fact, in those what we may call the lax unions, a habit of depending upon Poor Law relief had been intensified to that extent?—Quite so. Now, I should like to give the percentage of the increase of pauperism contemporaneous with this change of administration. These two columns show the variation in administration in respect of outdoor and indoor relief, and I have a third column giving the actual increase of paupers, and a fourth column which, for comparative purposes, is more valuable, showing the percentage of increase of pauperism in those six unions. Whitechapel, 13 per cent.; St. George's, 7 per cent.; Stepney, 13 per cent. That, I venture to say, is what one might expect during a time of very severe weather.

5350. That is the percentage of increase between the end of December and the second week of February?—Yes. The percentage of increase in St. Olave's is 154·8; in Greenwich, 117·6; and Camberwell, 93·9. That is showing the variation of administration and the rise of pauperism contemporaneous with it within six weeks.

[*The Witness handed in the Table, which is as follows:*—]

Chairman—continued.

TABLE I., illustrating the Variation of Pauperism in Strict and Lax Unions between the end of Fourth Week December 1894, and the end of Second Week February 1895 (*i.e.*, before and during the frost).

	Ratio per Cent. of Out-door to Total Paupers, end of 4th Week December 1894. I.	Ratio per Cent. of Out-door to Total Paupers, end of 2nd Week February 1895. II.	Increase of Paupers. III.	Percentage of Increase of Pauperism. IV.
Whitechapel	2·1	2·5	219	13·7
St. George's	·4	1·9	87	7·7
Stepney	1·5	4·2	184	13·9
St. Olave's	52·7	80·6	7,699	154·8
Greenwich	30·6	66·7	5,058	117·6
Camberwell	56·3	76·2	6,046	93·9

Columns I. and II. represent the nature of the administration in respect of outdoor relief in the several unions. Column I. is the normal winter administration. Column II. represents the variation of administration during the severe weather. Columns III. and IV. show the increase of pauperism contemporaneous with this variation of administration.

Witness.] I have got another table here which shows the variation of administration over 20 years. In Stepney, in 1868, that is before they began what from my point of view I call the reformed administration, there was 112 per 1,000 of population paupers, and the outdoor relief was 83 in the 100. They have reduced it, and on January 1st 1894 it was 24 per 1,000 of population, and 12 per cent. of outdoor paupers to total paupers. I take the year 1868 because it was the year before the reform. In Whitechapel the pauperism rate was 65 per 1,000 of population on the 1st of January 1870, and 74 per cent. is the percentage of outdoor paupers to total paupers. On the 1st of January 1894 the percentage of pauperism was 20 per 1,000 of population, and the percentage of outdoor to total paupers was 4. In St. George's-in-the-East, on the 1st January 1874, the pauperism per 1,000 of population was 59, and 61 was the percentage of outdoor to total paupers. On the 1st of January 1894, the pauperism per 1,000 was 28, and the outdoor relief ratio to total paupers was 12. The other three I have got here are St. Olave's, Lewisham, and Camberwell.

5351. You have not got Greenwich?—No. St. Olave's, Lewisham, and Camberwell are unions which, I say, were much less poor than those three East-end unions. They contain some portion of what I may call villa residences.

5352. St. Olave's contains a lot of riverside population, and then there are the leather trades and other trades which are depressed?—Part of it is, but I say they are less poor than the others, and in proof of that I may say the South London unions have never had a very high rate of pauperism until a date subsequent to the time covered by this table; I mean during the late frost. They begin with a much lower rate of pauperism than the East-end unions. In St. Olave's, on the 1st of January 1874, the pauperism per 1,000 of population was 33; the

Chairman—continued.

percentage of outdoor to total pauperism was 69, and in 1894 the pauperism per 1,000 had risen to 36, and the percentage of outdoor to total pauperism was 57. In Lewisham, on 1st January 1874, the pauperism was 20 per 1,000; on 1st January 1894 it had increased to 34, and the outdoor relief ratio in the earlier period was 79, and in the later period 71, practically a stationary rate. In Camberwell, on the 1st January 1874 the ratio was 26 per 1,000 of population; in 1894 it is still 26, exactly the same figure. The percentage of outdoor to total paupers was 70 at the earlier period and 57 at the later period.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5353. The outdoor relief decreased?—Decreased, but not largely.

[*The Witness handed in the Table, which is as follows:*—]

TABLE II., showing the Variation of Pauperism under a Strict and a Lax System during a long course of Years.

Reformed Administration.	Pauperism per 1,000 of population.	Percentage of Out-door to total Paupers.	Unreformed Administration.	Pauperism per 1,000 of population.	Percentage of Out-door to total Paupers.
STEPNEY—			ST. OLAVE'S—		
Jan. 1st, 1868 (*Before the reform*)	112	83	Jan. 1st, 1874	33	69
Jan. 1st, 1894	24	12	„ 1894	36	57
WHITECHAPEL—			LEWISHAM—		
Jan. 1st, 1870 (*Before the reform*)	65	74	Jan. 1st, 1874	20	79
Jan. 1st, 1894	20	4	„ 1894	34	71
ST. GEORGE'S, EAST—			CAMBERWELL—		
Jan. 1st, 1874 (*Before the reform*)	59	61	Jan. 1st, 1874	26	70
Jan. 1st, 1894	28	12	„ 1894	26	57

The above Table illustrates the reduction of pauperism brought about by the system pursued in the Tower Hamlets Unions, and the stationary condition of pauperism under the old system. The three unions are much less poor than the East-end unions, as is shown by the fact that they have never had a very high rate of pauperism. Such as it is, however, notwithstanding the improved economic conditions of the past 20 years, the rate of pauperism shows no reduction, owing, as it is here contended, to the way in which the Poor Law is administered.

Witness.] If I may go back to what I said was the third cause of want of employment, which probably is most serious, that is the changes of trade, one trade decaying and another coming up, I venture to say that the natural and constructive principle which is able to carry people over this evil is beyond the power of legislation. If you want people to go into a new trade you must allow them to follow the market. If a trade is decaying the fact becomes evident at once by a fall of wages, and the crux of the situation is to discover what the new trade is that is wanted, and how you are to get these people taken over into such new trade, or into an established trade which is capable of expansion. I submit you cannot do that by starting relief works, but if you start relief works you will only congest the people in the place where they are, where, *ex hypothesi*, they are not wanted.

5354. Of

Chairman.

5354. Of course when they are first reduced to want by the changes in the industry, the Poor Law and charity will have to maintain them?—Quite so; you must maintain them, but you must maintain them, I think, under safeguards that will prevent them being congested and kept stationary, looking out for a job in the same place and on the same lines as previously.

5355. Where it cannot be found?—Where it cannot be found; quite so.

5356. You would give relief under adequate safeguards?—Under adequate safeguards. I am prepared to defend what we do at St. George's. I do not know how you can do any better. The people are not deluded into thinking that their difficulty has been solved, and that they are made wage-earning members of an industrial society. It is a misfortune, and it is recognised as a misfortune. They are relieved, and you must do it in a humane and proper manner, but you must not delude them into thinking that your action has put them back and made them economic members of an industrial society.

5357. In your opinion relief works for wages in such a case would only tend to aggravate the congestion?—Certainly; that is my opinion most strongly. I should like to point out that what I was saying about labour following the market is really the history of the last 50 years of the fluctuations of employment. As we all know, there has been an enormous fall of prices since 1873, and Mr. Shaw Lefevre, speaking at Bradford, at some Chamber of Commerce, pointed out that there had been a large fall of prices in such things as bread and coal, clothing, boots, oil, and a number of things that are extensively used by poor people, and he also pointed out that the nominal rate of wages had not fallen, and that not only had the nominal rate of wages not fallen, but the real rate had probably risen, and he said that the ordinary labourers' wages had risen 30 or 40 per cent. and the artizans from 20 to 25 per cent. during the last 25 years. Now, as I understand it, the objection to free trade in labour and to allowing labour to follow the market is that they say if you allow free trade in labour, you will have labour falling down in price, just as wheat has fallen down. I maintain that these figures pointed out by Mr. Shaw Lefevre show that labour is able to avoid a falling market, and does to a large extent avoid a falling market; that it has gone away from agriculture to a large extent, and that it redistributes itself in a great variety of employments. That I believe to be the history of labour during the last 50 years, and what anyone who wants to help this difficulty of unemployment has to do is to increase, if possible, the mobility of labour, and not to congest it by means of relief works. If I might follow that argument a little further, because it seems to me extremely important, Mr. Giffen, I believe, puts the agricultural population of the United Kingdom 50 years ago at half the labouring population. This is taken from one of his books, published some time ago, but I think he repeated it to the Labour Commission in substantially the same form. Now the proportion of agricultural

Chairman—continued.

labour is only about one-fourth, and the last returns of the Census show that the decrease still continues. Against that decrease, if you consult the Census returns you find that there is a large increase in the making of machines, in the electrical industries, for instance, an enormous new trade in bicycle-making has sprung up, and these are new industries, one may say. Then there is also a large expansion of old industries to meet the increased purchasing power among the community generally. There is a curious instance with regard to the boot trade, that in the decade ending 1881 there was a decrease in the number of people employed in the boot trade as compared with an earlier period. That, the authorities who are responsible for the Census attribute to the introduction of machinery during the decade ending 1881. During the last decade, ending 1891, the numbers had begun to increase again. The change had taken place, and you had an increase of people making boots for people who were able to buy boots.

5358. The effect of the introduction of machinery, although at first it displaced a certain amount of labour, ultimately had the effect, probably by cheapening the commodity or in other ways, of increasing the number of people employed in the trade?—Quite so; and they were people earning money I presume in other trades which were following the same course and their wages enabled them to exchange their labour against the bootmaker's labour.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5359. Your remarks are not restricted to national work, but are applicable to the world's work, and would apply to the exported boots on which those figures are also based?—I should suppose they would, certainly; may I instance one little point which came to some extent under my own observation, the number of sempstresses. In the Census of 1881 there is a return of 83,000 sempstresses and 7,000 odd females machinists. In 1891 the proportion between these two trades had entirely changed. There were only 55,000 needlewomen and there were 21,000 machinists, and a decrease of the two classes put together of something like 15 per cent. I mention that because within my own experience, when I first went down to St. George's, 15 years ago, one of the most deplorable and difficult parts of our duty was to know what to do with these poor women earning practically you may say starvation wages, plying the needle with the hand in competition with the machine. We had to do the best we could. We helped some of them, and some perhaps had to go to the Poor Law. Before I saw these figures in the Census, I remarked it to some of my colleagues; I said, "How strange it is that we now have so few of these needlewomen." The point arose in the particular case of an old woman whom I recently found still working at this needlework; but she told me that practically the work was given her by an old employer out of charity, as the whole of her branch of trade had gone to machinery. If we had, as is advised now, started relief work for these needlewomen, we should have had these poor creatures there still. All we could

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

could do was to relieve them. We did relieve them and in the course of events the young women gave up the trade, no children went into it, and gradually matters were adjusted, and, although I do not say the machinist's is a very highly remunerated employment, still the people who ply that trade make a living by it.

5360. It means some of them drifted into rope-making and paper-bag making and so on?—Yes. I should think it is quite likely.

Chairman.

5361. At all events, whether they drifted into other trades or adapted themselves to a new development of their own trade, they in a natural and healthy way found employment to take the place of that which was dying out?—Quite so.

5362. Your great contention is that if you step in and artificially divert their employment from its natural course by furnishing some form of relief work you really do more harm than good?—That is my contention.

5363. Now with regard to the general question that we have to deal with, can you give us any line to which you are led by your experience and observation; do you think that anything can be done with advantage by what may be called heroic measures?—The argument which I have laid before you would lead me to think that there is not any necessity for heroic measures and that really the remedy lies in the natural course of trade being allowed to run. I might submit that there are a good many things done in the way of restricting employment and preventing employment following the market, but I do not know that legislation can deal with that. It is more that one wants people to understand the subject better. I am treading on rather controversial ground, but I should like to say, with all respect, that one sees a Bill brought into Parliament by some great corporation, a railway company, or a tramway, or a water-works company, or gas company, or telephone company, or whatever it may be. There are certain people who take the line that that ought to be stopped, that all sorts of impossible conditions, or what the companies call impossible conditions, should be put upon the granting them leave to increase their enterprise. They do it, as I understand (their motives are above suspicion), because they think that ultimately, at some time or other, the municipalities will be able to do these things. As a matter of fact, the municipalities are not doing them, and you have the enterprise of the country strangled between these two sets of people, and it is not allowed to expand. I submit that is one cause. I am credibly informed by people who know about railway expansion that it has been very much curtailed by the very difficult conditions which have been put upon railway companies, and the same remark applies to the other industries mentioned. Also, I am bound to say (if I may say so without offence) I do think that the policy followed by the trades unions tends very much to the same course. They are anxious to keep up wages; it is a perfectly proper object for them, but I do not think they realise sufficiently that

Chairman—continued.

their object can only be attained by taking people over from industries that are falling, and helping them into industries that are paying; and I maintain that, where you have two sets of unemployed people, if labour and capital were allowed to organise themselves freely (I quite admit there are some natural impediments that cannot be got over, but one ought to remove artificial impediments), there ought to be no difficulty in the exchange of their services between them. The bootmakers have been allowed to go from other trades into bootmaking, and clothiers and tailors in the same way exchange their products one against the other, and what you want is a freer organisation and a fair passage of both labour and capital from one trade to another.

5364. One solution of the difficulty, or one means of solving this problem that has been suggested, is the establishment of farm colonies. Have you formed any opinion on that subject?—I observe that for the last 50 years labour has been steadily going away from that enterprise. I know from all my friends who are interested in land, who are skilled farmers, and who understand the business, who have skilled labour to work it, that they cannot always make ends meet; unless therefore you wish to face a very large and very continuous financial loss, the employment of pauper or semi-pauper labour will not answer. With regard to the relief it offers, I submit that you are taking people where you cannot permanently leave them, unless you are going to re-introduce some protective tariff or some other expedient that will make agriculture, handicapped by these conditions, pay. It is no good taking them back to the land. You are taking them back to an industry that they have abandoned, and it appears to me that you will do far more harm than good. There are farm labour colonies in Holland and in Belgium. I believe there, colonies have been going on for a long time. I have jotted down certain figures that I had by me. On 31st December 1885, in the Dutch colonies of Veenhuizen and Ommershans, there were 3,253 inmates, of whom only 425 were for the first time, that is to say, that out of 3,000 odd 2,800 were old stagers, going the round. Precisely the same thing is the case with regard to the "agricultural beneficent" colonies in Belgium. On 2nd December 1890, there were 2,928 inmates and of these 2,507 had been there before, and 174 of the remainder were bad characters. I have paid a good deal of attention to the general question of Poor Law administration, and I have read in a cursory way what happens abroad, but as far as I can make out, whatever system of Poor Law you have, you will have your own class of paupers; we will not benefit this country by adopting the German system or the Dutch system. We have what we call "ins and outs" here, that is, persons going from one workhouse to another, and backwards and forwards to the same workhouse; and abroad this class goes the round of the farm colonies. It is the difficulty of creating a feeling of personal responsibility in these people, especially once it has been interfered with and broken.

5365. You

Chairman—continued.

5365. You have named two objections to farm colonies, firstly, that it is an attempt to revivify and develop what is, practically, for the moment a somewhat decaying, or at any rate diminishing occupation; and, in the second place, that it would encourage these more or less loafing men to go about from one to the other to seek employment. Do you attach any importance to this objection, that men would be separated from their families, and be totally left by themselves in those places?—Of course, mainly this difficulty is a difficulty of large towns, and it is a great difficulty. You will have to send these people down to the country. You cannot make a farm in London; and you must separate them from their families.

5366. You cannot send the whole family down?—It is a large order if you do, especially as you have no guarantee that they will stay. I am told with regard to these private voluntary farms that have been started, one of the great difficulties is that a man goes there during the summer weather but discharges himself the moment he thinks he can do better in the town, and he comes back again, and goes the round of the shelters in the town. I do not wish to say anything against these poor people; they are very much what their circumstances have made them; but what I say is you have got them now as "ins and outs" in the workhouse. I would much rather keep our own system, and send private people to them, and try and deal with them by personal influence and private charity, and try and remake their manhood again if you can; but I am perfectly certain that when you start a farm colony for their relief you will get exactly what I understand they have in these Dutch and Belgian colonies; you get them coming backwards and forwards, and they will be much more difficult to deal with. You will only multiply the evil by adopting this new scheme.

5367. Then, as to relief works generally, have you anything to say on that point?—There is the practical difficulty of administering. I have already stated what I may call the theoretical objections to it. You want the people to go away into other employments; you do not want them to hang about public works.

5368. It perpetuates congestion?—Quite so. There are a large number of what I may call practical difficulties of administration. Especially in the part of London I know you have got an intermittently employed population. Every man in St. George's, East, is unemployed, so to speak; that is, he has no regular employer; they are all employed by the hour or the day, and if you meet a man off his job he is practically unemployed. If you open relief works there is nothing to prevent that man walking in any day he is unemployed or if he does not like the job he is on. One knows the conditions of the lower class of labour are not always very pleasant, but you do not want him to throw up his job, at least I cannot see there is any remedy in his throwing up the job he does not like and coming on the public authority, where he is under an official who is to a certain

Chairman—continued.

extent his own servant, and whom he thinks he can bully. My own opinion is that at such works the superintendence is of a very illusory nature. In addition you have got all the people who are unemployed in the winter. I do not know that you can contemplate with equanimity a proposal that you shall find work for all the painters and the builders every year during the frost. Next as a matter of fact relief works are no test of distress. In Nottingham some time ago they had relief works, and they had 1,396 men engaged upon those relief works. The authorities determined that they would stop the relief works. They did stop them and told the men if they could not get on they must go to the guardians. Of these 1,396 men, only 155 went to the guardians. Of these 56 were dismissed, either because they failed to attend, or because they were judged not to be in need of relief; 55 were offered the house; they all refused, and of the rest only 27 accepted the offer of out-door relief subject to a labour test, so that you had a large population (I do not say they were not poor people; they were poor people) working away at these relief works who were able as the event proved to get on in another way, and they were gradually, one by one, absorbed in the industrial population. In the mass, on relief works, they cannot be absorbed.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5369. Do you know whether they starved?—I should think not.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5370. Has there been any evidence that they starved?—Certainly not.

Mr. *Logan.*

5371. You say a large number of men in Nottingham would not go into the workhouse, and would not accept the labour test. Does that prove that these men, when the relief works were stopped, got to work?—It proved that they got on, and I think if any of them had starved it would certainly have been heard of. I do not think it is possible that, with a large population like that, you can follow each man to his own home and superintend the meals that he has, and then tell people he did not starve. If he goes off, and you hear no more of him, I presume you may conclude he does not starve.

Chairman.

5372. As you say, he gets along somehow?—Yes.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

5373. There a certain number never asked for any alternative?—Only 155 asked for any alternative. That is a further answer.

Chairman.

5374. You said it was an old story; can you give the date?—I think it is in one of the early reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, and I daresay it is 50 years ago.

Tuesday, 2nd April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Crean.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE A. H. DYKE ACLAND, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. THOMAS MACKAY, re-called, and further Examined.

Chairman.

5375. I THINK there was one question in your examination in chief which you wanted to extend or to say a word about before your examination was continued?—Yes.

5376. You said that very few unemployed applied to your charity organization society in St. George's during the recent frost; you want, I understand, to say something further with regard to that answer?—I want to supplement that answer by the statement that, to my knowledge, there was a very great deal of charitable relief being given away throughout the parish. All the established agencies had a great deal of extra money given to them, and there were also one or two new agencies which started into life temporarily to meet the extreme frost of this year. I should like to add that I believe that is an event that can be confidently calculated upon in times of any extraordinary pressure.

5377. You cannot rely, I presume, upon that charity being administered in the way you would administer it if you had charge of it?—To some extent not. Some of it was given away perhaps rather more indiscriminately than we should, as a charity organisation society, like to do; but the fact remains, and it ought to be stated to qualify my former statement that very few unemployed came to our society, that more undoubtedly would have come if there had not been that stream of private charity.

5378. Your point is that where there is extra depression there will be extra charity?—Quite so.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

5379. You stated that you had no faith in the colonisation process, or putting the unemployed among the working poor back upon the land?—I have not.

5380. Are you aware of any precedent in this country where land has been reclaimed that was lying waste and derelict?—I cannot say that I am. I am aware, of course, that land sometimes goes out of cultivation and is brought back again into cultivation; but I am not aware of its having been done on a large scale.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

5381. Have you ever gone down the River Clyde from Glasgow?—No; I do not know that part of the country.

5382. Are you aware that on the banks of the Clyde land which was lying waste was filled up by dredging from the river and made good land?—I am not aware of that; but I should doubt whether it was done by pauper labour or relief work labour.

5383. Are you aware that between Greenock and Glasgow there is a very large piece of bog land and that bog land was uncultivable until such time as it was covered over with the refuse from the City of Glasgow and converted into smiling fields?—I am aware that the whole of Scotland something like 150 years ago was in a very backward state of agriculture, and it has been developed since, I think, I may state, on the authority of Mr. M'Leod, very largely, by the banking system of Scotland; but that has been done, by professional farmers and not, so far as my information goes, by relief works or pauper labour.

5384. Do you not think there is a considerable amount of land in the neighbourhood of London, on the low parts by the River Thames, on which the labour of the unemployed could be used to great advantage for distributing the refuse of the City of London upon it?—I do not doubt that there is land, but I question whether you could advantageously employ the unemployed there.

5385. I take it, generally speaking, you are against the idea of putting the unemployed upon the land for the purpose of giving them employment?—Yes, for the reasons I stated at the last sitting of the Committee.

5386. Because it would not be a financial success?—And further, because it would tend to increase the evil by congesting population at places where, for economical and industrial reasons, it has gone away.

5387. Do you not think there is a great quantity of material which comes from the continent of Europe into the port of London that might be

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

be grown at our own doors, if this land were brought into cultivation?—I suspect the answer to that question is that there is a great quantity of manufactured goods that goes out from this country to pay for the imports that come in. It is a system of exchange. If we are to start doing things in this country that can be done better elsewhere, we should be the losers.

5388. Is it not rather a question of the payment of money?—Money goes to adjust the balances; the exchanges are affected by goods, and it is only the balance that is settled in money.

Mr. *Mather.*

5389. I should like to ask whether you have made a study of this question of occupying, not the pauper class, but the well-conducted unemployed of the working class, upon any agricultural occupation, and whether, in making the statements you made on the last occasion about Holland and Belgium, you are familiar with the conditions under which those colonisation schemes are carried on?—I have had no practical experience of conducting a colony in Holland; but I have relied upon evidence which is the best I can get, I think, namely, the most careful account which has been given of these colonies by Mr. Willink who went over both to the Belgian and the Dutch colonies, and whose report, I may say, was submitted to the authorities there, who have accepted (more or less) the accuracy of his statement. They defend the system in some points; but, as I understand, neither the Belgian nor the Dutch authorities dispute the fact that a large number of the people they have to deal with are people who come back time after time, some as many as 15 or 20 times. This *récidivisme*, as it is called, is admitted.

5390. They belong to the pauper class, that is to say, the same class as are dealt with by our board of guardians in this country by sending them to the workhouse; they do not come by any means under the designation of the unemployed working classes, that is to say, those persons who are suspended from their ordinary occupations through depression of trade, but who have some definite occupation, and who expect after a while to get back to their ordinary occupation?—I understand that the colony system is very largely a system of poor law relief as adopted in those two countries.

5391. So that there is nothing at all amongst the colonies you have referred to which deals with the question of any class of the community except the pauper class?—No. But the difficulty is that, if you start relief works for people who have to give up the industrial struggle, and say, 'You have failed to get on; you must come on this work, not as a matter of ordinary employment, but because you cannot get anything else to do," you are practically creating another pauper class.

5392. Assuming that that was not at all the condition under which any persons were employed under such a scheme, assuming there was a properly conducted colonisation scheme which secured their employment upon industrial work, such a scheme as enabled them successfully to tide over to the time when their own occupations in the towns may probably revive, that is dealing with a totally different system from anything

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

you have heard of on the continent?—If I may say so, the question is a little hypothetical, I think. You say, assuming that the scheme were made successful from the industrial point of view.

5393. What I mean is that the things are different in this respect; the class you have referred to is not by any means the class that might be dealt with by such a scheme; it is not the class that constitutes at the present time the greatest difficulty in England; that is to say, the well-conducted unemployed working man?—When you say, "the class that might be dealt with by such a scheme;" my objection is that I do not think you could deal with those men in this way.

5394. You would not put it higher than this, I presume: that from what you have seen of late concerning certain societies on the continent, you do not think that the same scheme applied in England would give better results?—Quite so.

5395. You are not prepared to go beyond that?—I have considerable acquaintance with the literature of this subject generally, and I never have come across any, what I may call, "fictitious" employment scheme which resulted in any good, whether upon the land or anywhere else.

5396. Are we to take your words in their general sense when you say that in England the labourers have left the land simply because there is no occupation for them?—I mean they can find better occupation elsewhere.

5397. They find occupation for the time being in the towns, and therefore they leave the land?—No doubt.

5398. Are you aware whether in this country at the present time anything has been tried in farming or agriculture beyond the usual old-fashioned method of small farms, and large farms and farm labourers being employed thereon; there has been no other method of farming adopted in this country but that adopted from time immemorial, has there?—I cannot at present think of any other method of farming.

5399. You have no acquaintance with any schemes which have shown that co-operative farming would be of any value?—I have read with very great interest Mr. Woolf's book about the assistance given by co-operative banking to small farmers in Germany and elsewhere, and I think there is a great deal to be said for it certainly, but the farming, assisted by this co-operative system of cheap credit, is not itself co-operative.

5400. Do you happen to have read quite recently the report of Mr. Wilson Fox, who was one of the Assistant Commissioners for the Royal Commission on Agriculture now sitting, in which he states that so much land has gone out of occupation, that villages are empty, cottages are unoccupied, that men have gone from the land, and the land is going altogether out of cultivation, and men have run to the towns in order to find occupation, and on his asking for remedies from the farmers of the district, one suggestion was that if there was a co-operative system amongst the small farmers, and if there were a means of disposing of their produce by co-operation also, this condition of things need not have come about?—It is a very large question.

5401. You have not met with that statement?—I have glanced at the Report, but my own

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

doubt always about these things is this: when you have got competent farmers, men who were brought up to it, and skilled labour, finding it very difficult to succeed I do not think you can expect that by simply putting the management of a farm into commission (which is what is done practically by co-operation) you are really in any stronger position to cope with the financial difficulties which have baffled private adventurers. I wish I could think it was otherwise, but the facts are too strong for me.

5402. You said just now that a large amount of produce came from abroad to this country, such things as we ourselves are producing a very large quantity of, but not so much as we require, the prices of which from abroad are no lower than can be obtained in England for the same article produced in England; do I understand you to think it is nevertheless an advantage to get it from abroad?—If we cannot grow it as cheaply.

5403. No; I say, assuming the possibility of selling at the same price to be the same in England as abroad, in regard to articles already produced in England, but not in sufficient quantities?—I would submit that that again is rather a hypothetical question. If one can do it as cheaply in England, I take it it will be done in England. The reason it is not done is because it cannot be done. I should be very glad if the conditions would alter and would lead it to be done.

5404. Are you aware that the conditions under which these things are produced abroad are totally different from those under which they are produced in England, and that the difficulty in England arises because we do not adopt the same plan; our land being equal, and all the conditions here being equal, it is simply a question of method?—I should be very glad to hear that the rearing of poultry or the growing of vegetables, or whatever it may be, was more largely carried on in England.

5405. May I take it that your mind is open to this extent: that although you have stated in your evidence in chief that you have seen as yet no schemes capable of affording the possibility of a much larger population being employed upon the land than is at present employed, still you, holding the position you do as a high and very responsible leader in regard to charity organisation, consider that there may be some other methods adopted than those you have hitherto heard of, and that you still have an open mind on the subject?—With this qualification: that I think it would be a fatal step for the State to make any speculation of that sort. If private individuals are prepared to do it, it is a proof that they think the thing will pay, and that capital and labour can advantageously be applied in that way, if they are wrong, that is their affair, and no great harm is done; but I should be strongly against the State speculating in land, as at the present time, at all events, I gather it is a losing concern in this country.

5406. Supposing there is no speculation about it, but that in the estimation of business men it is financially sound, is there any inherent objection to the assistance coming from any source that will establish the population upon the land?—If business men are of opinion that it will be a good employment of their capital to take labourers back from the back streets of towns to work upon a farm, I should say certainly they were at liberty to do so; but what I should very much object to would be that the Government should undertake it.

5407. I am not speaking of private individuals speculating in land or seeking to make a profit out of the land, because, of course, the land cannot bear many profits beyond that of sustaining those who work upon the land; but if there is no risk whatever in the employment of State funds to a limited amount in order to set free the land from its present conditions, may I take it there is no inherent objection to that so far as the financial means are concerned?—I am afraid I cannot agree to that. I question the possibility of the conditions you suggest. I think it is practically introducing protection again to try and bolster up a failing industry. Personally, I am a convinced Free Trader, and I cannot modify the opposition which I feel to what you suggest.

5408. If provision were made in the way I have described, or in any other, in regard to agriculture and the cultivation of land in this country, which is the first source of the wealth of the country, by which means could be legitimately employed for sending back the people to do work upon the land which Nature has destined men to do, assuming that it could be done on a system which was perfectly sound financially, would you call that bolstering up the industry?—I call it bolstering up an industry if that industry cannot get on without a State subvention.

5409. The industry that we are speaking of has reference, not to taking possession of the entire land of the country, but simply to dealing with the difficulty in the social condition of the people in regard to the unemployed well-conducted working classes, who cannot find employment at all unless they are assisted either by private enterprise pretty much on patriotic grounds or by the State on patriotic grounds?—I do not think I can modify my previous answer very much.

5410. You have not seen any scheme that recommends itself to you as overcoming your objection?—No.

5411. But you are prepared to examine any such scheme that anyone can suggest as affording a solution for this difficulty?—Yes, I should be prepared to examine any scheme.

5412. Are we to understand that you regard outdoor relief as altogether an evil in itself?—Out-relief from the rates I consider unwise.

5413. I understand that you would incline to all relief being administered through work?—No, I did not say that.

5414. I thought you inclined to the workhouse system?—Yes, but that is not work.

5415. There is always, of course, some work connected with workhouse relief?—Of course people are put to work in the workhouse; but work is a different thing from the workhouse.

5416. Are we to understand that you do not think it wise for the poor law authorities to administer relief to any persons who will not go into

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

into the workhouse?—Yes, I should say so as a general principle. I might state that of course I am prepared to defend the line which has been taken in the three East-end unions to which I referred, which, you may say, have practically stopped out-door relief altogether; but I am aware that there may be some difficulty in bringing that into operation, and I should hold that the plan pursued by boards of guardians like those of Birmingham, Manchester, and Paddington, is based upon the same principle, and is very nearly as good. It consists in administering out-relief very strictly, insisting on adequate investigation, and adequate relief, and in accepting the co-operation of voluntary agencies, with the view, as far as possible, of leaving "out-relief" in their hands.

5417. Supposing at my works, owing to bad trade during six months of the year, I were to discharge 200 or 300 men, some of whom would be boiler-makers, mechanics, and workers in various departments of mechanical work, and if by reason of their large families or of sickness at home or other causes the savings of those men had been exhausted, would you say the only chance for them should be to go to the workhouse, or to depend upon a charity organisation society such as yours in the district?—That is my opinion; accepting the hypothesis, which I submit is an improbable one, that a number of men are dismissed, that they find no other employment, that the depression lasts a long time, that their resources are exhausted, that their friends cease to help, that no special voluntary effort to meet the crisis is made, then, failing all these alternatives, they must come on the normal charities of the district, or, in the last resort, on the Poor Law, and this last must, in my opinion, maintain the workhouse test; and I should like to add that this was the opinion, after a most elaborate inquiry of the Poor Law Commission in 1834, and it is the deliberate opinion, I believe, of every single writer of repute upon the subject. It is the deliberate opinion, I take it, of all the inspectors and people who have got to do with the Local Government Board and the administration of the law. It was the opinion of Mr. Fawcett in 1871 that out-door relief, not only to able-bodied, but generally, ought to be made illegal.

5418. That is, from the poor law authorities?—Yes.

5419. What part would the charities organisation societies play in the social condition of the country if it were the absolute law that no out-door relief could be given; would you then rely upon the multiplication of charity organisation societies throughout the country to meet such cases as I have just described?—On the last occasion, when I gave evidence here, I mentioned the case of Nottingham, where they had had certain relief works. I should like to correct the date I then gave. At the moment I had stupidly mislaid the reference to that case, and I said that it occurred 50 years ago. I was quite mistaken; it was a modern instance which occurred in the winter of 1885. In that case, very much the same state of things as you have described in your question arose; and if you will allow me, I will read one

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

or two passages from a paper written by Sir Samuel Johnson, who is the Town Clerk of Nottingham, as to the experience there of starting relief works when there was a temporary suspension of one of the staple trades of Nottingham. He says that there were 1,400 or 1,500 men who were thrown upon the resources of the town and demanded work, and that some of the best trained officials of the corporation were told off to superintend the men, and put them to levelling land for building purposes. A sum of 10,000*l.* was spent in labour and plant. "The result was disappointing to those who were most anxious to try the experiment. There were certainly some good honest workmen who greatly needed help, and who took kindly to such work, and wished to do their duty. They were, however, restrained by the rougher element, who enforced idleness on those who were willing to work. Remonstrances by the overseers were met with volleys of oaths and violent threats." "Police were kept in reserve, as the men began to insult passers by;" and finally there was a riot, and they had to shut up the establishment. The figures I gave on the last occasion were the figures that applied to that experiment. Ultimately they stopped the works, and told the men that if they could not get on they must apply to the relieving officers. As a fact very few applied, and of those that did apply, a certain number were offered the workhouse. None of them accepted it. Only 27 out of the 1,300 accepted the offer of going to work under the out-relief regulation order in the labour yard.

5420. Were those men of the pauper class?—No, not of the pauper class; they were the people, as I understand, who were thrown out of work by the temporary suspension of one of the staple trades of Nottingham.

5421. Have you seen the work going on at Wanstead Flats?—No, I have not seen it.

5422. That is of a similar character to the work you have been describing at Nottingham, is it not?—I cannot express an opinion.

5423. I think it would be well worth your while to see it, as showing that there are two sides to the question?—Will you allow me to point out that they have not got to the end of those works yet. It is easy enough to start works, but the problem is how to get the people away again.

5424. I put the question to you because it is important to get from you, as being a capable authority, what the result of your experience has been; are we to understand that, knowing as you do the industrial and social conditions under which we live, and the difficulties arising from fluctuations of trade and so on, you think there is no possible relief other than that which could be given by the more perfect administration of the poor law, as you have now pointed out, and the extension throughout the country of such charity organisation societies as that over which you preside; are those the only two means, in your opinion, of coping with any difficulties that may turn up?—I think so.

5425. You have nothing further to offer beyond continuing the work that you are familiar with through such societies as that which you represent, and getting the administration of the poor

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

law into a more perfect condition than it is at present; that is your final solution of the present condition of things, is it?—I think the only solution of this question is to make it perfectly clear that the responsibility for finding work rests on the people themselves, and not upon the public authority. The only way of enforcing that, so far as I know, is by the administration of the Poor Law on the principles laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5426. As regards these works at West Ham, which have been referred to, I gather you think there is very little difficulty in starting these works, but the real test of their success is getting men away from them and turning them into useful citizens afterwards?—Precisely. You can have exactly as many relief works and as many paupers as you choose to pay for, but the crux is, having got these paupers and these men on relief works, to get them back into the ranks of industry again.

5427. You think that the more these works are extended the larger the danger will be of people depending upon these works?—Certainly. I do not think I can give you any stronger instance of that than the increase which I told you had taken place in five weeks in St. Olave's, where the increase of pauperism was 154 per cent., mainly through their having a labour yard administered upon very easy conditions.

5428. With regard to the question which the honourable Member for the Gorton Division put to you with reference to the old-fashioned system of farming, do you think the chances are that if farming is not made to answer by private enterprise it is not likely to answer by a system of relief works managed by a sort of co-operative body or a body of managers?—I should say not only would it be likely, but it would be certain not to answer.

5429. You see no chance of its being more successful than under the present system?—It would be much worse, of course. You would have unskilled labour from the towns and town boards of guardians managing industrial enterprises about which they do not understand anything.

5430. You think that such a process would not help you in getting people *bonâ fide* back to the land by a fictitious system of dependence upon outside assistance?—I think it would be practically a return to the old Poor Law; and I might remind you that the business of what were called the Assistant Commissioners (Local Government Board inspectors as we now call them) in the first year of the Poor Law Commission was to go round the country suppressing everywhere these little sporadic relief works.

5431. That was in 1834, was it not?—I had specially in my mind 1835, the first year of the new Poor Law. The Report for 1835 is full of these cases.

5432. Have you heard of a plan such as they have at Battersea, of the local authority setting aside a sum of money for work which they do in winter in order to meet this difficulty?—I have heard of it; but I understand the difficulty is that so very few works can be carried on at times when other trade is suspended. I heard it stated that one vestry had done great damage to their roads by the inordinate sweeping which they had started during the frost in order to give employment.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

5433. Do you think that if every authority in London were to make it known that they had set aside a certain sum to spend in winter upon these works many people would depend upon the prospect of that work?—I think so.

5434. Would that be an evil, in your opinion?—Yes.

5435. Do you think it would aggravate the conditions of distress?—I am sure of it.

5436. I understand your way of conducting your relief is that you make it an absolute rule to investigate each case and only relieve those who have given some evidence of past thrift or care?—Yes, except that, as explained, we step in to save the homes and to give relief to the families of unthrifty men who have been obliged to go into the workhouse.

5437. Do you consider that could be carried out in an extensive system of relief works?—I do not think so; you have to deal with so very large a number when you give inviting conditions of relief.

5438. You think that the danger of any system of general relief, by relief works so called, would be that they would tend to do away with that condition of employment or relief?—I think so.

5439. You said in another part of your evidence that with a lax administration of relief "the first resource of a poor person is in any crisis the rates"; do you consider your way of administering relief tends to make people more reliant upon themselves?—That is our main object, of course. Speaking for my own committee of the Charity Organisation Society, we have got to distrust a good deal evidence of character, because it is a very indefinite thing. Thrift is a thing that is more or less tangible, and one is not liable to do such gross injustice in judging by that as one is liable to when one attempts to judge from evidence of character. That is one reason why I would support that test. Further, I believe it has made a difference even in our very poor district of St. George's. Our committee the other day remarked upon the very different tone towards the public authority taken by a woman who had come from Bethnal Green, which is a very lavishly administered union, different, I mean, from what we are now accustomed to remark among the poor people of St. George's. This system has been going on in St. George's for 20 years, and the people have become accustomed not to look to the rates; they look to themselves, and I do not think they would have expected so much from the public authority as we thought this woman did.

5440. Has that tended to increase or decrease the sufferings of the poor, in your opinion?—It has certainly tended to decrease the sufferings of the poor, because I am perfectly certain that no system of relief can ever supply the place of the independence of the poor, which is really the object we are all struggling for.

5441. You consider that system, though it may appear harsh, ultimately, and perhaps rapidly, lessens the sufferings of the poor?—I should not have devoted all the time and trouble I have to this work did I not think so.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

5442. As regards the seasonal trades, do you consider that you have taught the people in your district to recognise that where men are engaged in trades that cannot be carried on in winter, some provision must be made when they can be carried on to enable them to tide over the winter?—It is a little difficult to answer that question in the affirmative.

5443. That must be the tendency?—That must be the tendency, undoubtedly. But where you have the contiguous unions administering in a different way and teaching people when they are out of work to go to the authorities, it is difficult in view of the migratory habits of the population to lay your finger upon a man and show that he has learnt such-and-such a lesson from residence in such-and-such a union; but I think that would be the tendency.

5444. If it were known that men in seasonal trades would be relieved, would that tend to increase or decrease the wages in those trades?—I should imagine it would decrease the wages.

5445. Was not that result come to in the Report of 1834?—Certainly. The regular system was that the wages were supplemented out of the rates, and in the most open manner, of course, at that time,

5446. Do you think the danger as regards this discussion upon relief works is that we may tend to go back to that condition of affairs?—As you have asked the question, I may say I think things are very critical just now.

5447. Do you think any return to that system would really inflict immense hardship and suffering upon the poor themselves?—Certainly. I never heard it doubted. I should have thought that was one of the axioms of this controversy.

5448. You think that really the kindest and most humane treatment is to continue as rigidly as may be the system laid down in the 1834 Report?—Certainly.

Mr. *Bolton.*

5449. With regard to the 1834 Report, are you of opinion that the circumstances there are such that the Committee may derive instruction and warning from that Report?—I should say so certainly.

5450. You are of opinion that the dangers and evils which were made manifest by that report are equally dangers and evils now?—I should say that by this Circular from the Local Government Board, which has induced the vestries to become, as it were, competing relief authorities, you have in some places very nearly introduced the same state of things again.

5451. You think that the facts in that report and the opinions expressed by the distinguished gentlemen who constituted the Commission are applicable, by way of warning advice and instruction, to the present time?—I should say so certainly. I know it has been put forward that the condition of the working classes having considerably improved, you might therefore relax the law; but I maintain that that is a most dangerous fallacy. I should like to state in the most positive manner, as the result of my experience, that the difficulty of this question is not a question of whether people get more or less wages, but it is that, unfortunately, in the lower stratum of society, you get a certain number of people who have no sense of personal responsibility. Higher wages in such cases do not raise men above the hand-to-mouth life, but only make it somewhat more lavish while they last. I am inclined to argue that to a great extent that is the result of the bad administration of the Poor Law.

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

5452. You think in fact that a departure from the principles enunciated in that report has had this effect?—It has kept a certain section of those people below the general rise in the condition of the rest of the working classes.

5453. In fact the principles of the Poor Law as established after that report, have not sustained any impeachment down to the present time?—I should say they have been confirmed.

5454. Is it not a fact that a great many of the experiments that are so frequently suggested at the present time in various quarters by people affecting to sympathise with the condition of the unemployed, were all tried and are reported upon practically in that report of 1834?—I think so.

5455. Are you of opinion that the evils which were conclusively shown to be produced by those experiments would, under somewhat altered conditions at the present time, follow in the same way if those experiments were repeated?—I think so.

5456. You have had, have you not, a good deal of experience, not only of the pauper class but of the class just above them, who are on the verge of pauperism, the struggling poor who are just on the brink of pauperism?—Yes.

5457. And also of the unemployed generally?—Yes.

5458. Are you of opinion that any large or appreciable number of unemployed would be fit physically to go and work upon the land in farming and market-garden operations?—The habitually unemployed are, I am afraid, people whom, from some defect of character or otherwise, it is very difficult to employ; they have lost the habit of industry, and I do not think you would employ them successfully upon the land.

5459. Among the trades and occupations which are depressed, in which a great many people are out of employment, are there not a very large number of persons who are physically unfit to go out and work in the open air on farms and on market gardens?—Yes, a large number of the people who have fallen out of work are old people who, I think, by the conditions laid down by the trades unions, are unable to get in ordinary times full pay from employers, and the result has been that a great number of those people are left out in the cold.

5460. Taking, for instance, persons engaged in light trades such as the trades pursued in the east-end factories, watch makers, and people of that kind, or persons engaged in light mechanical occupations, people who have been in shops, lower class clerks, and all that class of persons who are in the habit of working indoors; are there not a large number of those persons out of employment who would be physically unfit to to go through the laborious work of a farm or a market garden?—That is the great difficulty; you cannot make a relief-work of such a nature that it would suit everyone.

5461. Therefore, even if works of relief such as are suggested (the cultivation of land under the orders of the municipality or guardians, or the establishment of market gardens all round

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

London growing potatoes, as one gentlemen suggested), is it not the fact that that work would only afford employment for a portion, and a limited portion of the unemployed?—I should imagine so.

5462. With regard to ordinary relief works, it would be very difficult, would it not, to embark upon any ordinary relief works, except such as the laying out of grounds for public gardens, and levelling land and forming land for recreation grounds and work of that kind?—I should think so.

5463. Both farming and market gardening are highly skilled occupations, are they not?—Yes, I should say so; certainly market gardening is.

5464. And it would require, I presume, training for the people to usefully work on them?—I should say so.

5465. From your knowledge of the unemployed in the East End of London, do you not think that there are a very large number of persons who are physically unfit and utterly incapable of doing that sort of work?—Yes, I think there are some, certainly.

5466. We have heard that your opinion is that the Poor Law is sufficient supplemented by organised charity, to deal with the present situation?—I think so.

5467. The organisation of charity in an efficient way involves a good deal of time, experience and judgment, does it not?—I think so.

5468. Do not you think it would be a little difficult to organise in every local area throughout England an efficient committee or body of men on lines such as your committee is established on?—It would be difficult; but perhaps you would let me supplement that answer. In advocating a certain strictness of administration, I do not rely entirely upon the introduction of charity; because my contention is that if you somewhat restrict legal relief, the independence of the poor will grow of itself. I think independence is the natural condition of people; I do not believe it is natural either to apply to charity or to the Poor Law unless you tempt them very strongly. My contention is that you tempt them at present by the poor law very much. While it is very desirable that you should have the Poor Law backed up by charity, it is not absolutely necessary. In the country it is very seldom done. The difficulty is met by the fact that the poor develop more rapidly their natural aptitudes for independence.

5469. If you were to proceed upon the policy of directly reducing out-relief so that it should ultimately arrive at the vanishing point, and pursued the policy of refusing out-relief, I will not say in all cases, but in nearly all cases, you would have to deal in some way with a considerable number of cases that were not relieved by the poor law; and you have dealt with them by means of your committee by organising charity and using charity for the purpose of supplementing the work of the Poor Law?—We have tried to do so, and to a certain extent I think we have succeeded.

5470. The efficient carrying out of the policy depends on your getting in each district a number of public spirited and judicious people who are able to get the confidence of the charitable and who are able to organize, aid, and supplement the Poor Law, does it not?—Yes.

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

5471. Now I think you will agree with me that it would be a little too much to expect that in every district in England there would be a number of people of the judgment and experience such as there are in St. George's-in-the-East in connection with the Charity Organisation Society, and in other districts in London, where the Charity Organisation Society is strong?—Yes; but you do not want a great deal of organisation. There are well-to-do people who are their neighbours in the country, and neighbourliness is a natural form of organisation, and you do not want to improve upon it very much.

5472. But what is everybody's business is nobody's business?—I do not admit that people who are neighbours are justified in neglecting their poorer neighbours, and I do not think as a rule they do.

5473. I have made a suggestion to this Committee, and I should like to have your opinion upon it. I have been a guardian of the poor in everal parishes and have had some experience, and I make this suggestion from my experience. My suggestion is that in every locality there should be an official, not a poor law official, but to a certain extent a municipal official, whose business it should be to organize, if possible, the charities of the district, to place himself at the disposal of the public spirited and charitable people of the district to get information as to the distress and the condition of the people. I suggest that he should have the right to sit with the board of guardians to be consulted by the board of guardians; that he should be able to deal with cases that come before the board of guardians which they think are cases that should be dealt with by charity, by personal interest and personal effort, rather than by the poor law; that he should act as clerk to any charity organization committee such as your committee, for instance; that he should place his clerical services at their disposal, and should be a person to whom reference can be made if necessary. Funds could be entrusted to him; he would know the charities of the district and the whole condition of the district and the condition of labour in the district, and would place his services at the disposal alike of the guardians and the municipal authority. Do you think that if such an official as that were established, whom we will call an almoner of charitable relief, it would enable the organisation of charities to be effected throughout the country and enable the harshness of the Poor Law to be modified, so that cases not dealt with by the Poor Law should be dealt with?—I should be strongly against that.

5474. Will you explain why?—Because as I maintain the bad effect of out-relief is that it is an official source of income to these people; it is a public fund, a fund that they get from the public authority to which they all have equally a right. The advantage of transferring the responsibility of relieving people at their own homes (which is, of course, the essence of out-relief) to a private and voluntary source, is that you very much diminish the effect that this source of maintenance has upon the imagination and conduct of the poor. The objection to out-relief is that you get people qualifying for out-relief throughout

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

out the whole of their lives. I say if you make private charity official, you run very much into the same danger. The Charity Organisation Society say "In the administration of our funds we rely very largely upon investigation." That is perfectly true; we rely to some extent upon investigation, but I am bound to say I think our success is very much more due to the greater moderation with which the poor will put forward their claims upon a private charity as distinguished from a public fund to which they all think they have an equal right.

5475. Do you not think the existence of an official of that kind would be valuable to organise such committees, to bring the people together, to place at their disposal his experience, and to keep a record, and assist and co-operate?—I think that there might be some advantage in it, but that the disadvantages would be far greater in having the result that you are really officialising a new endowment, and creating what I may call a new incentive to pauperism.

5476. But no public funds would be entrusted to this man, he would simply have his salary paid by the municipal official of the district, and necessary expenses, office expenses, would be allowed him; where would there be any encouragement to pauperism in that?—I regard very jealously the independence of the voluntary charity agencies of the district; it would make it very difficult for them to conduct their business if you link them in an official manner to the poor law of the district, and personally I should be against it.

5477. But where need the charities be under any restraint in availing themselves of the information and assistance if they liked of these officials?—But we can get the assistance now; we do not require the official to get that sort of assistance.

5478. Do you think it is likely you would get private individuals to associate themselves together to do the clerical work, pay the expenses, attend the board of guardians and do all this throughout England?—It has been done for some quarter of a century throughout London, and it has been very much extended over the country.

5479. You say throughout London it has been done in three or four parishes where they are public-spirited and capable, but it is not done in the majority of parishes, is it?—Excuse me; there is a committee which is perfectly ready to co-operate with the guardians if the guardians will agree in every Poor Law union in London.

5480. Is there in Islington?—Certainly.

5481. How many do the committee consist of in Islington?—I cannot tell you off-hand, but they generally consist of from 15 to 20.

5482. Fifteen to 20 in Islington?—Yes.

5483. And in St. Pancras?—Yes, there are two committees in St. Pancras.

5484. Would you be surprised to hear that I have sat for some years on both those boards for various periods, and I have never heard of these committees taking any action in conjunction with the guardians?—If the guardians do not fall largely into the scheme you very possibly would not.

5485. But nobody ever made any suggestion that they should co-operate?—Excuse me, I think they have.

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

5486. Do not you think the reason why they have not co-operated has been that what is everybody's business is nobody's business?—No. For very many years there has been a very efficient committee of the society in both those districts. The reason there has been no co-operation is that, rightly or wrongly, a great many guardians do not like parting with the patronage involved in out-door relief. I do not know really what they do in St. Pancras and Islington. There is probably a certain amount of co-operation, but not so close as in the East End.

5487. Do you not think that difficulty would be got rid of if you had an officer such as I am suggesting, to come and sit with the board of guardians, and also to attend the committees and endeavour to bring about this co-operation?—I do not believe in the inspiration of officials, and I do not think they would succeed any better than the people who are there now.

5488. Do you think it could in any way affect the independence of the charities to have an officer to whom they could resort for advice or information, or assistance?—I do not quite understand your argument. I understood that this officer was to be the clerk and a sort of managing man for the charity.

5489. Not necessarily?—If you like to have an extra official at the guardians' meetings, well and good.

5490. Not at the guardians' meetings?—You said sitting at the board of guardians.

5491. He should have a right to go to the board of guardians, listen to their proceedings, and place his services at their disposal, and to deal with any case which they might think would be dealt better with by him?—I am against your official.

5492. Take this case: A poor fellow who is coming before the board of guardians, who has had no relief in his life, is one of the deserving unemployed, and who wants a little help; do you not think such a case as that might properly be dealt with by such an officer as I have suggested, who would look into the man's case carefully and get him employment?—I submit that one of the guardians by means of a halfpenny postcard could direct the attention of the federated charities of the district to the matter.

5493. Do you not think such an official as I have suggested, who is recognised in such a case as I have mentioned, would be more likely to get that man employment than a guardian sending a halfpenny postcard, or the man himself going alone about and canvassing for employment?—I do not think so; I am bound to say if a man canvassed for employment in company with the official, I think it would militate very much against his chance of getting employment.

5494. I do not suggest he should canvass in company with the official; but do you not think that such an official as I have suggested would know persons who would listen to him when they would not listen to a poor broken-down man coming and asking for employment?—Might I answer that by quoting what the vestry clerk of Kensington said to his board. They opened a bureau for employment; he wrote to a lot of employers; he got a good many civil answers, but not a single offer of employment.

 5495. That

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

5495. That is the postcard system. I suggest that in a deserving case the official I am proposing would be able to go to the employer personally who would be likely to have employment to give away, to set forth the man's claims and enlist the employer's sympathy, and might have the opportunity of getting the man work, where a postcard would be disregarded, and where the man himself perhaps, coming and standing, and begging at the door for work, might also be disregarded and misunderstood?—I have talked of the matter to employers with a view of getting employment for some particular case. I always find there exists a prejudice in their minds against a man who has been in contact with relief agencies, and it would be against him if it were known he were such a man.

5496. Is it not because there is a prejudice against him, and that the work of such an official as I have suggested would be very valuable?—I read it the other way; I cannot help it, but I am afraid I cannot give you a better answer.

5497. Where would there be any cause for jealousy on the part of, or any interference with, the charity if such an official exist as I propose?—It would be very difficult, for instance, for charities to maintain an independence of decision. There would be a great pressure on the charities to make themselves mere registrars of the decisions of the guardians, and, if they resisted, considerable friction would result.

5498. But that strikes at the root of co-operation, does it not, if there is a jealousy on the part of the charities at the recommendations of the guardians?—No. I may say that in St. George's and in the other East-end Unions where the co-operation has been extremely close, the absolute independence of the two bodies has been maintained: the guardians have never attempted to override our decisions.

5499. Where would the independence be affected by such an official as I am suggesting being an intermediary between the guardians and these associations?—If he were merely an intermediary it would be only what at present exists.

5500. Where does it exist?—In our committee we have six members of the board of guardians, five of them regular attendants, and it is so in a great many other places.

5501. That involves your having four men who are willing to give up their time to this detailed work, and to continuous labour of the kind, does it not?—I quite see what your point is, but I confess I do not agree that you would effect the improvement which you wish to make by the means you suggest. I think you must take my answer.

5502. I desire altogether to see that your guardians co-operate with the charities, but my difficulty is, and I put it to you, how to bring about that co-operation and to keep up a continuous knowledge between the two organisations, the Poor Law and the charitable organisations?—In my humble judgment the means you suggest would not effect the object you have in view. That is the only answer I can give you.

5503. If your Charity Organisation Society is so good, as I admit it is, in its working in St. George's-in-the-East, how is it it has not sprung up in other districts of London where it would be equally valuable?—My answer is that it does exist in every union in London, and if the guardians elsewhere took the view which the guardians do in St. George's-in-the-East, it would be equally satisfactory. The committees in Kensington, St. George's, Hanover square, and many other districts, are all working hand-and-glove with the guardians, but perhaps not quite on the same lines as in St. George's-in-the-East.

5504. There is not that continuous co-operation in other parishes as there is in St. George's-in-the-East, is there?—I assure you that the other committees would not at all accept what you put to me, that they do not co-operate with the guardians; they do, very largely, and probably prefer their system to ours.

5505. But this co-operation to be effective must be continuous, persistent, instructive co-operation, must it not?—My answer is, if it is not so it is not for want of the official you describe. The whole machinery is there if the guardians would agree to do it.

5506. Can you give the Committee any explanation why so excellent an idea has not been followed in other parishes throughout London, except the three or four who have adopted it?—It is followed in many unions, and your question should be put to the guardians of the several parishes which refuse to co-operate.

5507. Is it not because what is everybody's business is nobody's business, and while you have men in the district you speak of who have taken it in hand, you have not got them in other parts of London?—I assure you there are people who have devoted their lives to the work. There is my friend Mr. Edgecombe, in Kensington, who is the chairman of the board of guardians, and also secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, he has been the centre of this close co-operation for, I should think, more than 20 years.

5508. Then, as I understand, you are not in favour of such an official as I have sketched out, are you?—No, not a municipal officer.

5509. Then you do not see any objection to the idea, provided that he is not a municipal officer?—I maintain all you wish is being actively carried out by the societies at present, and it would hinder their work if you appoint this municipal officer.

5510. If he were not a municipal officer but an officer of the board of guardians, he would virtually be only another relieving officer?—I say at present there is no difficulty in keeping up very close and constant communication with the boards of guardians; no difficulty in the world.

5511. You do not see my point. You have suggested that you would object to this officer if he were a municipal officer?—I should object to our society, or any officer of our society, for instance, being made a municipal officer, or I should object to our society being given any official position in this respect.

5512. Or being interfered with in any way whatever?—We are quite open to any suggestions that may be made to us, but we should not like to be made part of the State machinery, for the reasons I gave in my first anwer to you on this point.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

5513. Is it not the fact, from your long experience in London, that the various boards of guardians

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

guardians voluntarily do that very work which we have been speaking about in order to control, as much as possible, the way in which they should administer relief to the unemployed?—Quite so.

5514. Is it not a fact that in St. George's-in-the-East you have gentlemen who do that work?—They do that work.

5515. Voluntarily?—Voluntarily; certainly.

5516. During your great experience, have you found that the poverty in the East End of London is more than normal this year?—Of course, the terrible frost we have gone through is bound to increase the sufferings of the poor.

5517. Solely the frost?—Yes.

5518. You have stated that the greater number of people who applied to you for relief in St. George's were not of the unemployed class?—We had some unemployed, but a very small number, certainly.

5519. Do you know the staple trades in St. George's-in-the-East?—Except the dock trade, there is hardly any staple trade; there are many miscellaneous trades.

5520. Is not sugar a staple trade?—No, that has gone.

5521. Do you find the staple trades have really gone?—The sugar trade has been gone, I should think, for 20 years; Mr. Martineau's house was the last there, and they moved down the river about five years ago, I think.

5522. Do you find this poverty which has been increased so much in the East End of London, has been caused by the union rate of wage being higher in the East End of London than it is in any other portion of the metropolis?—I do not quite understand what you mean by the union rate of wage being higher.

5523. I mean the union rate of wage which a union man would be compelled to accept, being higher than any other rate of wage in any other portion of the country?—I cannot speak to that.

5524. Are you aware that a vast number of men were thrown out of employment in Mr. Hill's shipbuilding yard?—That is not in St. George's.

5525. It is in the East End of London, is it not?—I have no knowledge of the facts.

5526. And you do not know of any of the unemployed in St. George's and their want of work being caused by an increase of the rate of union wages?—This has happened, of course; that the great dock strike brought about an increase of wages; it also brought about an attempt to make employment regular by the dock authorities, and they now give, what they call, preference tickets, so that people who have not got those tickets find it much harder to get work than before.

5527. Does that increase the number of unemployed?—I do not think so; that was the origin, I believe, of a scheme for giving some employment, which was got up in connection with the conference at the Mansion House; but they found they got very few employable men from St. George's. Several of the people connected with this experiment remarked to me how very few suitable people they could get from St. George's, capable, that is, of giving proof of their willingness to work at test spade work with a view of ultimately being sent to the Colonies.

5528. I am speaking now of the cabinet-

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

making, and trades other than agricultural or digging work; the trades which have suffered owing to the union rate of wages being much higher in the East End of London than in any other portion of the metropolis?—No, we have no cabinet-making in St. George's.

5529. You have a very large coster population, have you not?—Yes; not I think very large.

5530. Have you found much poverty among them?—No, I cannot say we have.

5531. Have they any friendly society?—I do not know that it is any society specially for costermongers. There is in the neighbourhood of Columbia Market a little loan society for costers, about which I happen to know accidentally.

5532. Do you find there has been any great distress amongst the coster population of St. George's?—I have no evidence they have suffered especially.

5533. There are a lot of local charities in St. George's, are there not?—I should not say a great number; I should say astonishingly few, considering those in other parts of London.

5534. Do you work harmoniously with those charities?—Of course the principal charities are connected with the churches, and our committee consists, I may say, almost entirely of the clergy of the district and their staff of visitors, &c.

5535. Have you any relief societies in St. George's like there are in other portions of the East End of London, established solely for the purpose of relieving the poor quietly by redeeming their tools from pawn, paying a little back rent to pay brokers out of the house, and giving them a chance of returning to work with a little money in their pockets?—There has been a great deal of money spent this winter. There is one largish society started a little time back which has been going on during the winter. A great many people started societies. Certainly one publican if not two publicans started a relief fund. You may take it that all the charitable societies are established for the purpose you name.

5536. Are there a large number of dockers out of employment at the present time?—The work at the docks varies very much from day to day, but very recently I was told they were extremely busy at the docks; it varies as the ships come up.

5537. And you do not think there are a large number of dockers out of employment just now, do you?—I do not think so. Except for the frost, I repeat I do not think there was anything exceptional this year.

5538. If you had an extraordinary number of unemployed in St. George's-in-the-East in what way would you propose to give them employment?—That is rather a hypothetical question, because the whole of my argument goes to show that if during normal times you administer the law on what I call sound principles, the poor people in times of want do not come in those large numbers; the public authority is not the place they go to get employment; and secondly, I should say, if they come in very large numbers, I mean came in a body as is sometimes suggested, one would be justified in saying that the object of such application was not only for relief, but to embarrass the Poor Law authorities, and in that case it would, of course, be embarrasing, but the relieving officers I do not think

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

would have any option, or the guardians would have any option but to do what the law directs. Of course, if they had a stoneyard they might offer work there, but if they had not, I presume what the guardians would say would be that they must relieve the men in the house. If there were any men who were in clubs, and who chose to come to our society, we would relieve them without any condition, and, as already explained, we would, where necessary, keep up the homes of those who had homes worth keeping up.

5539. What work to your knowledge could be usefully done in which these men could be employed?—I do not think there is any work. The vestries have their ordinary staff, and they cannot increase it in order to give employment in that way.

5540. Do you know whether the friendly societies have done anything in St. George's this winter in helping the unemployed?—I do not think that any part of the insurance given by friendly societies covers want of employment.

5541. They have not administered any out-door relief, have they?—The trade societies have certain out-of-work funds, but I have no knowledge of what they are.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

5542. You have been asked questions in relation to the comparative wage in St. George's-in-the-East where the union exists, and other parts of the country where it does not exist. Have you any idea as to how the wages compare in your district and other parts of London?—There is no more union in St. George's than anywhere else.

5543. And therefore it could not affect the wage, nor the volume of the unemployed, would it?—I do not see that it could.

5544. In reference to the men being able to work on the land, you were asked the question by Mr. Bolton whether there were a number of men who could not work on the land if work was afforded them. Would there be a number of men in your district who could work on the land if they could get it?—I would say it is extremely easy to start relief works, and I have no doubt you could get some men to handle a spade.

5545. But there would be men in St. George's-in-the-East who have come from the land originally, would there not?—I should say comparatively few.

5546. You think not many?—I do not think so.

5547. Does it take much training to make a man an agricultural labourer?—An agricultural labourer has not only to do digging; he has to look after beasts, horses, and all sorts of things, and plough.

5548. Therefore you think he would need some training before he could be an agricultural labourer, do you?—I should think so, but I am not an authority.

5549. In your evidence on Friday and this morning you have charged the trades unions with preventing the transmission of labour from one trade to another?—To a certain extent I think they do. What I really said was that they did not realise sufficiently the importance of that aspect of the question.

5550. Do you mean that they prevent it?—So far as I know they do not do much to help it.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

5551. I think you put it more strongly than that, that they prevented it?—Possibly.

5552. Now if it takes some time for a dock labourer who is used to rough work to train himself for an agricultural labourer, which is as near cognate as possible——?—I do not admit that at all.

5553. I mean as to the muscular part of it, not in the handling of a spade; how would you provide for a man who has been a dock labourer in St. George's-in-the-East, or a sugar refiner, turning his attention to boot-making, for instance?—I confess if a dock labourer asked me, I should not recommend him to be a bootmaker.

5554. That is not my point. You say trades unions prevent or hinder it. I want to follow out the idea as to qualifying for a trade a man has not been in before. I think you made it quite clear that with rare exceptions the labourers in St. George's-in-the-East could not transfer themselves to agricultural labourers. I want to take that a little further. Taking the man who has been a sugar refiner, how could any trade union rule of the engineers prevent that man becoming an engineer. If it takes some time for a dock labourer to qualify himself for an agricultural labourer, how long would it take for a sugar refiner to become qualified for an engineer?—My argument only was that I think that by trying to set up a monopoly of employment for people belonging to the union that trade unions did not always see their own interests. Perhaps it is impertinent in me to presume to see their interests better than they do, but I think they would be better advised if they allowed labour to flow more easily. The difficulty is that an inexperienced man must probably accept less than the highest union wages. The compensation, if I might put it so, of a man whose trade is invaded by an inferior class is that there are going on constantly fresh distributions of labour, all following the market towards better remunerated employment, people moving from one trade to another, and I think that is the line to which trade unions ought to pay a little more attention.

5555. I am a trade union secretary, and I want to get at the root of this point. Now take any workmen you have in St. George's-in-the-East, and suppose that the trades union regulation which you spoke of, and which you have not specified as yet, was removed, is there an employer in this country in an engineering works or in a boot manufactory who would employ those men?—You are taking rather an extreme case.

5556. I should like to have it explained?—Here is a case in point: There is a great dispute going on between two large unions, the ship engineers and ship carpenters; these are men who, I understand, are equally fitted to do certain work in the opinion of their employers; and yet, by the regulation of the trades union, labour is not allowed to pass between these two trades. The dispute, I understand, occasionally brings trade to a standstill.

5557. That would not ease off the volume of unemployed, because if the ship carpenters do not do the work, of course the engineers would do, and *vice versâ*; therefore, it would not affect the question; may I ask you if you can name a trades

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

trades union which, by the stringency of its rules, prevents a qualified man going into a certain trade?—I know that a poor woman came to me some little time ago (I did not verify her statement, but I will repeat it to you for what it is worth) to ask for relief because her husband was ill. After a time her husband became better, and we said, "Well, we suppose you are all right now?" "No," she said, "it was not all right until her husband's union charges were paid up; his fellow unionists would not work with him unless the charges were paid up"; and I think we paid them up.

5558. That opens out another aspect; that is not the aspect which you stated; could you explain to the Committee what power it is that prevents the extension of labour on the railways to the unemployed?—I do not profess to be a railway authority.

5559. Is it the large monopolies the railways have which prevents the formation of another?—Regulations which are laid down, which are extremely proper for crowded thoroughfares, when applied to railways in Caithness and Sutherland, and places of that sort, have prevented people making railways. There are all sorts of restrictions about "mixed" trains, level crossings, and things of that kind.

5560. You say that the primary condition as to people to whom you give relief is that a man must have belonged to some club; do you mean a sick club?—A sick club or a friendly society.

5561. You mean, if he were sick he would get 10*s.* a week, do you?—Yes.

5562. Would you, in that case, supposing a man was sick and not unemployed, augment his income from the friendly society?—If he required it, certainly.

5563. Only if he required it?—If he required it, certainly.

5564. Suppose a man was receiving out-of-work relief, and that was the only thing he provided for, would you give him some assistance?—I do not think we have ever had a man in receipt of out-of-work pay from his union. These out-of-work benefits are, I believe, confined to unions of the more skilled artisan, of whom we have very few in St. George's. Generally, I may say, it is not the people who belong to clubs and trade societies that come either on the charity or Poor Law.

Chairman.

5565. If they do not come to you how does your test work?—I say, if they do not come to us it means that they have an allowance from their trades union or elsewhere, and they do not require it.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

5566. I thought one of your tests was that they did belong to a friendly society?—Quite so; what I mean is this: we feel that we cannot take the whole population that might call itself unemployed on our shoulders, so we say, "If you have shown that in any way you are seriously trying to prevent yourself becoming a burden to society in time of sickness, it is a reasonable thing for you to come to us, and we esteem it a privilege to help you now another calamity has come on you, namely, want of work."

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

5567. But the proof of trying is their belonging to some society which provides for them in cases of sickness, is it not?—But this is out of work.

5568. Then, when you say that these people do not come to you, a good many people who belong to friendly societies and other such bodies do come to you, do they not?—I am afraid I do not understand the point. My contention is that a man who belongs to a friendly society is a man who knows his own business, and is able to meet the conditions of life, and does not require to come either on Poor Law or charity; I mean he is far too independent, and able to provide for himself.

5569. Yet I understand it is such a man who, when he comes to you, you help?—Quite so; but happily very few require to come.

5570. Then they are mostly provided for, and this test does not work very much?—It is not required.

Mr. *Bartley.*

5571. That accounts for your having so few applications, does it not?—Quite so.

5572. Do you have cases where benefits have run out?—Yes; I can give you instances where we have kept a man for years after his benefits have run out.

5573. Therefore, do you take the fact of his belonging to a society as evidence of his character, as being a thrifty man?—Quite so.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

5574. Do you consider that there are many men who are profitably employed on the land, will be so employed by private enterprise?—Yes.

5575. And I think you very fairly said that the agricultural labourer does require a certain training?—I should say so. There is this to be taken into consideration, that a great many of the farming colonies take a man for a few months. It is obvious, if a man is to be trained as an agricultural labourer, he must see the whole course of the seasons, and it means keeping him a very long time.

5576. Coming to that point, the great bulk of the unemployed would be in towns, would they not?—Certainly.

5577. And the time at which they are mostly unemployed would be, would it not, in the winter?—Yes.

5578. That would be the very time when there would be the least demand for men upon farms?—I should imagine so.

5579. Coming back to the question of training, do you imagine that there is any substantial number of men in London who can be trusted with ordinary agricultural work, such as tying hay, or weeding corn, and so on; would it be possible to trust that class of work to the unemployed, such as you find in large towns?—I should say, certainly not. May I add that I am informed that in General Booth's colony, practically all the responsible work of the farm is done by Essex agricultural labourers.

5580. And if anything in the nature of a farming colony was established in the country, men drawn from the towns without previous knowledge of agricultural work would have to

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

be instructed in the most elementary duties, would they not?—I imagine so.

5581. And would probably receive a lower wage than the most unskilled labourers in towns?—I think so.

5582. I think I understood you to say that one of the features to which you attribute the success of your society is that every case is personally investigated?—Yes.

5583. And it is, I presume, the duty of every relieving officer of the Board of Guardians himself to investigate every case?—Yes.

5584. And to report upon it?—And to report upon it.

5585. Do you think that one of the tests for outdoor relief should be the thrift or character of the applicant shown by his having made some provision for sickness?—That is our practice.

5586. Would you take into consideration the possibility or impossibility of his having made such a provision owing to his having a large family or having had previous sickness; may I put it in this way: would you refuse outdoor relief to a man of good character who had been several years in the same employment but who had not made any provision for illness having perhaps low wages and a large family; is your test an exclusive one?—I am speaking of our charitable society; I have no authority to speak on behalf of the guardians; I am not a guardian of St. George's; I am only concerned in the administration of the charitable society, and our rules are that we are bound to give relief to a man if he is thrifty, but it is not an absolute rule. If a man had a good character we might relieve him, even if he had been improvident, and we should certainly expect that such a man would find someone to help him, a society must have some rules, but personal neighbourly charity need have no rules, but I am against all out relief on the part of the guardians.

5587. But, at the same time, you recognise the hardship of breaking up a man's home by refusing him out-door relief, do you not?—Yes.

5588. Your society bridges over that period?—Yes.

5589. But in the country or in poor places, where there is no society doing such work as yours does, do you see any objection on principle to the guardians bridging over the same period?—The objection is that there, I think, you at once substitute a public authority as the proper source from which a man out of work is to draw his maintenance instead of his own resources, and it is an extremely dangerous position to take up.

5590. But you grant the hardship, do you not, of breaking up a man's home?—I grant the hardship of breaking up a man's home.

5591. Taking a case which you would unhesitatingly relieve, will you point out to me why the guardians should not do the work which the Charity Organisation Society would do?—I think that it is the kindest course in the end to face the difficulty; if you make the public authority the body to which every man's mind turns when he is in difficulties, you place a terrific responsibility on the public authority, and you do more to undermine the character and independence of the poor than you do by the other course.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

5592. Do you think that is so in a union where the guardians give personal attention to the work?—I cannot do more than say this. In such a union I should strongly urge the guardians, and I should say it is the duty of the well-to-do people in that union to try and find a means of meeting that objection, and do it out of their own pockets and out of neighbouring charities.

5593. Then your view is that all administration of out-door relief should be in private hands?—That is my view.

5594. And that if either local or central authorities at the present time possessed the power to give out-door relief that power should be taken away from them; that is the logical inference?—That is the logical inference, and that is what I may say Mr. Fawcett deliberately asked for in his book on "Pauperism," which was published in 1871.

5595. Then the result of that would be, would it not, that in such a neighbourhood as I have suggested to you there would be no out-door relief; whereas in the happy adjoining union where the well-to-do people had banded themselves together, and formed a charity organisation, there would be out-door relief?—I do not know of any district where there is no person able to help his neighbours. Observe, I have not adopted Professor Fawcett's demands for legislation. All I think is that that discretion being in the hands of guardians, if they use that discretion wisely, they would take the course I suggest.

5596. At the present time they have a discretion, have they not?—Yes.

5597. And you say that it should be always exercised against out-door relief?—Yes.

5598. Although the applicant may present a case of so meritorious a nature that the Charity Organisation Society, which only helps when it sees its way to do permanent good, would help that applicant?—Yes; but may I add that in a union where you get guardians who have made a study of the subject, and who go in deliberately for the reduction of out-door relief, you will find, I think invariably, and I can name a great many instances, that those same men are men of public spirit, and they make it their business to organise private benevolence to a certain extent, in order to render the dispauperising policy which they advocate more acceptable, and the fact that they are taking that line as to out-door relief guarantees that they will deal liberally and judiciously with the resources from voluntary assistance.

5599. And they supplement those resources from funds collected by themselves?—Yes.

5600. You are not a guardian yourself, are you?—No.

5601. But you have been constantly in contact with guardians, have you not?—Yes.

5602. Do you know how guardians learn their business, if I may put it in that way?—I am afraid a good many do not learn their business.

5603. An overseer is given a precept when he is made an overseer, is he not?—Yes.

5604. Which gives him a long account of all his powers and duties?—Yes.

5605. But the guardian has to pick that knowledge up for himself?—I suppose so.

5606. Do

Mr. *Benn.*

5606. Do you think it would be an advantage that guardians should have some short form of learning their duties in the same way as the overseer does?—If you can give them a precept and make them read it, it might be a good thing.

5607. If they only had it to refer to without being obliged to read it, you think it would be a very good thing?—I should think it might, if they would read it.

5608. I think you have told us that you consider the Poor Law without out-relief rather hard in the case of a man who is temporarily out of work through no fault of his own?—I said that objections were raised to the difficulty of relieving that man without breaking up his home, and that we had endeavoured to meet that difficulty.

5609. Is it not in recognition of that harshness that your society has built what you have described as a bridge?—It is.

5610. Now, I notice from your evidence, you have told the Committee that during the months of January, February, and March of this year, your society had dealt, in regard to three parishes you mentioned in the East-end, with 20 cases?—That was in one union only.

5611. What union would that be?—St. George's.

5612. Do you mean the union or the parish of St. George's?—It is almost the same thing, I think.

5613. You are not including Whitechapel and Stepney?—Certainly not.

5614. As regards those 20 cases, I understand you relieved three without the workhouse test, and eight submitted to the workhouse test, making 11 in all assisted?—Yes.

5615. And nine went away?—Yes.

5616. I want to ask you whether, seeing that these figures apply to three months and to a population of 45,000 persons, do not you think that is a very poor bridge?—I do not know whether you were present this morning when I supplemented that answer by saying I was aware there was a very great deal of money being given away in St. George's from all the agencies which had anything to do with relief.

5617. That is the point I am coming to; do not you think, from your experience, and I am quite sure your experience of this district is unrivalled, that this system of no out-relief and the workhouse test tends to make a district like St. George's-in-the-East the dumping-ground for miscellaneous charity?—Oh, dear me, no; I am sure there is no more charity there than in every other district in London.

5618. But please to direct your memory to the months you have mentioned; has not the place been deluged, if I may use such an expression, with soup kitchens, and all sorts of organisations through the public-houses, places of worship, and other means?—I certainly think not in excess of anything done elsewhere.

5619. I thought you told us, a few minutes ago, that there had been a great increase?—I say there was a great increase owing to the frost; but I should maintain that there was a great increase everywhere; indeed, I am sure of it.

5620. You do not think St. George's-in-the-East possesses more of what you have called

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

sporadic relief works than other districts of London?—I do not think so. There have been no relief works, there are very few endowed charities, and generally I should say there were fewer charities of all kinds in St. George's than elsewhere.

5621. I see in your evidence on Friday last you said, in answer to Question 5344, "There are plenty of very poor people, goodness knows, in St. George's, but the point is, they were not driven to come upon the public authority"; what do you mean by saying they were not driven to come upon the public authority?—I mean that although they were extremely poor they were able to maintain what I should call their independence, and were not obliged to come either to the vestry or to the Poor Law, or, in any large numbers, to the permanent public charities as federated in our society.

5622. That is to say they had not the opportunity of coming to the public authority?—They had the opportunity of coming to the Poor Law, certainly.

5623. You said also they had other means of getting on?—Yes.

5624. Could you describe those means?—The difficulty is you cannot very well go into a neighbourhood like St. George's and deal with a population of 45,000 and tell exactly how they are all doing; but the assumption is that if they are not maintained by the Poor Law they are maintained by their own resources.

5625. Does it occur to you that they have other means of getting off?—I do not quite follow your question.

5626. When I say "getting off," the expression is suggested by your phrase "getting on"; have you studied the death-rate in this district?—I should expect it to be a very high death-rate, because it is the very poorest district in London.

5627. You say this system of yours, which has been in operation some years, has this effect, that it drives the residuum from the district and leaves you with self-supporting, self-dependent people, who would probably be likely to live longer than the riff-raff which you have shunted off to other places?—I do not admit that at all. You suggest, as I understand, that owing to the stricter administration of the Poor Law there has been an exodus of the population?

5628. You told us that if legitimate ordinary work cannot be found in the district, the tendency of your plan is to drive people to other districts where they can get work?—I do not say that entirely. I do not say that it is necessary to go outside the district; they find employment either in the district or outside; some may go out of the district, but others do not.

5629. Under your system if a man in a district has no work, and belongs to the unemployed class we are considering, and he cannot get any out-relief, and goes to your bridge and finds it is a difficult thing to cross, do not you think that the natural result is that you get rid of that unsatisfactory person, and he goes to another district?—I do not admit that he is an unsatisfactory person. I admit he is a poor man whose trade, in a certain sense, is decayed; and I maintain that the kindest thing you can do for him is to

make

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

make it perfectly plain to him that it is not wise for him to live a pauper ever afterwards, but that he should make efforts to find work elsewhere, or on the spot if he can find it.

5630. The result is that you maintain a population of people that are able to face the responsibility of getting a living?—I am perfectly sure there is no poorer class in any part of London than there is in St. George's.

5631. I will not press the point any further; I want to ask you this question; in your evidence on Friday you took two districts which you put in contrast, and you gave us, for the East End, Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, and Stepney; you gave for the other side St. Olave's, which is a river-side district of a very nondescript kind?—Yes.

5632. And you gave us Greenwich and Camberwell; I think those three districts in the east on the north side of the Thames may be fairly compared (and you produced them with that object) with the districts on the other side of the Thames as to the class of the population?—Yes, to a certain extent.

5633. Do you know that in your three model East End districts the death rate is over 28 in the 1,000, and in your three model Surrey side districts the death rate is only 22?—I do not really see that that has got much to do with the question; I expressly stated that in my belief the three unions on the south side of the river were very much richer unions than the other unions, and I attempted to support that by showing that there had never been a high rate of pauperism in those unions, but that such rate as there was there had remained stationary, whereas in the East End unions the originally very high rate had gone down.

5634. Does not it occur to you that the system in St. George's amounts to this: that when a starving man goes to the relieving officer, and the relieving officer is told to give no out-relief, it is no use going to the guardians, and he has only the provision which your society provides; does not it occur to you that many of the poor people in that district die through want of food, and that the death rate has increased in that way?—No, I do not think so; I have some figures here about starvation in St. George's, a strict union as compared with Bethnal Green, a lax union, and I should like to give them if you think it worth while.

5635. I would ask you what is the man to do; you only deal in your district with residents in the parish; the same rule (an excellent rule) applies to other portions of London; in your district there is no out-relief, there is nothing but the workhouse, and, upon these figures which you have given, your society seems to measure its success by the fewness of the persons assisted; that seems to be the standard?—I do not say we do entirely.

5636. Your words seem to indicate that you say, "I think that if the normal administration of the Poor Law is carried out on what I venture to call sound lines the pressure upon guardians in times when there is want of employment will not be very great, and I would justify that statement by giving you the following figures," and then you gave the figures I have referred to?—Yes.

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

5637. What is the man to do to get over his temporary difficulty?—If the worst comes to the worst, of course he must accept relief in the house.

5638. Can you give the Committee any figure as to those who have submitted to your workhouse test being restored through that method to their social position?—It is a little hard to do so off-hand; I do remember one instance of this sort, that a man came to us who was not in a club, and had done nothing for himself; he was determined, or at all events quite reconciled, to go upon the rates for sickness; therefore we said to him, for himself, he might go upon the rates for his want of employment, and we would look after his wife and family in the meantime. He said he would not accept it, and he went away, and I was credibly informed that within 10 minutes of the time he left us he met a friend who got him a job, and he got on.

5639. You believe that this workhouse test is a test of sincerity and willingness to submit to you; have you not any figures showing how it works after you have done with the case; do not you ever trace the case after the man has come out of the workhouse?—I think we know that a good many men have joined clubs because our regulation has shown them the necessity. Our committee consists of persons, many of whom live in the district, and all are in daily, I may say hourly, contact with the poor, and we know pretty well what becomes of all our applicants, but I could not give you the results off-hand.

5640. You were good enough, I believe, to tender your evidence to this Committee?—I was asked by the Chairman to come and give evidence.

5641. We are very much indebted to you; but I wanted to know how far we are assisted in solving this problem by the case you put before us; the workhouse on one side and your bridge on the other?—I would only answer that our practice is in conformity with the advice given by the Poor Law Commissioners, and with advice given by every reputed authority upon Poor Law work. I do not think it is fair to say that the people (I will not mention names) who have taken part in this matter are actuated by any other motive than that of wishing to do their very best for the poor. I am ready to make any admission you like as to the hardness of the lives of the poor; but I do maintain that you must administer the law so that these men are induced to face their own responsibility. I cannot see any other way out of it.

5642. Do not you think it would be kinder, with a population of 45,000, if, instead of pretending (if I may use the expression) to meet this distress by dealing with 11 cases in the three months, January, February, and March, the hardest months we had in London for some years, you were to publish a notice to say that nothing at all can be done?—The people know perfectly well what the practice of the guardians is in the district.

5643. They do, indeed?—When you use the word "pretence," might I say that I supplemented what I said on Friday last by telling the Committee that there had been a great deal of

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

of private charity given in St. George's, and I was firmly convinced that on any critical occasion, such as a severe frost like this year, you would have a similar increase of private charity, and I think that is a better way of dealing with the question.

5644. You said, just now, in answer to an honourable Member, that a district at such times relies upon the wealthy persons of the district to meet the emergency; would you tell the Committee that St. George's is rich in those wealthy neighbours which you spoke of?—Certainly not, but London is. I have had to do with the financial arrangements of the St. George's-in-the-East Committee for some years, and I do not mean to say that it is easy to get money, but we have always got the money we wanted. We never refused a case for want of means.

5645. If you had only so few cases they would not be difficult to meet, I presume?—I do not know about having so few cases. We have a great many cases of other sorts.

5646. If the wealthy portion of London could be made to administer by properly organised means to the needs of the poor in St. George's-in-the-East, would it not be better than leaving it to the sort of amateur philanthropy which prevails in that district?—I do not know what you mean by proper means; I rather maintain that the means are proper now.

5647. I will come to that in a moment. As to such means, I am sure you know the parish of St. George's very well; would you regard it as a parish which is properly seen to with respect to its sanitary arrangements, and the paving of its streets?—The vestry have been very active of late years; they have been doing a good deal, and doing what they can in getting insanitary areas closed; I may say the population has gone down a good deal in the last 10 years, because there have been large areas cleared under various schemes.

5648. The population remain about the same, does it not?—I think not; it is about 47,000 now I think.

5649. My figure of 45,000 was the figure for 1893; if it is 47,000 now it has gone up?—You are quite right, it is 45,000. But it has been going down mainly because there is not so much overcrowding. For instance, a large area in a street called Tench-street has been cleared.

5650. That is in Wapping, is it not?—Yes, but it is in the Union of St. George's.

5651. Have you noticed the condition of some of the streets with regard to paving and cleanliness?—They are very much what they are in other poor parts of London, I think.

5652. Let me remind you of a few streets, Spencer-street, Sheridan-street, and Anthony-street?—They are not bad streets, I think.

5653. Would you think the paving of those streets such as it should be in any well-organised community?—If you were choosing the worst streets, those are not the streets I should have chosen.

5654. Then there are worse streets, are there?—There are certain streets more insanitary than those. There is one area that has been shuttle-

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

cocked, as it were, between the vestry and the London County Council for a long time; and I am sure the vestry are very desirous to deal with it under one Act or another.

5655. Do you know sufficient of the local affairs there to say whether it is not the fact that the surveyor has from time to time declared that those streets should be re-paved and those insanitary defects remedied if the parish had only the money to deal with them?—I do not know what the surveyor has said. I spoke generally as to the general sanitary condition of these streets, as to this there is, I think, no ground for complaint; with regard to the paving, I confess I have not attached much importance to it.* (**I have since learnt that the vestry actually has the re-paving of these streets in hand.*)

5656. As taking an interest in the general welfare of the district, do you know that frequent complaints have been made about the general condition of the roads and the insanitary condition generally?—I am bound to say that my experience is not so. I once served on a little voluntary sanitary committee which we formed down there, and I used to visit the poor people and point out defects in their drainage and so on, and what surprised me was the extreme apathy with which they regarded the matter. I do not think there is any general complaint unless it is among persons who visit them in the way I was doing.

5657. Do you not think that the apathy may have resulted from their inability to pay higher rates?—No, I do not think these particular people care about the rates one brass farthing.

5658. You do not think that people care about the rates?—I do not say that. I think people generally have an interest in the rates; but these people do not, as a rule, pay any rates direct.

5659. Instead of the worthy unemployed in this district who might require just a little assistance for a week or two to tide over a difficult time—heads of families it may be—being forced into the workhouse under your system, do not you think it would be a desirable thing if the local authority were able to pave those streets I have named and do other rough work, which such men could do, thus affording them some relief without the taint of pauperism?—I have the strongest objection, on principle, to mixing up the question of the proper duties of the vestry with the question of Poor Law relief. You may be quite right that the vestry ought to do a great deal more in the direction of re-paving streets and so on; but I do not think they ought to be influenced in what they do by any idea of usurping or taking over the work of the Poor Law authority. If the streets ought to be re-paved, they ought to be re-paved, and at the season of the year when it can be done most efficiently. But I do not think they ought to consider whether they can employ unemployed labour or not.

5660. You know sufficient of London government, I presume, to understand that there are many things in a poor district that ought to be done, but which there is no money to do?—I do not know that I do.

5661. Probably one glance at the rates would assist you in arriving at a conclusion on that.

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

But I want to ask you this: whether your idea of the wealthy helping the poor would not be a very effectual means of solving that difficulty. If through the guardians a certain amount of money could be placed at the disposal of the local authority to be administered in the way I have indicated, do not you think that would be another very useful bridge to help?—No; I object altogether when you have want of employment to try to conceal the fact. If you have want of economical employment I maintain it is the interest of everyone, more especially the people who are unemployed, that it should be made perfectly clear, and I should not have any fictitious form of work set up in order to keep the people there engaged in that particular kind of employment.

5662. But your society endeavour, do they not, to get over a period of difficulty by giving money for relief?—Yes; but that does not disguise the fact that these people are suffering from misfortune, and the sooner they recognise it the better, and I am bound to say for my part I think they do. I do not think there is any great anxiety on the part of these people to impose upon us too much, they know they are receiving charity, and as soon as possible they resume their independent course of life, whereas if you start this relief work under the vestry, you congest the labour there, and I think the last state of that parish would be worse than the first.

5663. Have you any experience as to the objection of the poor people in the district to losing their vote?—I never heard the question raised.

5664. Of course you would not hear of it in a large number of cases, because, apparently the applications to your society are so remarkably few?—I think I should have heard of it in the talk of the place, but I never did hear the question raised.

5665. Do you think it is advisable that that disqualification should be removed?—If I rightly understand you to suggest that the stringency of this regulation is such as to prevent people applying for relief, the answer I should give would be this: that if in St. Olave's, by simply introducing a rather easy system of labour yard you can increase pauperism 154 per cent. in a few weeks, I do not think it is possible to say that this very stringent condition prevented people from applying for relief; with regard to what I suppose is the second part of the question, namely, whether it is a good thing, rather than give my own opinion I would like to give the opinion of Mr. Radley, who was the High Chief Ranger of the Foresters, who, I venture to say, in the virtue of that position, was as well entitled to speak on behalf of the working classes as anyone; he said "the law has long, and, with good policy deprived, paupers, as persons compelled to subsist by the exertions of others, of the exercise of political right."

Chairman.

5666. Where did he say that?—He said it in a paper he wrote for, the cheap edition of a book called "A Plea for Liberty." It is not in the earlier editions.

Mr. *Benn.*

5667. For instance, there was a man at St. George's the other day who fell in a fit, and was carried by his neighbours to the infirmary for a few hours, and he was taken off the register; would you consider that a hard case?—It is rather a question you should ask him, I think.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5668. Would not that be medical relief, which would not disfranchise him?—It certainly would be medical relief, but it would be of a nature to disfranchise him; a hard case no doubt, but hard cases make bad law.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

5669. You have given us some particulars about Whitechapel; you are probably aware that side by side with the Poor Law guardians in Whitechapel there is the Jewish board of guardians, which gives relief to the Jews who form a large part of the population of Whitechapel?—Yes.

5670. Are you aware that the last report of the Jewish board of guardians shows an enormous increase, both in the number of applicants to the fund and in their expenditure from the fund?—I should think that is quite likely. Unfortunately the difficulty with the Jewish board of guardians is that they have no means of applying any sort of test, and I think it is extremely likely the applications and the relief given would increase.

5671. At all events, you would not get a fair view of the pauperism of Whitechapel without paying regard, to some extent, to the Jewish population relieved by the Jewish board of guardians?—I do not think there is any change in that respect. If you made a comparison of a series of years in Whitechapel, I do not think that would affect it.

5672. But the Jews form part of the population of Whitechapel, and you have compared Whitechapel with other districts; my point is that Whitechapel could hardly be compared with other districts unless you allow for the work done by the Jewish board of guardians?—I submit what I did compare was the increase of pauperism in Whitechapel with the increase of pauperism in those other unions. The comparison I made was strictly between Whitechapel at one date and Whitechapel at another; and that is not affected, I think, by the point you put.

5673. Are you aware that the report of the Jewish board of guardians shows a large increase?—I am not aware of it; but if you say so I have no doubt it is so.

5674. With regard to St. George's-in-the-East, you only had 20 applications to your Society, I understand?—Yes.

5675. Are you aware that, rightly or wrongly, the working classes in the East-end of London regard the Charity Organization Society with great repugnance?—I am bound to say I do not know that they do; but I think we should not be doing our duty unless we were to a certain extent unpopular. I think it is our business to stand in the way of ill-considered extensions of the facilities for relief, because I think people are too keen to think you can cure poverty and all its attendant evils by a lavish system of relief.

5676. Your

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

5676. Your "unpopularity," to take your own word, would probably account for the small number of applications?—I do not know that. If people are very hard put to it, they may come to a society that they do not altogether like for relief if it is their last resort. My point is that there are so many ways of getting on that they do not require to go to the Poor Law, and they do not require very much to come to us; they have large resources of their own which are not always quite apparent. And I supplemented my statement this morning by saying that there are a large number of voluntary charities which step in to help people on such occasions as this past winter's frost.

5677. You told us just now that these people have large resources of their own; surely you will admit that St. George's is a very poor district?—Certainly.

5678. Are you familiar with the figures which Mr. Charles Booth has given us respecting the comparative poverty of St. George's?—In a general way, I may say I am.

5679. Mr. Charles Booth, I think, states that 49 per cent. of the population of St. George's are what he calls "in poverty," that is, belong to families in which the family income is 21*s.* a week or under, 21*s.* being the maximum?—Yes.

5680. That being so, would you not admit that a very large part of the population of St. George's does not receive more than is barely sufficient to enable them to live, to say nothing of putting anything by against a special time of pressure?—I should say the fact of St. George's, which is such a very poor district, being able to get on without any greater suffering than there is in other unions, strengthens my case enormously; if you can do this in St. George's I say you can do it with ease anywhere else.

5681. With regard to your plan of dealing with these 20 applications, I understand you refused relief unless the man had, in your own words, made some serious efforts in the direction of saving?—Yes.

5682. And in other of the cases where there had been no tangible evidence of saving, you said: "we will relieve you if you, the bread-winner, will go into the workhouse"?—For a short period.

5683. Was that by way of encouraging thrift in the man?—I think it was with a view of marking our sense of the difference between him and men who join benefit clubs, because that matter is always very fully explained. We have been at pains to get a list of all the best benefit clubs in the neighbourhood, and we talk the matter over with these poor people, and generally give them a list of these good benefit societies, and not a few, I think, have been grateful to us for it, and some of them to our knowledge afterwards have joined those societies. It is a sort of object lesson in that way.

5684. By way of promoting thrift in a man?—Quite so.

5685. Those men to whom you have made this offer must have, by your rule, a decent home, is not that so; you would not make the offer unless there was a decent home to keep up?—Not unless there was a home. The word decent is only used to exclude and altogether filthy and insanitary habitation.

5686. Do you not think that the very fact of a man having a decent home shows the possession by him of those elements of character which are the basis of the thrift?—I do not take such a low view of the possibilities of working class life as to say the only thing a man can do is to have a clean room and a few sticks of furniture in it.

5687. I think you are treating me rather unfairly; I said nothing about its being the only thing?—Then I would modify my answer to that extent.

5688. Is not the fact of a man having a decent home so much to his credit?—Certainly.

5689. Then I would press the question I put originally; does not it indicate the possession by a man of those elements of character which generally produce thrift?—I am bound to say that our condition is somewhat elastic. If the home was of such a character, or if there were any exceptional circumstances, or if, for instance, the man had been at pains to start his children well and to help them on, we should regard that as thrift; but, as a rule, we stick to the friendly society or savings bank proof.

5690. Though a man had a decent home you would insist upon his going into the workhouse for a time?—For a week or three days, if he was otherwise improvident.

5691. You would insist upon his going into the workhouse at any rate, which I should regard as a fatal step?—Yes.

5692. Have you ever considered the demoralizing effect of compelling the man to go into the workhouse?—I have; but I have also considered the demoralizing effect of giving him relief, and making it extremely easy for him to become a pauper outside the workhouse. That is the difficulty.

5693. You are not a guardian yourself, I believe?—No.

5694. Have you paid a visit to an East-end workhouse this winter?—Not this winter, but I have frequently been in St. George's Workhouse.

5695. I am not familiar with the St. George's Workhouse, but are you aware that the workhouses in London, I think I may say generally, or at all events largely, have been extremely overcrowded this winter?—I am able to tell you that the St. George's Workhouse has not; the figures on the 16th of March were 457 inmates and 311 vacancies, which I do not think shows overcrowding. There has been plenty of room in it all through the winter.

5696. The Bethnal Green Workhouse is overcrowded, and so are others, and I may remind you that this is the system of which you advocate the application generally. Besides the overcrowding, are you aware that in some of the East-end workhouses at any rate, the men spend their time (they have nothing to do) in loafing, smoking, and even card-playing?—You will find in the Bethnal Green union, which is a union where they give everybody who wants it out-door relief, the people who go into the workhouse, with very

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

very few exceptions, go in entirely on their own motion, very possibly to enjoy the recreation you mention; I can give you the figures if you like to have them.

5697. I will not trouble you with those figures, but I should like to quote to you what Mr. Ball, the chairman of the Wandsworth Board of Guardians, stated to the Committee of the House of Lords on Poor Law Relief. I do not know whether you are familiar with his evidence. He says, "It is a very inhuman thing to drive respectable people into the house to herd with all the disreputable people who have unfortunately got there." You do not agree with Mr. Ball, as I understand?—The point is that they do not go in; there is plenty of room in St. George's Workhouse as I have said. The fact is that when you are giving plenty of out-relief, you are baiting the ground for in-door paupers, you bring the people up on out-relief, and destroy their independence, and when a worse crisis comes they are obliged to go into the house.

5698. You say they do not go in, they either go in or go away without relief from you except in the eight cases you told us of?—They get on on their own resources.

5699. When you say they got on on their own resources, are you aware that there is an annual return presented to Parliament of cases in which a coroner's jury has returned a verdict in London of death from starvation or death accelerated by privation?—Yes.

5700. Are you aware that the average number of such cases is about thirty per annum?—It is possible.

5701. Are you aware that the last Return shows 31 such cases in London as a whole, and that three of them occurred in the district of the St. George's Union?—I am not aware of that.

5702. You may take it from me that it is so; that is to say, one-tenth of all the London cases occurred in a population which is only one-eightieth of the whole population of London?—That may be so. I have got a larger calculation here extending over a longer period, which I should like to call attention to, to answer that point.

5703. Let us keep to this Return for a moment, unless it is anything that bears on this Return?—No; I do not happen to have seen the last Return.

5704. Take the former Return of 1891, which showed 30 such verdicts; there were eight in the East of London, and seven of those were in two of the unions you have mentioned, in Whitechapel and Stepney; are you aware that the Return for 1890 showed 31 deaths, and that in two cases out-door relief had actually been applied for and refused in the Stepney Union, and the St. George's Union?—I never heard of more than one case in the St. George's Union. I know of one case in St. George's where out-relief was applied for and refused, and I should be very glad to give the circumstances in full, because I think they are very instructive.

5705. Is that the case of Mrs. Mills, do you know?—I do not know the name. It was a woman who was in the infirmary. She was extremely ill. Her husband came and said he wanted her to come out. The doctor protested

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

against her going out, and, I believe, so strongly that the man was asked to sign a paper to say he did it on his own responsibility. The woman went out and very shortly afterwards the man came and asked for out-relief, and they said they would take the woman back into the Infirmary again. She was suffering from some complaint, I think acute bronchitis, and the home she was taken to was a most wretched place, there was hardly any furniture in it and no proper means of attending to a sick person, and the guardians or the relieving officer would not take the responsibility of sending relief into such a home, which was no proper place for a sick person, and offered to take the woman back. The woman did not go back, and in the course of events she died of the complaint she was suffering from, and it is very possible that her death was accelerated by the wretched conditions under which she lived. I have got the figures from 1871 to 1890, and that is the only case in St. George's in which relief had been applied for and refused in which there was a coroner's jury bringing in a verdict of death by starvation, or accelerated by starvation.

5706. Now you said you looked rather to the charity of the rich to help in cases where the aid given by the Poor Law is not accepted?—Certainly.

5707. Do you not think that when persons refuse either the assistance of the Poor Law or the conditions which you impose, they manage to "get along," to use your own phrase, more by the charity of their own poor neighbours than by the charity of the rich?—I think the poor are very good to one another, but there certainly is also a good deal of charity raised from those who are richer. I think mainly they get on by their own resources. I do not wish to suggest to you that by stopping out-relief you are going to take its place entirely by charity. I do not think that would be of any advantage. The advantage I hold out you will gain by following the plan which I suggest, is that you will get the poor maintaining themselves very much more largely by their own resources.

5708. May I put to you a statement made by Mr. Henley, a Local Government Board Inspector, before the Committee of the House of Lords, when he was pressed on this point, and asked how persons who refused the workhouse test managed to subsist; at Question 548, he said, "Those persons would get charity from their next door neighbours almost as poor as themselves." Do you agree with Mr. Henley?—I think they certainly help one another very much.

5709. Does not it come to this that the effect of refusing relief is to throw a very heavy burden on the very poorest part of the community?—I do not think so at all.

5710. Does not it follow from what you have already said?—I do not call (and I never heard any poor person suggest it) acting in a neighbourly way to your next door neighbour a heavy burden.

5711. Mr. Henley said these people were almost as poor as the applicants themselves?—They were not suffering from the immediate cause of distress that made their neighbours require relief, they were people at work.

5712. At

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

5712. At all events the effect is to throw the burden of giving subsistance to those people, upon the very poorest part of the community, whereas if the Poor Law were availed of, the burden would be shared equally by rich as well as poor over the whole community?—I cannot regard with equanimity any sort of idea that everyone who is badly off is going to throw himself upon the Poor Law. It is far better they should exercise the virtue of neighbourly kindness to one another. It may be a burden, everyone has burdens of one sort or another, but I do not think it is any use whining about it.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5713. Would the rigidity in the administration of out-relief which you advocate, by throwing the people on their own or each other's resources tend, in your opinion, to demanding higher wages in depressed times?—Certainly, at all times.

5714. In that case it would encourage organisation in another direction?—I think certainly it would make the men more disposed to bargain shrewdly, if I may use the expression, with their employers.

5715. What you would encourage would be no Poor Law relief but higher wages through the trades unions?—Certainly, or in any way they can get them.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

5716. You have objected to relief works on the ground that they keep labour where it is not wanted; that rather implies, does not it, that there are parts of the country where the labour is wanted, or, at all events, where the men could get work?—I do not know that you could lay your finger on a spot, but there are undoubtedly trades which probably could find profitable sale for their goods if there were people to buy them; and one rather hopes that by leaving the market to adjust itself you would get men going into one trade and earning wages and using those wages to employ people in other trades. It is a mutuality of exchange. Labour, I think, is, *ex hypothesi*, a valuable commodity, and if you could only get it organised in proper trades the problem is solved.

5717. Is not the greatest difficulty the time when all trades are depressed; may I put this question to you, based on some evidence that we have had with regard to the tinplate trade; a witness from Pontypool told us that there is great suffering there in consequence of the depression in the tinplate industry; he told us also that some of those who were out of employment went on tramp into Staffordshire, whence they had originally come, in the hope of finding work there. They did not find work there, however, in consequence of the tinplate trade being equally depressed there, and then they came back to Pontypool; is not that a case in which you would think that relief works might properly be given?—I do not at all say that there are not great crises in trade where you ought to have a public fund; but my advice with regard to the administration of public funds would be, do not have relief works, do not beguile people by relief

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

works into supposing that the difficulty is solved, but feed them and impress upon them that they must find some other employment, or so adjust their mode of manufacture that they can recover the market which they are losing; that is to say, in the case you put, supposing that some reduction in the cost of manufacturing of these tinplates might recover the market. I do not know whether that is likely to be the case or not.

5718. Are you aware that there has been a very large increase in vagrancy during the last few years; are you familiar with the Report of the Local Government Board?—I am bound to say that I think vagrancy is one of the blots of the Poor Law; it is one of the most difficult things to deal with; the casual ward system is not satisfactory.

5719. I will not go into that at the moment; what I am asking is this: it appears that the Local Government Board Inspectors have sent complaints from all parts of the country during the last few years that vagrants have enormously increased in number, and that those vagrants come from the class of unemployed, who, adopting, apparently, your suggestion, when they can get no work in their own district where they have lived, start on tramp to find work, honestly seeking work at first, but when they do not find it they are demoralised by their associations and practically become tramps for life; is that the result of the recommendations you have made, of not having relief works, but compelling people to go to other parts of the country in order to find work; has that result ever occurred to your mind?—Certainly the tramp population I have come across are not people who are seriously looking for work, as a rule; I do not think that any one sufficiently realises the enormous endowment, both public and private, that there is for people to go upon tramp; a man can pass from one place to another and go to a shelter or a casual ward; very few questions are asked, and I think the technical phrase is he "tumbles to" that life far too easily; and I think that is because of the undue facilities that are given by the public authorities and also by these shelters.

5720. Would not that course of life be rather encouraged and promoted by your own recommendation?—No; I think it is when you make these people dependent, and teach them that there are plenty of people on whom they can depend, and they need not depend upon themselves, that you get this class. The frame of mind you get people into, when they are accustomed to go always to the Poor Law, is well exemplified by a letter which appeared in the "East London Observer" of Saturday's date. I may say that Poplar is one of the unions where they have adopted what is called a very sympathetic way of dealing with everybody, giving every one exactly what he likes, making the workhouse very comfortable for them, and giving them tobacco and all that kind of thing. (I am in favour, of course, of a humane and kindly administration of the workhouse, but not of putting paupers in a better position than the independent). The inmates of the workhouse sent a round-robin to the authorities, in which they passed resolutions saying that

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

the question of the hours was largely before the public, and that they thought "the question of the usual number of hours devoted to the conducting of the daily operations of this establishment" ought to be considered; and, after proposing certain hours, they went on, "We suggest this proposition" (that is, the shortening of the hours) "would allow of all needful duties being just as effectually carried out, in every department of the firm." Then they say, "As the question of shortening the hours in all classes of industry is coming more and more to the front, we venture to hope that Poplar will lead the way by adopting this much-needed reform." I say, if you take that line, you get your poor people representing themselves, when they are in the workhouse and in receipt of relief, as if they were plying their usual industry.

5721. Does the Charity Organisation Society help people to migrate from one part of the country to another?—Certainly, if we saw any hope of their getting employment, we would do so.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5722. Do you really attach any importance to the waggish letter you have quoted from, written by a humorous inmate, expressing a physiological truth with regard to the old people not being called up so early in the morning; you do not attach importance to that, I presume?—No, I certainly do not attach importance to it; but I say it is typical of the frame of mind these people get into if you encourage them to come upon the rates.

5723. The proposition was only applied to very old people who had to get up at the same time as the younger men in the workhouse. I thought London laughed at the whole matter, as rather a good ebullition of wit on the part of a man in a far from witty place?—The letter says nothing about old people, and the application for all I know may be perfectly reasonable. My point is that they represent themselves as engaged in industry. They did laugh at it, but the letter was referred to the visiting committee.

5724. It was an anonymous letter, was it not?—It is signed "The Inmates."

MR. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN TOOK THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Logan.*

5725. I SUPPOSE we may take it that we are indebted for your valuable assistance here to the fact that you think you can personally help us to solve this unemployed question?—You are indebted, as you put it, to the fact that the Chairman's secretary wrote and told me to come.

5726. You think the mode adopted by your society of dealing with these unemployed, if it were applied more generally, would, to a great extent, assist in solving the unemployed question?—My principal anxiety is lest you should go back to the old Poor Law.

5727. You suggest that your mode of doing business is one means of meeting it?—Yes, I do.

5728. You say that your society exists for the purpose of helping those who, when they are in distress, give you proof that they have, when in work, made some attempt to help themselves?—Yes.

5729. You also say that there are very few of those sort of people who apply to you?—Yes.

5730. You tell us you do not give any assistance unless the man will go into the workhouse. Will you tell the Committee who are the class of people you do help; for what purpose does your society exist?—We help a great many widows and a great many sick people; we are constantly getting special surgical assistance for children and sending people away to convalescent homes; we provide a great many pension. There is really no sort of distress that we are not prepared to consider and do our best for. I must add that I do not accept as correct the statement with which you preface your question.

5731. Have you, as a matter of fact, helped any unemployed during the past winter; you have given us instances of children and widows; have you helped the unemployed, by whom I mean men who were out of work during this winter through stress of weather or through

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

stoppage of works?—There were three men in clubs who came to us in that condition, and we helped them; there were 17 others who were not in clubs, and we said, "Do not break up your homes, but if you are obliged to go to the workhouse, go in by yourself, and we will look after your wife and children." We did that in eight cases; in nine cases out of the 17 they declined the offer; they did not find it necessary to accept the offer and got on.

Chairman.

5732. You are speaking of St. George's-in-the-East, I presume, not of the work of the society at large?—Quite so. Of course, I have no knowledge of the society at large.

Mr. *Logan.*

5733. Practically, in St. George's-in-the-East, which abounds in poor, and which, as you say, is as poor a district as any district in London, your society can give us very little experience of how to deal with the unemployed question at all, because you do not seriously contend, do you, that the eight men whom you have helped during the three months are to be taken as any assistance whatever to this Committee in solving this enormous problem?—My evidence, if it is of any use, will show you this, that if you administer in normal times your Poor Law in the way I suggest you will not have people looking to the public authority for assistance in times of want of employment, and if they are obliged to look to the public authority, the cases are not very numerous and could be dealt with in the way I suggest. That is the summary of all I have said.

5734. It is not an unfair assumption for me to make, is it, that your society exists, I might almost say, largely with the view of compelling those

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

those in necessity to rely upon private charity, in preference to going to the central authority?—No, to rely upon their own resources.

5735. Their own resources or private charity?—No, I say on their own resources, and neither on private charity nor on the Poor Law.

5736. I understood you to say you would like to see out-relief made illegal?—No, pardon me; I said Professor Fawcett said that, but I do not myself, at the present time, think that is a practicable suggestion. Professor Fawcett, in 1871, put that in his book on Pauperism, and I presume he meant it.

5737. I took it that, as you quoted it, you were in sympathy with it?—Yes, but I qualified it by saying that I thought at present it was not practicable, and that I wished public opinion would make it practicable.

5738. Do you say you would like to see out-relief made illegal?—No; I said I should like to see the guardians use their discretion in that way. This, in view of the ignorance of public opinion at present, is all I can hope for now.

Chairman.

5739. Do you speak of out-relief generally, or out-relief to able-bodied men?—Out-relief to the able-bodied is illegal now, except under the out-relief regulation order in the labour yard; but Professor Fawcett's statement was as to out-relief, *in toto*.

5740. Whether to the able-bodied or not?—Quite so.

Mr. *John Burns.*

5741. Even to widows and children?—Even to widows and children. That I understand to be Professor Fawcett's meaning; I have been looking at the passage within the last few days.

Mr. *Logan.*

5742. You have read to us sundry quotations; have you read Dr. Hunter's articles on out-relief?—Yes, I have.

5743. Do you agree with the conclusions at which he arrives?—No, they are based upon a perfect misapprehension of the statistics.

5744. Are you aware that he says the cost of out-relief is less than the cost of in-relief, and he gives some very extensive figures to prove it?—I am not very much concerned about the cost; I do not care what it costs; I want to get rid of the dependence of these people; but I believe his figures are not correct. I will not accept those figures, but I should say, personally, if they were true, they would not influence my judgment.

5745. Has any attempt been made to prove those figures to be wrong?—Yes, several papers have been published. Two. I may mention: Statistics of Metropolitan Pauperism, C. S. Loch, and an article of a more popular nature on the Abuse of Statistics, "Quarterly Review," October 1894; and several more, I believe, are actually in proof, and have been crowded out of the magazines.

5746. Dr. Hunter takes five divisions in England, and he proves that in four out of the five divisions the cost of the out-door unions (that is to say, the unions where out-relief is administered more fully than in other unions, per head of the population) is less than in any of the others?—I cannot go into that off hand, but the cost does not influence my judgment; I would rather pay 1,000*l.* to get rid of your paupers, than I would 100*l.* to relieve a good many.

5747. You do not agree with Dr. Hunter that the real problem for Poor Law reformers is not the abolition of out-relief, but the abolition of the workhouse?—No, I do not agree with that.

5748. Do not you think it is socially taking a rather unfair advantage of a man that when he is pinched by hunger he should for the sake of relieving himself and family be obliged to go into the workhouse, and so be branded, for many men consider it a brand?—I do not admit that at all.

5749. Are you not aware that there are many men in the country who, if you asked them, would say "I will die sooner than go into the workhouse"?—I do not know that there are.

5750. I can tell you that there are tens of thousands in the country who would rather die than go into the workhouse?—If they look at life in that spirit they will, I am sure, succeed in retaining their independence.

5751. You say in your opinion that the responsibility for maintaining a man depends upon himself, first of all—do you say that whether that man has ever had a fair chance or not—do you not discriminate between a man who has had a fair chance and a man who has never had a chance?—I should be slow to admit there was any man in this country who had not had a fair chance, or at all events that you could certainly recognise at sight such a man. I know of dozens of instances of two men starting together in some trade and one gets on and the other does not; they have both had the same chances; one has neglected his chances and the other has not; and, so far as my observation goes, the reason a man does not catch his chances is very much because he is too often taught to depend upon the public authority or somebody else for his maintenance.

5752. You appear to have a much lower idea of human nature than I have. Apparently you do not discriminate between men who have had a fair chance and the number of men who are born in the slums and have never had a chance of getting on. You say that when these men, through stress of employment, come and ask for relief it is not unfair to say, you must go into the workhouse or die?—I say it would be far more unkind for the whole class, and even for these men in particular, if you make it easy for them to come upon the rates. I say that the life of living upon the rates does tend to degradation, and the object of what we do in St. George's is to keep the Poor Law strict in order that these people may see what their responsibilities are; and, so far as we can by voluntary charity, we enable them to meet them; but we hope in the main they will meet their own responsibilities themselves.

5753. The basis of your argument is apparently the assumption that people rather prefer coming upon the rates than otherwise?—I do not say that; I quite admit that the lives of the poor are extremely hard. The point is that there is a tendency, especially where encouragement to that course is held out, unless the man

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

is of a very heroic nature, to rush to the rates when he finds life difficult, and I do not want to make it too easy for him to come upon the rates; that is all.

5754. You have succeeded admirably, I should say. You said in one portion of your evidence, that the decay of trade was a chief cause of the want of employment, and you said that to institute relief works would be to misguide the people by inducing them to remain where work cannot be permanently found for them, and that the proper solution of the difficulty was to migrate them or find work elsewhere. Have you, or your society, ever taken any trouble to ascertain what becomes of the men when they migrate away from your district, where they seem to have a difficulty in living, where do they go to, do they not perhaps go and congest other districts?—I do not think that of late years we have had much want of employment from permanent causes. The want of employment we have had is from hard frost stopping building, and also this year it undoubtedly stopped some of the traffic upon the river. That is a temporary thing. Our contention is that for these seasonal trades you cannot start relief works. The remedy is that these men shall hold some of their wages in reserve for time of want of employment.

5755. But supposing the wages are not sufficient to tide over so long a time; and to my knowledge I know this winter some thrifty and good men have been so long out of employment that they have exhausted their reserve fund of wages; what would you do with them, have you no alternative but the workhouse for them?—In the case of the thrifty man we give him relief without any conditions.

5756. For how long?—For three or four weeks sometimes. We had a man who was out of work and a little ill, or rather he professed to be ill, but his benefit society would not admit that he was ill, and there was a dispute with his club whether he was eligible; I do not know what the merits of the dispute were; we helped him for six weeks without any demur simply to mark our sense of his conduct and to show that we think a man who provides for the future is a man to be encouraged.

5757. If I were asked to describe your system should I be describing it harshly if I said that it was a system under which your ideal of society was that a man should either go into the workhouse or seek doles from the rich; do you think that would be a hard description?—I do not think it would be correct.

5758. You said that, in your judgment, it was no use attempting to take the men back on to the land; looking at the other side of the question, might I ask you as an expert whether you do not consider that a very great cause of the congestion in our towns, and the want of employment in our towns, is to be found in the fact that a large number of men are driven from the land to-day into the towns?—No, I really do not think it is; I know it is often said so, but I very much doubt it. The people who come to the towns from the country get work, the chronic unemployed is the man demoralised by the town life, and in this demoralisation a loosely administered Poor Law is a very active ingredient.

5759. You have quoted authorities to us; might I draw your attention to no less an authority than Mr. Chaplin; he said, "Among all the consequences which were due, or partly due, to the agricultural depression, there was not one among them, in his opinion, of graver or more serious import to the agricultural interests of this country than the constant migration of the rural population from the country to the towns; in his opinion, therefore, it was clearly a matter of the first importance, he would even say of national importance, that something should be done, if possible, to arrest it." Your statement that we have nothing to hope for by attempting to get back men on to the land was to me a most serious one, because I agree with Mr. Chaplin. I want to ask you, do you seriously contend that the land of this country could not find employment for a large number of our unemployed?—I say that I am perfectly sure that a public authority could not work land at a profit——

5760. There is no idea of the public authority working at a profit?—Unless you are prepared to face a constant and continuous loss I do not think you can carry on such work.

5761. Why do you say a constant and continuous loss; why could they grow these things better abroad than we could grow them in England?—That is beyond me; it is a question of climate upon which I can hardly give an answer.

5762. Do you consider that it is a very bad thing indeed for the community to force a man into the workhouse there to exist under the far from pleasant circumstances in which a man has to exist there; do you consider it is likely to improve the general well-being and status of people to force them into the workhouse?—I submit I never said a word in favour of forcing them into the workhouse. My evidence has all been to show that they will not be forced into the workhouse,—it is not necessary; but I say it is better you should employ the workhouse test than start the system of the old Poor Law again, which is the only alternative.

5763. You say you are not in favour of forcing them into the workhouse?—Certainly not.

5764. That is the test you offer, is it not?—I do not think that offering a test can be described as forcing. I am in favour of offering a test, but I submit it is not the same thing as forcing.

5765. So far as assisting to solve this unemployed question, all your society has done during the last three months, January, February and March, has been to provide for 11 men, is not that so?—You must put your own interpretation on it.

Friday, 5th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Mather.
Mr. Billson.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Keir Hardie.	Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. Round.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Lawrence.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN IN THE CHAIR.

The Chairman handed in the following letter:

"Office of the Secretary for Scotland,
"SIR, "Whitehall, S.W. 4 April 1895.

"REFERRING to my letter of the 20th ultimo and previous correspondence, I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to transmit herewith, for the information of the Select Committee on the Unemployed, the Returns received from the Local Government Board for Scotland from the various Inspectors of Poor and Town Clerks, together with abstracts of the Returns as prepared by the Board.

"I am, &c.
(signed) "*Wm. C. Dunbar.*

"Reginald Dickinson, Esq.,
"House of Commons."

(*The Returns were handed in.*)

Mr. THOMAS MACKAY, re-called; and further Examined.

Chairman.

5766. HAVE you any corrections or explanations to give in regard to your former evidence?—There are two very slight explanations I should like to make. The first is with regard to Question 5564 and the questions following it. I have not had time to read my evidence through carefully; but I knew there was some misunderstanding at that point, so I have looked it up. I think there was some misapprehension in Mr. Acland's mind as to my meaning, and I should like to put it right if I can. At Question 5564 I was asked by Mr. Wilson: "Suppose a man was receiving out-of-work relief, and that was the only thing he provided for, would you give him some assistance?" and my answer was: "I do not think we have ever had a man of that class come to us." That answer is perfectly correct; but it must be construed literally in answer to the question put to me by Mr. Wilson. I do not think there was any misunderstanding as between Mr. Wilson and myself. He was asking me with regard to trade societies; but following upon that question Mr. Acland (who was then in the chair) asked me some questions, and I felt at the time I had missed the point of his question. I think Mr. Acland inadvertently construed my answer to Mr. Wilson as covering not only trade societies but also friendly societies. That is the explanation I wanted to give.

5767. Do you object to the answer imputed to you here?—No; the answer is perfectly correct; but it must be construed, as I say,

Chairman—continued.

literally in answer to the question as put to me by Mr. Wilson. The explanation, I may say, is that the out-of-work trade societies' benefits are confined to a few of the large unions consisting for the most part of skilled workmen; and there are, I may say, practically none of this class residing in St. George's-in-the-East, so that it does not come within my experience.

5768. With that explanation, you are satisfied with the answer that is given here?—Yes. The other small point to which I wished to refer was at Question 5668, where I was asked about a certain hard case. The question put was: "Would not that be medical relief, which would not disfranchise him?" and my answer was: "It would certainly be medical relief." But I must not be understood as assenting to the last part of the question. I believe that such a case as was put to me would undoubtedly disfranchise the man.

5769. Then what answer would you wish to give?—I should like to give this answer: that it is one of those hard cases that make bad law.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5770. You say it would disfranchise him?—Yes.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5771. Why does not the case come within the Act of 1885?—Because the Act of 1885 covers only the doctor's attendance and, I think, medicine.

5772. What was this case?—I gathered that the man referred to in this case had been taken

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

into the infirmary, and staid there. If he staid there only for a few hours, there might be a point for the revising barrister, but as to that I am not competent to offer an opinion.

Chairman.

5773. Is that all you wish to refer to in your former evidence?—Yes.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5774. Am I correct in saying that for 15 years you have been engaged in the administration of relief and in frequent personal communication with the poor as an honorary officer of your society?—Yes.

5775. In reply to Mr. Mather, at Question 5398, you said you could not remember at the moment any other method of farming except the ordinary system of large and small farms in the way we know them; but is it not the case that Mr. Albert Grey in the North, Mr. Bolton King in Warwickshire, and Lord Hampden in the South, have all tried co-operative or profit-sharing farming, and in each case, in spite of all their efforts, this other method has failed?—I am aware that there has been co-operative farming tried in various parts of the country, but it appeared to me to be not on a sufficiently large scale to warrant me in altering my answer. There has been co-operative farming, but it is rather an exotic, and has not been largely successful, and therefore has not extended very largely.

Chairman.

5776. I gather you are only speaking on that point from general knowledge such as may be possessed by all of us. You have no special knowledge on the subject?—No.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5777. In Question 5404 Mr. Mather suggested that our land being equal to that of other European countries, and all the other conditions here being equal, it is only our method of land system which prevents the success of *la petite culture;* is it the case that in France there is a protective duty of 9*s.* per quarter on wheat, and that there are other large duties in Germany?—I understand there is a protective tariff there. I I do not know the details. I will take them from you as correct.

5778. Have you heard that the indebtedness of the small cultivators in France is very great?—I could hardly speak to that.

Chairman.

5779. I observe that in answering Mr. Mather's question, to which the honourable Member has just referred, you do not commit yourself to any opinion except the very philanthropic opinion that you would be "very glad to hear that the rearing of poultry or the growing of vegetables, or whatever it may be, was more largely carried on in England"?—Quite so.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5780. Is it not the case that destitution is the only qualification under the Poor Law to entitle a man to relief?—That certainly was the doctrine laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners, and it has always been held so by persons best acquainted with the administration of the law.

5781. Destitution being the qualification for relief, what methods of inquiry have the guardians at disposal as to the accuracy of the statements on that point by the applicants?—They have to rely upon the relieving officer.

5782. Do you insist upon the need of inquiry before relief?—I should say it is necessary in order to do anything like justice to the application before you.

5783. Inquiry by the relieving officer being necessarily imperfect, the supplementary tests of need are either the stoneyard or the house?—That is actually the law as far as the able-bodied are concerned.

5784. Will you state your opinion as to the propriety, or otherwise, of relief after the stoneyard test?—In the stoneyard test the difficulty is that you get a great number of people going to the stoneyard, who stay there the whole winter, and do not go away to get work, and at the end of the winter it almost always happens that there are numbers of men in the stoneyard. When they close the stoneyard those men go away and very often the same men come back again the next winter. There is undoubtedly no reformatory action in the stoneyard. Mr. Longley, now Sir Henry Longley, mentioned in one of his reports that a relieving officer had told him there were 100 men in his union formerly employed in the stoneyard who were now earning their own living, but who would infallibly have been receiving relief in the stoneyard if it had remained open.

5785. When the St. George's Guardians offer the house to the man only under the modified workhouse test, I understand he is let out one day in each week to look for work, and then given out-relief?—That is the practice under the special order of the Local Government Board issued to Whitechapel (which order, I believe, they have not availed themselves of to any large extent), not to St. George's. St. George's has never applied it, because the relief to families has been given from a voluntary source.

5786. I think you have been asked questions as to the co-operation between charity and the Poor Law in your district, and you have been questioned as to the unpopularity of the Charity Organisation Society; am I not right in surmising that the principle and practice of inquiry before relief is the main cause of its lack of appreciation?—I suppose so. Perhaps I might qualify what I said about unpopularity by observing that this is, of course, a very inflammatory subject; and anyone having strong opinions as to the principles of Poor Law relief, and expressing those opinions, is bound to incur some unpopularity. But I should add, speaking from my experience, I have received a great deal of gratitude from poor people for anything we have been able to do for them, and I think there is a change of opinion among the better class of working-people, as I may call them; the Friendly Society men; they really do believe in our sincerity in wishing to throw the working-class into their arms, and to keep them off the rates.

5787. Is it not the case that your Society's inquiries are made by experienced officials whose

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

whose work is supervised and supplemented by honorary workers like yourself?—Yes; and I may say in the case of every application made to us in St. George's, the home is visited by one of the voltuntary members of the committee.

5788. I take it that you and other Poor Law reformers do not make the relief of the pecuniary burden to the ratepayer the chief aim, or even in any sense an aim, of your policy?—No; what I said was, I wanted a good instrument to remove pauperism, and I should be content to pay for it.

5789. Is it not the case that while the strict unions have restricted out-relief, they have initiated the policy of improved school and infirmaries?—That is undoubtedly so. A great deal of pains, I know, is bestowed upon the internal arrangements of St. George's Workhouse, and indeed I may say, of all the three East-end workhouses where the strict policy is followed. Special privileges are given to the blind, for instance, as to diet and leave of absence, and one of the guardians has for years been in the habit of inquiring into the cases of blind people who come into the workhouse, and if he finds that they have a home to which they could go, or any relations who are willing, with the grant of a little money, to keep them, he has made arrangements that those poor people should go out. We have lately had some ladies elected on the Board for the first time, and they are very busy in organizing what is known as the Brabazon scheme of employment, which is employment by way of amusement for old and infirm people in the infirm wards. With regard to the infirmary, I should like to say they have a hospital trained lady matron, and they also have in place of old pauper nurses (who still unfortunately exist in some unions), a hospital trained night superintendent and trained nurses; they obtain them through the co-operation of the Nursing Association, to which they are permitted, I understand, by law to pay a subscription. They also have very excellent schools—they are fortunate in having small schools; and they have a very good library there and take in suitable serials. They have a full supply of football and cricket things for the boys, and the children have gardens and so on. I think, indeed, they have done a great deal.

5790. An argument in support of your view would be that facilities for poor relief promote acceptance of it, just as temperance people say an excess of public-houses prompts to drunkenness?—I think greater facilities for relief do undoubtedly prompt more numerous applications, but I am not prepared to give evidence about the drunkenness question.

5791. You were asked at Question No. 5633, by Mr. Benn, as to starvation cases, as if he would imply that there was a connection existing between them and the stricter relief given under the unions with which you have some acquaintance; can you give us any detailed information about that?—The statistics suggested to me, both by Mr. Benn and Mr. Pickersgill, were hurled at my head without notice, and I was asked to assent to them, which, on the faith of the questioners, I did. But I have since made a short inquiry into the matter, so far as my time permitted, and I should like to say something as to their relevancy.

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

5792. Will you take the starvation cases first?—I had the figures ready the last time I was here, but I was not allowed an opportunity of stating them. In St. George's-in-the-East, since 1871, down to the date of a letter written by Mr. Loch, and published in the "Times," January 28th, 1892, as part of a correspondence which passed between him and Mr. Chamberlain, in December 1891, that is a period of about 20 years, there had been 13 starvation cases. Two of them belonged to the old out-relief era, which ended in 1875. Three out of the remaining 11 were infants, in which case I think the responsibility may be fairly attributed to the parents rather than to any neglect on the part of the public authorities. One case was refused out-relief under the circumstances I mentioned at the last sitting of the Committee. In Bethnal Green, which is under the same coroner (and that is a very important point, as I hope to show presently), there were 67 starvation cases in the same period. Nine of them were infants. And in nine cases (eight of which were adults), outdoor relief was actually being given 1*s.* 4*d.* and four loaves in one case, and 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* per week in other cases. In Bethnal Green, I may say out-door relief is rarely, if ever, refused, in spite of what Dr. Hunter has said on the subject. But I should like to say generally that for statistical purposes these starvation cases are absolutely of no value whatsoever; it entirely depends upon the individual coroner. In 1874 there was a new coroner appointed in a central district of London. In the year 1873 there were 76 starvation deaths reported in that district. After his appointment, in the two years 1874 and 1875, there were only seven cases reported in each year. It is therefore, I think, fair to assume that the returns are largely affected by the difference of interpretation put upon the term "starvation" by the coroner. I should like also to mention the sort of cases that are brought in in the starvation returns. One case, the facts of which were well known to me, was that of a blind man who, I think, was 80 years of age. He died and the jury brought in a verdict of death from starvation, and some strong remarks were made because it came out in evidence that a scripture reader from the parish church had been in the habit of visiting the man twice a week and, it was alleged, had given no relief. The facts were well known to the rector of the parish. The man was in receipt of pensions amounting to 36*l.* a-year, and from other sources he had certain incomings which altogether made his income up to about 1*l.* per week. At the time of his death he had over 50*l.* standing to his credit in the Savings Bank, and he had more than a ton of coals in his cellar, which, in that part, I may say, is a mark of affluence. This man was for those parts practically in easy circumstances. The family were well known. The wife attended a mothers' meeting, which is held by a lady I know very well, who lives in St. George's for benevolent purposes. She said to the woman, "Why did you go and say to the coroner that your husband was starved?" and the woman said, "Well, the fact is, the coroner would not take any other answer; he put the words into my mouth and insisted that it was so." *A propos* of

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

what I was saying of the kindness of the poor to one another, I may remark that the neighbours in this case were so angry with the woman for what they thought was an imputation upon them, that they should allow a poor old blind man to die, that they expressed themselves rather strongly, and this poor woman left the neighbourhood. I could give you other instances.

5793. You were asked by Mr. Benn at Question 5633 as to the mortality returns; he said that the death rate in the East-end districts was over 28 per thousand, whereas in the Surrey-side districts referred to it was only 22. Do you recognise that there is any connection whatever between the death rate and the administration of relief?—I have consulted the only authority that has been available to me, "Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics," and I find the only law which he suggests as governing the death rate is density of population; which, I submit, with all respect to Mr. Benn, is a more probable hypothesis than that it follows in any way the administration of the poor law; so I think really the whole question of the death rate is irrelevant. A friend has given me the following quotation from Dr. W. Farr's "Vital Statistics," 1885, p. 172, a recognised authority: "It is well established that the mortality of the populations of cities is generally higher than the mortality of people in the country; and it has been shown in the annual reports (of the Registrar General) that there is a constant relation between the density of the population and the mortality."

5794. Practically, the density of the population of the East-end districts, your three Tower Hamlets (Stepney, St. George's, and Whitechapel) is something like three to one as compared with the districts on the Surrey side; 162½ in Tower Hamlets, as against 57 per acre in Camberwell and the other districts on the Surrey side?—Yes, 163 in the three strict East-end unions, and 57 in Camberwell, St. Olave's, and Greenwich.

5795. You said certain trades were depressed in your district; can you think of any other index or criteria by which doubt may be thrown on the propriety of the principles you advocate?—No; I have done the best I can to substantiate the justice and good policy of the views we take.

5796. It has been said elsewhere that the returns of London pauperism intimate that the poor have been largely forced into the workhouses; have you anything to say on this statement?—Yes. That refers to Dr. Hunter's figures which were put to me, and I should like to say one word about them. They were based mainly, I think, upon a Return, which is known as Mr. Ritchie's Return, against which in St. George's we have a special grievance, because it actually returned upon the yearly census of paupers a larger number of old people as paupers than there were old people in the union according to the census. The explanation is, that it is almost impossible in a yearly census to get rid of the duplicates. There are a large number of people who are like a stage army in any enumeration of that sort; they are going in and out, and it is almost impossible for those charged with the enumeration to eject the duplicates.

Chairman.

5797. Are the duplicates which you refer to only among the in-patients?—In St. George's it would be almost entirely so; because, except in urgent cases, there is practically no out-relief given.

5798. The same thing may happen elsewhere with regard to out-relief?—I should think it might, but I only happen to know of the inaccuracy in St. George's. I know it is so also in some other unions, but I do not desire to speak about them. Then in Bethnal Green, from January to May 1894, there were 1,767 recorded admissions into the workhouse and infirmary. Only 162 of those persons went in on the order of any committee of the board, that is to say, only 162 had applied for any other form of relief; all the rest, that is to say, 1,605 out of the total, went in of their own accord. I submit that when Dr. Hunter in his figures classifies Bethnal Green as a union that is forcing the poor into the workhouse you get at once at the misconception that underlies all his figures. For a fuller statement of this argument I would refer the Committee to an article on the "Abuse of Statistics," Quarterly Review, October 1894. The reason of the great increase of the in-door poor in London is the great improvement in the infirmaries and other establishments connected with the workhouse.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5799. The Committee is asked to form an opinion as to the method of employing the unemployed. You know the Local Government Board's circular to the vestries, &c. Have you an opinion as to the propriety of having two relieving agencies within the same area?—I think it would be a great mistake to have two legal agencies; the vestry and the poor law guardians.

5800. Can you see any difference between relief by vestries given on account of destitution, and the relief now given by boards of guardians; would they not both be eleemosynary and equally qualify the recipient to be styled a pauper?—I should say so.

5801. Would you deem it essential for a right administration of the poor law, especially as to its power of influencing the people in the cultivation of thrift, that its rules for relief giving should be continuously applied, so as to become thoroughly well known in the locality?—I think uniformity and fairness of administration are very essential.

5802. Is that likely to be the case with two relief agencies, elected, moreover, at different times; would you desire a poor law authority holding office for longer periods, and so calculated to be less fluctuating in its administration?—I am in favour of only one poor law authority. I think it would be a mistake to have two poor law authorities. The unpopularity of the poor law is largely caused by the fact that guardians do not apply an automatic rule of decision, but rely on that very uncertain quantity, viz., their discrimination.

5803. Have you ever heard that in Australia the term "working on the corporation" is synonymous with out relief here?—I am afraid I only know generally that they have started a great many municipal works in Australia for the purpose of relief, and that great congestion in towns has been the result, in a country where the natural industry

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

industry is pastoral, and where population would more naturally flow into the country.

5804. You mentioned the case of Nottingham in 1885 as showing the imperfection of relief works as a test of distress; have you any other recent cases you could mention?—No. I think I confined myself to the general remark that I do not know of any successful relief works.

5805. Can you state shortly the difficulties in the State in any form, whether municipal or imperial, dealing with the unemployed?—My evidence has been to show that that policy tends to the congestion of unemployment, and really does not help in the solution of this difficulty.

5806. You have told us some reasons in your previous examination for thinking it is impossible for the State to aid those suffering from a declining trade; is not another difficulty this: that the State would neither know the psychological moment when to step in with its special aid nor when to stop it?—I think that is the difficulty. If you knew definitely that the trade that was then decayed was going to come back again next week, and was capable of employing all the men out of employment, there might be something to be said for such a policy. But that is a thing you cannot know, and which can never be decided in any other way than by the operation of what I may call the free market.

5807. As to the Submerged Tenth, is it not recognised that no workman with any self-respect will ever work with them?—That is certainly what I have always been told with regard to relief works and labour yards; that relief of that kind is monopolised very largely by a class of what are called loafers, more or less.

5808. Is it not the case that the Report on the Mansion House scheme for relief works shows that more than one-half of the whole number were not permanently helped?—The figures are given in some detail in Mr. Llewellyn Smith's Report. I have not got them in my mind at present.

5809. You do not speak with any intimate knowledge of the Report?—I have glanced at the Report. I cannot carry the figures in my head.

5810. I see that out of 224 cases only nine persons were found employment by this influential committee, with all the advantage of the awakened interest in its new methods. Have you any opinion with regard to labour bureaux?—I know that the vestry of St. George's recently considered the subject; and with the view of getting some information they wrote round to a number of vestries who had opened bureaux, to know whether they had been of any use, and the result upon the mind of the Vestry of St. George's was that they unanimously agreed they would not open a labour bureau. Bethnal Green, it was stated, had opened a bureau during three winters, and this winter they had 1,400 people upon it. It cost 7*l.* 2*s.* per week, and not a single person obtained employment through its agency. In Marylebone, during the winter of 1892–3, they had a bureau opened for some months; there 750 people put their names down, of whom two found employment.

5811. Have you any opinion to give about the Common Poor Fund and its operation?—A suggestion, I know, has been made that the Common Poor Fund should be extended so as to cover the whole system of relief. My own

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

personal opinion is that that would be an extremely dangerous experiment. I am not myself altogether reconciled to the present operations of the Common Poor Fund, as far as its effect on administration is concerned, although I admit it has to a certain extent operated in favour of the views I have put before the Committee, because I am informed (indeed, it seems to be human nature) that when a board of guardians is confronted with some proposal for expenditure they are much more ready to be lavish if they know that the cost will come upon the Common Poor Fund, and not upon their own local people. I am sure that in some instances it has tended to considerable extravagance, and I am afraid if it was extended to out-relief the results would be extremely dangerous.

5812. In Question 5665 you gave some interesting information as to the policy of disfranchising people who apply for relief; would you allege that whatever tends to place receipt of relief and non-receipt of relief on an equality in public estimation is calculated to encourage the idea that living on the charity of the State is not to be deprecated?—Of course, it was one of the maxims of the Poor Law Commissioners that the condition of paupers on the whole ought to be less eligible than that of the independent labourer; and it seems to me a self-evident proposition.

5813. As a matter of fact, can you say whether in the recent elections in the unions with which you are acquainted, this question of the Poor Law was in any way a burning question?—The recent Poor Law election in St. George's-in-the-East was conducted on what were called political lines: I do not know what the object was: it was suggested that they wanted to test the register, and they had a Conservative list and a Liberal list; but the administration of the Poor Law, I am glad to say, in St. George's has not been put into party political strife. The leaders and influential people on both sides determined that they would not, as I might term it, put this question up to auction; and both parties in their addresses studiously avoided saying anything at all about out-relief. Strange as it may appear, the subject was never mentioned; there is now really no demand for it. The only mention made of out-relief during the election was made by several Socialists, who stood for election, on a list of their own, and with a programme promising out-relief. But their candidature was not largely supported; I do not think any of them polled a total of three figures; I think about 80 was the highest any of them polled.

Chairman.

5814. We have been drawing contrasts between strict unions and lax unions, and attempting to found opinions upon the contrast; do you not think from your observation that there may be a little of this effect: that the strict union, although it saves its own position, drives people into the lax union, and that the comparison is thus vitiated to some extent?—The answer I should make to that question is, that unless a man has been resident a year he is not entitled to relief, and he would be passed back to his own union; and my observation is that unfortunately the pauper class do not look forward a year. Our difficulties would be much less if they would

Chairman—continued.

look forward a year, and would think even of migrating to easier unions. I have heard Mr. Vallance, the clerk of the Whitechapel Union, who I feel sure would make such a statement with great care, say publicly that he transfers to other unions more paupers than are sent back to him. I cannot say I have seen anything of the sort.

Mr. *Acland.*

5815. I understand that you think labour yards are, on the whole, a mistake as a policy?—I think so. If you want to hear about labour yards I might recommend the Committee to send for Mr. Allen.

5816. I only ask you your view?—I do not think they are successful.

5817. You think relief works are a mistake?—Yes.

5818. And you think the less outdoor relief is given in a union, on the whole, the better?—Yes, I do.

5819. You think two bodies giving relief, such as the Vestry and the Poor Law Guardians, would be a mistake?—I do.

5820. But you think that two relief agencies, such as the Poor Law and your own relief agency, are on the whole well-fitted to grapple with the subject?—We have done our best. I have given what I hope is a fair account, and I would like you to draw your own conclusions.

5821. I wanted to have your own opinion; you think the action of the two relief agencies you have described, together with the operation of the free market, as you call it, are the best way of grappling with the difficulty we have to deal with?—Yes, I think so. My meaning is that if we adhere to this policy there is no difficulty. Difficulty only arises when this policy is reversed.

5822. I understand that, as far as possible, your work is to try and keep those who come to you from the rates; at all events, you said that the fact that you endeavoured to do that was appreciated by the working classes?—Yes; we wish, if possible, to keep them from the rates, and to draw them, if we can, into the arms of friendly societies, whom we regard as our most efficient allies in this struggle against dependence and pauperism.

5823. On the other hand, if a man has not saved anything you put him on the rates for a day or two, because you send him to the workhouse?—Yes, for a day or two. It would be impossible for us to take, without a test, everyone who came and said he was out of work.

5824. But I suppose you would recognise there are a great many men who will not really come to you for relief at all, if they have got to go to the workhouse for two or three days at first?—I think they would come but for the fact that, as I say, when there is any sort of crisis going on, everyone's pocket is opened rather liberally, and they get on without our help.

5825. Do you think, on the whole, at these times of crisis, say, like the last frost, people's pockets being open, the charity flowing rather freely outside your stricter work of relief, is a better remedy than the opening of relief works for a time, or even providing such work as sweeping the streets?—I do; because these charitable funds come to an end in a natural way, whereas if you start relief works or get a large number of people employed by the vestry, it is

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

very difficult to get rid of them—the thing goes on growing, and becomes a permanent endowment of pauperism.

5826. In the case of charitable relief, the men are idle from week to week as long as the distress goes on, are they not?—I do not know about that; they are looking out for odd jobs, and so on. For instance, during the frost there was an immense amount of work in carrying water all over London which provided a great deal of employment; frost brings employment as well as stopping it.

5827. The work of sweeping the streets, and other such works which have been provided, have come to an end with the special time of distress?—Yes, but they are ready to begin again next year.

5828. My point is, that when they get charity alone, they are on the whole doing nothing; whereas if they get this relief work, which will come to an end, they at least are working day by day and keeping more or less in the habit of working?—Yes; but I think all that teaches them to rely upon the public authority; which is the result I wish to avoid. I think if you teach any poor population that they can in every crisis apply to the public authority, you are really applying a remedy that will create disease faster than you cure it.

5829. You think that relief by charity is much less dangerous?—Yes.

5830. Although that charity may be, at times of this sort, extremely unorganised?—Certainly. I should say that indiscriminate charity was not so bad as indiscriminate Poor Law relief.

5831. Or any form of relief by relief works from the public authority?—Yes, *quâ* relief works; that is to say, if the relief works are not got up for the genuine necessities of the parish.

5832. Do you think, on the whole, that in figures such as you have given us as to pauperism, the small amount of actual paupers in one union as compared with another is any fair indication of the amount of poverty in any district?—I think I see two questions there. I think it is extremely dangerous to compare one union with another. I always insist that one ought to compare one union with itself at a different time, under a different system of administration; and I think you will see that the figures I have given you are of that description.

5833. Do you think that in a union where pauperism has steadily declined poverty has probably declined also?—I should say so, certainly. Pauperism is the extreme fringe of poverty, and is probably proportionate to the mass of poverty behind.

5834. Do you think that there is less real poverty now in St. George's-in-the-East than there was when you knew it 15 years ago?—I think there is much more independence; and that is the first step towards getting out of poverty.

5835. That is not my question?—It is very difficult for anyone who knows St. George's-in-the-East to say it ever could be less poor; but I think there is more independence, and the people do not live so entirely from hand to mouth, and qualifying my answer in that way, I think there is less poverty.

5836. I wanted to know whether you thought that on the whole there was less poverty since this administration you spoke of has grown up?—If

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

—If you would transfer your question to a strict country union where the conditions of administratton are more isolated, I would answer your question readily in the affirmative.

5837. I prefer not to transfer my question; I want to ask you your personal experience in St. George's-in-the-Esst?—I should not like to represent that the only cause of poverty is bad Poor Law administration, but I say you aggravate it by bad Poor Law administration, and I think we have removed some of the aggravation.

5838. I only wanted to know your own experience in watching the district. Do you look upon modern legislation, such as you alluded to: you particularised certain legislation as to railways, I think: as likely to do harm?—I do not profess to be an expert in these things, but I thought there was one set of people who were extremely jealous of the extension of these large corporations, and who were not themselves strong enough to take the business entirely away from these large corporations, and between the two parties, that is the parties who were jealous of these corporations and the party who supported these corporations, and did not want to hand these things over to the municipality, an important part of the industry of the country was placed, so to speak, between the Devil and the deep sea, and there was some restriction of trade.

5839. I suppose you were not thinking so much of legislation with a view to the safety of the public or lessening the hours of workmen?—That is a very large question.

5840. Do you feel the same danger with trades unions, namely, that they may bring about restrictions which are undesirable?—I do not think that either trade unionists or the Legislature, with all respect, realise sufficiently the necessity of allowing a free market to distribute both labour and capital.

5841. Your great desire is to keep the operation of what you call the free market open?—It is.

5842. You think that is the best direction in which one can look for the cure of this evil?—Yes.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

5843. I should like to ask whether your experience in connection with the Charity Organisation Society is confined to St. George's-in-the-East, or has spread over a wider area?—My personal experience is confined to St. George's-in-the-East.

5844. I presume one of the chief objects of the society is to systematise the giving of charity and prevent its being given indiscriminately?—That is one object, certainly.

5845. In this work you are brought more or less into contact with the better class of poor people, who have a disinclination to go upon the rates, but who would come to an organisation like your own in preference?—To some extent I think that is so. St. George's-in-the-East, of course, is a very poor district, in which there are not many skilled artisans or people of that sort living; they are mostly the humbler class of labour.

5846. I was thinking for the moment of the operation of the society as a whole, not as confined to St. George's-in-the-East. Do you find that this class are chiefly driven to ask your assistance through lack of employment, apart from accidents, illness, or similar causes over which they have no control?—I do not think want of employment is the largest source of distress among the poor, if that is the question you are putting.

5847. What would you say, as the result of your experience, was the largest cause?—I should say sickness, or the premature death of the bread-winner, where a man leaves a widow and children and unthrifty management; I should say that was a more frequent cause than want of employment, in the parts of London that I know at all events.

5848. Do you find, from the working of your society that irregularity of employment is a growing evil amongst the working classes?—I do not think so. The whole point of my evidence has been to show that when you set up a public authority as an institution that is to find work, you certainly get an ever-increasing pressure upon it; but if, as in St. George's-in-the-East, rightly or wrongly, you do not take up that position, there is, practically speaking, no problem at all.

5849. Then does not this follow from that: capitalists are led to invest their capital when public bodies do not provide work; I presume you will agree with me in saying that men with money invest it when they find a market for a product?—Yes.

5850. If there was a good investment, irrespective of any action the public bodies might take, men would invest their capital in such an investment, and thereby provide employment—that is to say, the workers themselves have no power to find work for themselves, and if the state of the labour market is not such as to find employment for them, unless the State or the municipality does provide work they necessarily are dependent upon charity; is not that so?—I do not quite admit the hypothesis that there has been any failure of investment; it is, I think, curtailed at present——

5851. I did not say there had been; but the point of your statement hitherto, as I understand, has been that the providing of relief works made it more difficult for persons out of work to find employment; and I want to ascertain why you make that statement?—Because I think if you start relief work you get a large number of people going there. They do not go about to look for work in what one may call the ordinary market, and the pressure goes on increasing till a catastrophe becomes unavoidable. Of course, the classical instance was the Paris workshops of 1848, which began with 8,000 men in the spring and went on to 115,000 in three months' time, and then they had to stop it, and they had riots, of course, and a revolution.

5852. Has it ever come to your knowledge that where relief works have been started any employer of labour has experienced any difficulty in finding a sufficient supply of labour in that locality?—I have frequently heard it stated so.

5853. Have you any personal knowledge to that effect?—No; but I have not the least doubt I could get you cases of that sort.

5854. It would be very interesting if you could

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

could do so. Does not it occur to you that when relief works are stopped and the men are compelled to seek employment elsewhere, they are only adding to the irregularity of employment in the casual labour market?—No. All the evidence I have ever had before me rather tends to show that when relief works are stopped men do in some way or other go back into the ordinary channels of trade.

5855. You will admit, I presume, that merely closing relief works does not open work in other directions?—Not of itself, of course.

5856. Unless it can be shown that the free labour market was being starved in consequence of relief works being opened, it would almost follow, would it not, that if the men employed in the relief work obtained employment they would be displacing someone else?—I do not think so. There is no limitation to employment. We are all of us quite willing, if we can get employment for ouselves, to consume more of the goods made by other people's employment; I do not think there is any battening down of the market in the way you describe.

5857. Before the relief works were started, these men who found employment on the relief works were out of work?—I suppose so.

5858. The conditions would be the same then as they would be when the relief works came to be closed, on your theory?—I suppose so.

5859. Then why did they not find work before?—I am not at all denying that there are not occasions when there is no work for men; but, rightly or wrongly, I am of the opinion that it is better to relieve them in the way that the Poor Law directs rather than start relief works.

5860. That was not my point; I may come to that later. My present point is this: you led the Committee to suppose that in some way or another the starting of relief works prevented men from seeking employment which, if they sought, they could find. That was fairly the point of your contention, was it not?—Yes.

5861. I want to know your reasons for saying that?—I have given them, I am afraid, at great length. I do not know that I can add very much to what I have said.

5862. There is one question that has been raised which I should like to ask you about. These cases of starvation which you referred to were only cases which the coroner's jury had found that the person had died of starvation?—Yes.

5863. Does it coincide with your knowledge that a good many persons die practically of starvation on whose body there is no public inquiry?—No, I cannot say I should admit that. Of course it is unfortunately true that the death rate is higher in a poor district than it is in a well-to-do district. That is a very regretable fact, but I do not think that it really bears on this question very much.

Chairman.

5864. Their disease may be aggravated by insufficient food, though it is not what we call literal starvation?—It is patent to anyone that a man who is well-to-do can pay for medical attendance and change of climate, &c., more easily than poor people, and undoubtedly the death rate is higher among the poor than the rich. One is very sorry for it, but it is the fact. It is not, I think, a question of want of food.

Chairman—continued.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

5865. You do not seem to have much faith in Labour Bureaux?—No.

5866. Neither have I; but you made one remarkable statement which I should like to refer to. When speaking of relief works you said the experience had been that they were practically monopolised by loafers?—That was the conclusion I drew from the case of Nottingham, and I quoted for it the authority of the town clerk, Sir Samuel Johnson.

5867. Then following upon that, let me ask does not that show that the reason why these men are loafers is because the opportunity of working is denied to them?—I confess I do not like using the term "loafer" myself, because it does imply (as I think your question suggests) some moral disapprobation.

5868. It implies laziness for one thing?—I do not wish you to imagine I take a hard view of these people's character; on the contrary I am extremely sorry for them; but my difficulty is that I think you will aggravate the evils by starting relief works and persuading them that society can go on employing them on those lines.

5869. You spoke of the operation of the free market, meaning, of couse, the ordinary relations between employer and employed?—Yes.

5870. Has it ever occurred to you that in the heat of our present competitive system a considerable proportion of our workers, through advancing years or through lack of strong physique or strong will power, are unfitted to take part in the competitive struggle for existence which is going on to-day; would it not be a humane thing (to put it on the lowest basis) to provide some method whereby those people might earn their own livelihood without the taint of pauperism, and without requiring to undergo the struggle which they are called upon to undergo to-day; that is to say, to add to the free-labour market a co-operative colony of some kind or another, into which those people would go as freely as they go to employers to-day, with this difference, that they could go and demand the right to be allowed to earn their own living?—You are raising, of course, a very large question. It is rather inviting me to discuss the whole constitution of Society. Perhaps I may say briefly I do not agree with the view put to me, for the reasons I have already given.

5871. I was very sorry I missed your evidence upon the previous occasion, but I could not help it. The object of this Committee is to advise what steps should be taken to relieve distress arising from lack of employment. If such a system could be devised wherein men, without loss of self-respect or the loss of the rights of citizenship, could earn their own living, would not that be preferable to either giving charity through your own organisation society or from the rates?—Yes; but my contention is that if you start it artificially, for the purpose of employing them, that is tantamount to an extension of the poor law and the taint of pauperism (as you used the expression) I should say was incurred

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

curred by a man who was content to go on upon relief works which are not wanted generally by the community, and which would go on in my judgment increasing and increasing, until the burden becomes insufferable.

5872. To prevent misunderstanding, may I say I am not referring now to temporary relief works to meet a temporary emergency?—Quite so.

5873. I am assuming that a certain proportion of the working class is surplus when compared with the ordinary demands of the ordinary labour market. What I am driving at is the organisation permanently of a method whereby all who are unable to find employment in the free-labour market would try to go and create by their labour the wealth which they would consume in living. Would you object to that?—My difficulty is this: the surplus, the people who are out of employment, I think you may take it, are the less competent portion of the working population; and it seems to me it is an insuperable problem even for private employers, and much more for a public authority, which is not so competent to conduct industrial enterprises, to carry on business with men selected because they are incompetent. Your only chance of getting rid of your incompetent men is to mix them up with the more competent men. You can employ an incompetent man if he is mixed up with more competent labourers, and no harm comes of it; but if you are given an industrial army of men below the average of industrial workers you are creating a problem which is to my mind insoluble. May I add, that not only is your industrial army in such a case below the average, but the enterprises open to such experiments (*e.g.* taking people back to the land), are condemned as economically unprofitable. I can conceive no surer way of discrediting collectivism than by embarking on such a scheme. If you want to make an experiment, take over a successful industry with its complement of skilled labour. The solution of the unemployed problem, in my view, will not be brought about by taking masses of men back to industries which are unprofitable, but by allowing them to pass one or two at a time into the current industry of the day. The points at which this absorption of labour is possible, can, I believe, be indicated by the action of the free market and by that only. This I believe is a more beneficent organising influence than any artifice that man can devise.

5874. Do not you think the most incompetent of our labourers, under proper direction and supervision, would be able to produce sufficient to supply his own requirements?—It seems to me to be going back to barbarism when you get people shut in in the form of producing everything for themselves, and not producing for exchange. The principle of commerce and industry now is that you are producing for exchange. If you settle these people anywhere you cannot produce for exchange, because, *ex hypothesi*, it is not a competent industrial community.

Mr. *Keir Hardie*—continued.

5875. You are assuming it must produce for exchange?—I do.

5876. My point is that we need not produce for exchange, but that we ought to produce to supply the requirements of those engaged in producing. I take it that on the whole you are opposed to any form of work of any kind being provided to meet the "unemployed" difficulty?—I am opposed to any except work that arises in the natural development of the industry of the country.

Mr. *David Randell.*

5877. I understand from an answer you gave to Mr. Pickersgill, in answer to a question on the tinplate trade, that you are opposed to relief employment in districts suffering from trade depression, even although the depression in the trade may be temporary?—Temporary is a difficult word to define accurately in such a case. I think there are occasions when it is a very proper thing for the leading people in any district to consider whether they ought not to raise a fund for the relief of any great crisis that has arisen in trade; but my advice would be not to make it relief by way of relief works, but to do it on some other lines, *e.g.*, reasonable inquiry and investigation into the claims of applicants, with possibly some preferential condition for thrifty men.

5878. Has your attention been directed to the case of Oldham in 1862, the famine year, when the Oldham people set about making their park (of which they are proud) and set upon that work the men thrown out of the cotton trade?—That would be a case in point. If you have got an obviously temporary crisis like that, public-spirited people will find the money. It is a very proper exercise of philanthropy, and I see no objection.

5879. Do you know that it has been authoritatively stated the men were physically improved by being put on to the work, and that the enterprise was a great success?—I know nothing of the circumstances. I cannot speak to that.

5880. Do you think that that precedent might be safely adopted in the tinplate districts that are affected by depression?—I should be strongly of opinion that it ought to be done by private subscription, and not by taking money out of the rates, and I should think in all large towns there would be no difficulty about it.

5881. In a case of that kind you qualify your proposition and say you are not altogether opposed to relief employment if the local authority have the work?—I am against the local authority doing it *quâ* relief; but I think it would be a very public-spirited thing on the part of influential citizens to raise a fund and to make a park at such a crisis. If the crisis is temporary, as in the Lancashire cotton famine, this would be useful, but if it is permanent, there is obviously a limit to the number of parks to be laid out.

Mr. DUNCAN MILLIGAN, F.R.A.S., called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

5882. You are the Chairman of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union Board of Guardians?—Iam.

Chairman—continued.

5883. We do not wish to take you over ground that was covered by the clerk to the guardians when he gave evidence. I daresay you

Chairman—continued.

you are generally familiar with the evidence he gave?—That is so.

5884. One question arose which we thought you could better answer than he could; that was a question as to the policy of the Board. The question the clerk was asked was practically this: whether you restricted your operations to any poor people who came and applied for relief, or whether you considered it your duty to search for people in want of relief within your district. That is the main point that arose upon which we thought it very desirable to have your opinion?—With regard to the first question as to whether we restricted our operations with reference to granting relief to persons who do apply, I would answer, in a sense, no. There is an application made; but I should like to point out how that application comes before us. We are remarkably well constituted as a board in having guardians who are connected with other societies which give relief.

5885. Such as?—Such as the Charity Organization Society, for one. We have men who have wives who are district visitors among the poor. My wife is treasurer for two large local societies, and besides that we are acquainted with a large number of philanthropic ladies over the whole area of the union, who give us information, and who draw our attention to cases. Speaking for myself, I would say that there is never a week passes but what I have numerous letters calling my attention, as a guardian, to certain cases which the writers think should receive relief. I make it my duty, having become cognisant of the circumstances, to allocate those letters to the various relieving officers, and in some cases make personal inquiries, and not only secure relief for such cases from the board of which I am chairman, but from other societies with which I keep in touch. With respect to the latter part of the question, it is very important, and has within it a grave principle. I do not consider it my duty to go outside my board as a seeker-out of existing cases of poverty which have not come within the cognisance of the board in the manner I have named. Moreover, I do not find it is even an instruction to our relieving officers to do so. I think that is the answer I must give to that question.

5886. You think that by what I may call the indirect means which you speak of, your board is pretty well informed as to the existence of cases of distress?—Quite so.

5887. But you do not think it is a duty of the board of guardians to search independently, and of their own accord, or ferret out cases of distress?—I do not, and I would like to supplement that by stating, what has already been stated, that we are a large union; we have an aggregate of something over 6,000 indoor and outdoor cases, representing every condition of man, woman and child, either in an institution or receiving out-relief; and for myself the work would be really too great; I could not undertake the responsibility of a guardian if such a regulation were made. I hear myself, in my room, with my small committee, something like 6,000 cases per year.

5888. We heard of a particular resolution that was passed by your board, and some questions were asked as to the circumstances of it; can you tell us exactly what happened?—I understand you to refer to the resolution calling upon the Government to take into consideration the question of starting some means of employment or some scheme of employment. I think I could give you the reason for that resolution being passed. It was because it was thought that some of the guardians did object to stoneyards being opened on account of their being demoralising.

5889. If I remember rightly, there were two propositions contained in the resolution: first of all, that the State should interfere in some way to give employment, and secondly, the opinion was expressed that the stoneyard was a demoralising institution?—That is so.

5890. We did not know which of those two propositions was the more acceptable or the less acceptable to the guardians?—I may say in reply to your question that this resolution was one which I intended moving myself as chairman of the board. I naturally made certain inquiries within the limited time at my disposal, and read up what I could. I thought the former part of the resolution was in my opinion a dangerous one for me to move, and I dropped it. Some other member of the board immediately gave notice and took the matter up. But I did not alter my opinion as to the latter part of the resolution, which refers to the stoneyards being generally recognised as calculated to pauperise and demoralise the poor. I believe the resolution was passed by 12 to 10.

5891. Can you tell us what it was that the 10 objected to in the resolution; was it the first or the second?—I think (if you will permit me to put it in that way, because I am not quite certain) it was the first part. I think we all agreed about the other part. May I say further that I think we were right so in agreeing about stoneyards being demoralising, because the guardians have had this matter brought before them by the representatives of various bodies in Battersea, and I remember that on one occasion a fairly representative body of men sent a spokesman before us stating they did not wish the stoneyard opened; they begged us not to open it, and the reasons given were that it was demoralising, and so on. That was followed later by another deputation, and the guardians felt in no little difficulty; but the guardians gave way under the various stresses at the period, and did open the stoneyard.

5892. We do not want to go over the same ground again, but is there anything you would like to say to us in supplement of the very clear evidence given by the clerk of the guardians the other day?—I would like to say a word in regard to the stoneyard. I have paid attention to the stoneyard for some years, and every year my opinion grows stronger that it is a mistake to think of giving any permanent relief to the poor who come into our stoneyard under the various stresses of winter, or sickness, or death of relatives, or one thing or another, with an idea of doing them any good. We have all sorts and conditions of men coming into the stoneyard, but most of them are hard-handed men. We have some *bonâ fide* working men, but most of them are men who seem to have

Chairman—continued.

have most irregular periods of work. I do not call them by any name; I think it would be wrong of me to do that; but I do find from my experience that a stoneyard becomes a kind of college of demoralisation, and the men who go there with the idea of being tasked to break 8 cwt. of granite per day very soon find out they may do pretty nearly what they like, because the regulation is that these men must be kept at work according to their capacity and ability, which is a difficult thing to judge of for an unprofessional stonebreaker. Some of our professional stonebreakers I have known, not in the stoneyard but in the casual ward, to break their 8 cwt. before 12 o'clock at noon, and say they could do a ton in the day "upon their heads." I call such men professional stonebreakers, who know the how of the whole matter. But there are men come into the yard expecting that they will have to break 8 cwt., and they are very soon told they need not do anything of the kind. Once we found, on working out the figures (and we have returns submitted every week) that the average amount broken is 2 to 3 cwt. I do not think it is more. Altogether it is a costly thing; we make nothing out of it. But the worst feature about the case is this; that real honourable workmen, who do not wish their children to starve, and who will do any sort of work, find their way to the relieving officer's door, and get introduced to Poor Law relief in that way, and I believe it helps to destroy their self-dependence. They have been under something that is called relief when they are seeking work, and, taking the whole thing altogether, it does demoralise most of these men who are not already demoralised who get into the stoneyard.

5893. You have two objections, in fact, to the stoneyard, the first being that while your endeavours and instructions are to adapt the amount of work to the man's capacity, a man is very soon able to adapt his capacity to what he finds to be his convenience?—It appears so.

5894. And in the second place the whole process is one of demoralisation to the better class of men who are subjected to it?—I believe that is so. And there is another thing; the work is really so trifling that I cannot call it work at all, it seems more like a kind of play. I have considered whether it would not be possible to have a general stoneyard for the whole of the metropolis, having regard to the large amount of stone that is needed for mending the roads. I could not say how much would be needed for the whole metropolis, but I do know that in our own district there are something like 13,000 cubic yards of stone required for mending the roads. We are able to form a stoneyard to supply something under a thousand, you may say one thousand, and this is given as a kind of relief. I believe if it could be planned to have a central stoneyard to supply the whole of London and pay a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and put on men who could do that work, it would take away what I think is the stigma of relief. I think it would be much better if those men who could work at breaking stone were put to work in that way. I could show you as regards our own district that the very large majority could do that, and the minority the local authority could deal with in the ordinary way, with such means as we have. If that were done, I believe work could be provided for the great multitudes that frequent our various stoneyards. Besides, it would be an advantage to the local authorities if, say, for instance a body like the London County Council had a large stoneyard purposely for those men who could work in the stoneyard. We have to pay the cost of the relief in the stoneyard out of the local rates; it is a kind of out-relief, and is charged to the local rates, while the County Council's operations extend over the whole of London, and their funds are derived from that. In regard to any difficulty such as we have experienced, which has caused us to divide the week's work, and give the work to married men over 50, that was done simply because we had not room enough. Any central authority might do just the same thing. As regards my own district, which I know thoroughly well, better than I know the whole of London, we could deal with the very small minimum of soft-handed men who might be left.

Chairman—continued.

5895. Do you find you have sufficient power given to you under the Local Government Board rules at present for dealing with ordinary distress, or are you hampered in the amount you give to destitute people?—No, I am not aware that there is any limit whatever to any amount of out-relief; in fact, I am sure there is not, though I believe if we gave an extravagant amount we should have the Local Government Board down upon us.

5896. There is an obligation as to a certain proportion being in kind, and another proportion in money; is there not a restriction of that sort?—Yes. I think it is a very wise restriction.

5897. That does not apply, I believe, to the total amount given?—It is included in the total amount. I believe the guardians got what information they could, and they agreed upon so much money, so much bread, and so much grocery. Speaking personally, and from experience, I am glad that it is so. I am very glad that there is some kind and some bread for the men to take home to their wives.

5898. That is the system prescribed by the Local Government Board, is it not?—I could not say. It is a system approved by the Local Government Board as regards ourselves.

5899. Supposing you had a certain rate of relief that you were giving and you wished to alter it or increase it, would you require to apply to the Local Government Board for leave, or can you do it on your own account?—I should say we should have to apply to the Local Government Board. But, perhaps, you would allow the clerk to answer that question. (Mr. *Henderson.*) I do not think we should require to apply to the Local Government Board if we wanted to alter the stoneyard scale of relief. I think we have power to do it without; there is no limit to it. We might report to them that we had done it, but we should not wait for their permission.

5900. You have not found any difficulty on that score?—No.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

5901. (To Mr. *Milligan.*) You feel that there is a fear lest respectable working men, if they once come in relation with the Poor Law

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

through the stoneyard, might be led to rely more or less permanently upon the machinery of the Poor Law?—I believe so.

5902. Then, I presume, you would sympathise with the proposal that if relief work is to be given it should be given rather by the vestry than by the guardians?—Yes.

5903. You have thrown out a suggestion that the London County Council might do something to supply work?—Yes, as an alternative.

5904. But do you not think it would be better that the relief works should be administered locally, by the local authority rather than by the central authority; when I say the local authority I mean the sanitary authority, whether the vestry or the district board?—I do not like the term "Relief Works." I am acquainted with the term as signifying rather Poor Law relief; but I take it that is not what you mean.

5905. I did not mean that. I meant employment specially adapted for the strain which we had, for instance, during the last winter?—Yes.

5906. My question is, whether it would not be better that such employment should be given locally; that is, by the vestry, rather than by a central authority like the London County Council?—I would not mind that.

5907. Would not the reasons be that the local authority would be better able to make inquiries as to the *bona fides* of the applicants for employment?—Yes, that would be so; but, speaking of our own local vestry, I believe the Battersea Vestry is doing all it can do.

5908. Was your suggestion with regard to the County Council based on the idea that the cost ought to be distributed over the whole of London rather than press upon particular localities with special severity?—I had the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund in view.

5909. You are rather in favour of drawing upon the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund to defray the cost of this employment in the winter?—Yes; simply upon the principle that I consider the rich localities ought to help the very poor localities.

Mr. *Logan.*

5910. Are you in sympathy with the notion that is embodied in two Bills now before the House, that the acceptance of relief during a period of exceptional distress like this last winter should not disfranchise men?—Which kind of relief do you mean?

5911. Either out-relief or relief given in exchange for work. Are you in sympathy with the notion that a man who is compelled to accept relief of any sort or description because he is out of work, through stress of weather or through stoppage of works through no fault of his own, should be disfranchised?—With regard to medical relief, a man is not disfranchised unless he goes to the infirmary.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

5912. I do not mean medical relief only; I mean accepting of relief at a time when the man is out of work through no fault of his own?—Personally, but not as a Poor Law guardian, I say yes to the question. I have an idea that I cannot get rid of; that it does, to some extent, act as a deterrent, and from that point of view I must say I am opposed to the idea suggested by the question. But, personally, if I was not a Poor Law guardian, I should say I think it is hard lines for a man to be deprived of his vote. But I have had all the experience of a Poor Law guardian, and as a Poor Law guardian I feel I may not say Yes.

5913. You say it acts as a deterrent; are you of opinion that the fact that he would be disfranchised prevents a man from making applications for relief?—That is a big question, and it would take me some time to answer it. I believe there are many people who apply carelessly for relief.

5914. I have no sympathy with those people. I am asking with regard to an honest workingman who is out of work through no fault of his own?—I know there are many people who subscribe to clubs and to medical societies, and so on, and make provision. I believe such people have considered all the consequences of not making proper provision; but as a Poor Law guardian I must adhere to my answer.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

5915. Could you tell us what is the cost of the maintenance of pauper lunatics in Wandsworth?—I am quite unable to answer that question. I did not think I should be asked to give any evidence as regards pauper lunatics.

5916. Would you tell the Committee whether you have ever known an instance where a man has objected to apply for relief on account of losing his vote?—I have never known of such an instance. I have never heard of one.

Chairman.

5917. Is there any other point you wish to refer to?—I think the clerk to the guardians wishes to make an explanation with regard to his former evidence. (Mr. *Henderson.*) There is one point I should like to correct in my evidence last week. At Question 5266 I was asked, "Have the Board passed any resolutions connected with disfranchisement?" and I said, "I do not remember one." I find, however, that there was one passed in this way: another board sent to us a copy of a resolution which they had passed in favour of doing away with disfranchisement, and we passed a resolution agreeing with it.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5918. Was that resolution passed unanimously?—I will ascertain whether it was unanimous.

Mr. AUGUSTUS SHAND, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

5919. You are Chairman of the St. Olave's Board of Guardians, I believe?—Yes.

5920. The Committee have had the evidence of the clerk, and do not wish to take you over the same field, but the Committee would be glad to know something about the policy of the Board. How long have you occupied the position of Chairman?—For 18 months past.

Chairman—continued.

5921. Were

Chairman—continued.

5921. Were you long a member before that?—I have been a member of the Board between eight and nine years.

5922. So that you are well acquainted with its general policy, are you?—I am very well acquainted with its general policy.

5923. It has been stated to the Committee that a good many years ago there was, if not a change, at all events a new development of policy on the part of your Board, tending to a more extensive use of out-door relief?—Yes, that is so.

5924. Were you a member of the Board at that time?—Yes.

5925. Can you tell the Committee what the views of those that advocated that new development were?—Speaking from memory, I cannot.

5926. The Committee, I think, were told that your workhouse accommodation is not sufficient?—No; it is very much below the requirements.

5927. Have you been repeatedly pressed by the Local Government Board to increase your accommodation?—Yes.

5928. Can you say why you have not taken steps to increase it?—The late board put off the question of increasing the workhouse accommodation until they had seen the Report of the Royal Commission on Aged Poor. Many of the members thought that that report would tend to recommend old age pensions and more outdoor relief being given, and that, therefore, there would be no necessity for us to increase the accommodation.

5929. But that commission was only appointed two years ago, was it not?—That is so.

5930. And previous to that there had been found this deficiency in accommodation, had there not?—Not to a great extent. We increased our infirmary three years ago by doubling it.

5931. In the present winter you began very early, did you not, to take steps to give relief, and opened a stoneyard?—Yes.

5932. At first your conditions were somewhat comprehensive, were they not?—That was so.

5933. And you had to tighten them a little afterwards?—Yes.

5934. At first you admitted men who were not even resident within the parish, did you not?—I could not say that. It was only for two days; if it was so, the first two days. I think I ought to state that the opening of the stoneyard was agreed on somewhat hurriedly before there was any proper organisation as to the inquiries into the circumstances of these men, the *bona fides* of their residence, and so on, and there is no doubt that several did slip in by giving false addresses. But that only happened during the first two days. I think the first day the stoneyard was opened there were 156 applicants, and the next day there were 517, but on the third day the stoneyard was closed on account of the stone being used up, and there was nothing for them to do. Then inquiries took place, officers were put on specially, and the numbers were reduced to 103 on the following day. After that they gradually increased to an enormous number.

5935. Can you state to the Committee the amount of relief which was given to each man who did a certain amount of work in the stoneyard?—The relief that was ordered to be given was at the rate of trades unions wages; it was 0.45.

Chairman—continued.

to be given at the rate of 6*d.* per hour, 1*s.* 10*d.* in kind, and 1*s.* 8*d.* in money.

5936. Was the 3*s.* 6*d.* a day continued to a man all the days of the week?—No, there was a scale laid down which stated that a single man should have two days' work per week at that rate; a man and wife, two days; a man and wife and one child, three days; a man, wife, and two children, three days.

5937. Could a single man and a married man be employed two days?—Yes.

5938. A married man with one child three days?—Yes, a married man with two children, three days; a married man with three children, four days; a married man with four children, four days; a married man with five children, or more, five days.

5939. Was that scale of relief adopted after deliberation by the board?—It was.

5940. Since the clerk gave evidence before the Committee, what has been the history of the stoneyard; is it closed?—We closed it by resolution. A resolution was moved in February that the stoneyard remain open for six weeks, and then be closed, and it was closed therefore on the 28th of March, last Thursday.

5941. Did the numbers who attended continue to be considerable until the end?—Very.

5942. Notwithstanding that the frost had gone?—Yes; I should like to put in the Return which I have here, if you please.

ST. OLAVE'S UNION.

NUMBER OF MEN employed in the Out-door Labour Yard.

1895.	
*7 January	156
8 „	517
†9 „	—
10 „	103
11 „	180
12 „	189
14 „	264
15 „	209
16 „	390
17 „	461
18 „	421
19 „	464
21 „	405
22 „	482
23 „	539
24 „	817
25 „	805
26 „	747
28 „	494
29 „	550
30 „	1,032
31 „	1,058
1 February	901
2 „	997
4 „	696
5 „	630
6 „	1,270
7 „	1,252
8 „	1,407
9 „	1,292
11 „	694
12 „	623
13 „	1,527
14 „	1,499
15 „	1,531
16 „	1,601
‡18 „	917
19 „	838
Carried forward	27,958

1895.	
Brought forward	27,958
20 February	1,729
21 „	1,759
22 „	1,613
23 „	1,480
25 „	676
26 „	589
27 „	1,269
28 „	1,317
1 March	1,368
2 „	1,287
4 „	743
5 „	681
6 „	1,369
7 „	1,499
8 „	1,520
9 „	1,392
11 „	555
12 „	590
13 „	1,284
14 „	1,434
15 „	1,439
16 „	1,316
18 „	446
19 „	360
20 „	1,013
21 „	854
22 „	788
23 „	773
25 „	309
26 „	247
27 „	1,085
28 „	866
Total number of men employed	61,617
At 3*s.* 6*d.* per day	£10,782 19 6

* First day opened.
† Closed.
‡ Orders issued to men in Lodging-houses from this date.

5943. Can

Chairman—continued.

5943. Can you quote the figures for the last day or two it was open, from the Return?—The highest figures reached during the whole of the period from the 7th of January to the 28th of March was 1,759 in one day. That was on the 21st of February. Then taking the 21st of March, we come to 854; the 22nd of March, 788; 23rd of March, 773; 25th of March, 309; (that was on a Monday) 26th of March, 247; 27th of March, 1,085; and the 28th of March, 866.

5944. Can you account for those large figures at the end of a period?—I cannot account for it.

5945. The hard weather had gone long before that, of course?—Yes.

5946. Can you say what the reasons are which induce your board to leave so much towards out-door relief?—I think only humane reasons. I am in favour of it myself, and have been for many years. I have had 20 years' experience of parochial relief in all its phases. I have served on the Board of Works of St. Olave's. I am connected with several institutions in the neighbourhood, and I am in favour of out-door relief myself, but I think in giving out-door relief it should be given very judiciously and carefully, because as far as my experience as a guardian is concerned, a person once a pauper is always a pauper. We can find on looking at statistics that it goes through generations.

5947. Do you not think that a large system of out-door relief such as you speak of, rather tends to increase the number of paupers?—I think with regard to the stoneyard, it has been a great mistake to give the amount of pay we have given; I think that has been a great error.

5948. Do you think you have paid them too much?—I think we have paid them too much.

5949. Do you think it attracted men from other quarters, or was it merely confined to your own district?—Except for the first two days, I do not think so. After the supervision of so many of the officers, it was kept in check. Ours is a very poor neighbourhood, and during the hard frost we were practically starved out all along the waterside; there was very great distress indeed, then.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5950. You say you are strongly in favour of judicious administration of relief. On consideration, after what has recently happened, do you think it was very judicious for your board to vote that the labour-yard should be open for six weeks without reference to the circumstance that at any time in any week of the six, there might have been a change in the weather, or that something might happen to make the board wish to alter its determination?—I do think so.

5951. You think it was not judicious, do you?—I do not think it was.

5952. Apparently you opened the labour-yard on the 3rd of January?—No, on the 7th of January.

5953. Did not a deputation come to you on the 3rd January?—Yes.

5954. My memory is that the weather only commenced to be chilly on the 29th December. Do you think it was wise on the part of your

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

board to open public relief works within two or three days of the cold commencing?—The guardians who brought the matter up, I believe, brought it up with very good reasons. They thought there was a great lack of employment and that there was very great distress. A deputation of 20 men attended on the board. One was appointed as spokesman, who stated that great distress prevailed in the district, and that there were 2,000 men in Bermondsey alone, out of work.

5955. But with a board of such a position of influence as yours is, are you bound to take the untested statement of 20 people, even though headed by Mr. Wilkes. Are you not justified, as business men, in forming your own opinion?—I do not think that is a question I can answer. Of course it was the policy of the majority of the Board.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

5956. Do you dissent from it?—I am the chairman of the board.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5957. Apparently the deputation was there and then informed that a labour-yard should be opened. Did you, as the chairman, in any sense deprecate the wisdom of immediately opening this public work?—The labour-yard would have been opened the next day, and I deprecated it then, until we had the consent of the Local Government Board to open it, and until we had some sort of supervision for the yard, which was not then open, until the 7th.

5958. You are a business man in that neighbourhood, are you not?—Yes.

5959. And the board generally are business men, are they not?—Yes.

5960. Is it the case that except for the frost there has been any real extra distress during the last few years in that neighbourhood?—No, I could not say that on the 7th January there was any acute distress. Our officers state that, I think, in their replies to the Board of Trade.

5961. Then practically, with your official knowledge and experience, corrected and tabulated in your office, you, as the representative of the poor relief in your neighbourhood, did accept the statement of 20 people, headed by this Mr. Wilkes, as overriding the information which you had at your hands from authorised sources?—The question of the information at that board meeting was never gone into. It was the first meeting of the new board, and out of the 24 members of that new board, I find 13 had never been guardians before.

5962. Has it been the case that for the last 10 years the question of out-relief has been the subject of electoral cries in that neighbourhood?—I do not think so.

5963. Has it not been commonly mentioned at the vestry elections, or the elections of guardians, as an electoral cry?—Not until, I think, the last election. It was at the last election, I think.

5964. Did some of the members come pledged to give out-door relief as one of the inducements to get a vote?—Yes, they did.

5965. Were you one?—No; I am on no political side whatever; I never have been.

5966. But

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

5966. But this is entirely a social question. Did you enter the board pledged to give outdoor relief?—No; I entered the board pledged to nothing.

5967. As to the labour-yard; you said it was only started for two or three days until you could get sufficient supervision; is that your statement?—The yard would have been started on the 4th January if the majority of the guardians' wishes at that meeting had been complied with; but it was pointed out that we must have the consent of the Local Government Board before we opened it, therefore it was not opened until the 7th January.

5968. I thought you said you waited for supervision, but as a matter of fact the supervision for the first two days was utterly inadequate, was it not?—Quite so.

5969. Then you started the six months' residence as a test, did you not?—Yes.

5970. Did you really ascertain correctly whether the people had resided this six months in one place?—Yes, as accurately as our officers could get it. We employed a great number of officers for the purpose.

5971. What number of extra officers did you put on?—Eighty-seven.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

5972. Were they all paid?—Yes.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

5973. Were the statements ever taken down in black and white, recorded in the office, and checked?—Yes.

5974. Has there been a regular tabulation of the results of your inquiries in the matter of residents?—Yes.

5975. I understand that when the relief became so very large in amount, the board resolved that people living in common lodging-houses should not be allowed to apply. Was that the case?—That was so.

5976. Then the board nevertheless in a short time withdrew that resolution and said they might apply, did they not?—That was so.

5977. Was that in your opinion judicious?—No. I will tell you how that was done. In this particular union of ours we have several of these common lodging-houses, and by the law if a man sleeps in the union for one night, it makes him eligible for the labour-yard. We were given to understand that men were practically trooping into these common lodging-houses for the one night with the view to obtain employment the next day; I will not call it employment, but to obtain relief at our labour-yard. To put a check on that, common lodging-houses were omitted. The men applying from common lodging-houses were omitted, but that could only be done by resolution, which took a fortnight to get passed, as we only meet once a fortnight. Then a deputation attended one of the board's meetings from some of the trade societies in the neighbourhood, which pointed out that there were many men living in these common lodging-houses who had lost their wives and were widowers, and had no means of keeping up a home, but who had been actually resident

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

in the neighbourhood for ten years, that some of the cases were *bonâ fide*, and therefore we thought it was a hardship on those men, who had no other place to live in, that they should be kept out of work in consequence of their living in a lodging-house or in a room. Consequently these people living in lodging-houses were admitted with the provision that there should be a six months' residence.

5978. You have been for many years, you told the Committee, intimately connected with this district, and conversant with social life there?—Yes; I was born there.

5979. As a matter of fact, I have some knowledge of these subjects, too. Do you really believe many trade societies have members living in common lodging-houses, and do you really believe that many people live in common lodging-houses with their wives?—I said widowers.

5980. Have you ever taken the body of people who are to be found in a common lodging-house, and found out how many were married or unmarried, or how many belong to trade societies?—No, I have never done that.

5981. Do you think that the class of people which belongs to trade societies is to be found in a common lodging-house?—Not to any great extent; there may be a few.

5982. Do you not therefore think it rather lax on the part of your board to promptly withdraw the resolution, which apparently, according to your experience, you were justified in passing?—It was a wrong policy, no doubt, but I think it was done with a good intention. I think the majority of the board thought that six months' residence in these lodging-houses would stop any imposition.

Chairman.

5983. Are you elected as chairman by the board?—Yes.

5984. Then you presumably are in sympathy with the majority of the board?—I cannot say that. I think it right to tell you that I was only elected by the casting vote this year of the chairman, who a certain section of the board put into that chair.

5985. By the casting vote of a temporary chairman?—By the casting vote of a temporary chairman.

5986. Is the board much divided in opinion upon these subjects?—At that particular time the board was.

5987. With regard to their action on the subject of unemployed this winter, have they been pretty evenly divided in opinion?—At this particular time the majority, of course, was large, but I think if the question cropped up again tomorrow, there would be no stoneyard opened.

5988. Do you attribute that to the fact that there was so large a number who had been elected without any previous experience of this sort of work?—Yes, that is so.

Mr. *Logan.*

5989. You said just now that the men who were employed in the stoneyard, did not make application to you for employment, but for relief. What did you mean by that?—The stoneyard

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

was more in the nature of relief, not employment.

5990. But the people do work in the stoneyard, do they not?—I cannot say that. They are supposed to work.

5991. Can you give the Committee any idea of the amount of stone which was broken by each individual?—Yes, I can. I cannot give it to you individually, but I can give you what they did altogether.

5992. Can you give us the number of hours' or days' work, and the number of tons broken?—The amount of stone purchased was 4,000 tons; the amount broken was estimated at 2,500 tons. Taking into consideration the cost of supervision, the inquiries, and the money given to the men, and the rents, rates and taxes, I find that for every ton weight of stone broken it cost the union 7*l.*

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

5993. Had they no task allotted them?—No, you cannot impose a task in cases of relief, because it would be grossly unfair. I visited this stoneyard myself twice a week, and one man I know, as a fact, was an ex-convict. If you had given him a task, he could have done his task and been off in an hour; but the next man was a grocer's assistant, who, I was going to say, did not know how to break a stone or, perhaps, a piece of wood, properly.

Mr. *Logan.*

5994. Can you give the Committee the market value of breaking a ton of the particular stone which you use?—We practically bought the stone and sold it for what we paid for it.

5995. Would 2*s.* a ton, under ordinary conditions, be a fair price for breaking stone?—No; I should think you might get a ton broken for 5*s.* The surveyor of the district board of which I am a member informed me that one of the men in their yard could easily break a ton of this stone in a day, so that putting his wages down at 4*s.*, it would practically cost 4*s.* to break a ton of stone, whereas it cost us 7*l.*

5996. You are not speaking now from actual experience, are you, because I think the value which you put on the work is very high indeed. The witness who was called before you, said that a man who was a practised hand could break a ton by an early hour in the day?—I do not think that is so. I do not think any practised man can break a ton of the Guernsey granite, which we use, in less than a day.

5997. The 2,500 tons which you had broken ought to have been broken in two such days as you had on the 21st February, when you paid close on 300*l.* a day, ought it not. I gather from the costly nature of the work done that you had no supervision over the men?—We had labour superintendents and the order was that those superintendents were to see that the men were at work, and keep them at work; but it has been a great failure.

5998. That is very evident, but do not you think that, as a man of business, it would be possible to get the men to do something: these men did absolutely nothing at all?—It was the class of men who were there. I know as a fact that some men would have honestly endeavoured to do as much as they could, but they were deterred by others.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

5999. I am looking upon you now as the managing director of the whole concern; was it not your business to see that the foremen, who I suppose you paid to supervise this work, did see that those who were placed under them made some honest attempt to earn the money you were giving them?—Yes, we did; but a man would take a hammer and would not trouble to put enough force into his word to break the stone.

6000. Were those men discharged?—No, they were kept at work.

6001. Kept at what?—They were kept at play, if you like; kept employed.

6002. I presume you did not know this sort of thing was going on?—Yes, I did.

6003. And you continued to pay the ratepayers' money away at the rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* a-day each man?—I did not; it was the policy of my board.

6004. Did you protest against it?—I did; personally, to every member of the board, and I told them it was wrong from beginning to end.

6005. Can you say, to your knowledge, whether the same sort of thing goes on in other stoneyards in the metropolis?—I could not say; I have not been in any other stoneyard.

6006. Do you not think it would be possible so to supervise the work done in the stoneyards, as to compel the men to do a fair day's work for the fair day's wage that you give them?—I think it would be very difficult to draw the line for a fair day's work in breaking stone.

6007. But why is it difficult; I speak now as a man of practical experience; I see no difficulty. I could so arrange it that these men were supervised by gangers who would either discharge them or see that they did something like a fair day's work?—They were supposed to break, I think, a hundredweight. Suppose you gave that to one man, and said he was to break a certain quantity, one man could do it in a very short time, but to the next man who had never seen a stone broken in his life it would be utterly impossible for him to do it; therefore, who is going to judge whether he is doing a fair day's work or not?

6008. You think it impossible, do you, to do so?—I think so, so far as stonebreaking is concerned.

6009. Do you know that in the ordinary course of stonebreaking, it is usual to put a man to a heap of stones and measure what he does?—Yes.

6010. Do you see any difficulty in doing it in this case?—Yes.

6011. What difficulty?—Because you get all classes of men. As I say, you may get a man who has been a convict, or a man who has been working in the roads, and alongside him a grocer's assistant; therefore, I say those two men are not equally capable.

6012. I did not suggest that you should give them both the same amount of work to do. You might give the grocer's assistant a fourth or a fifth part of the work that an ordinary navvy would do?—Yes; but who would supervise that

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

that, and say who was only fit for it; would you have a medical officer to certify in each case?

6013. No; if you have a ganger accustomed to stone-breaking he would tell you directly whether the man was able to do any work or not, would he not?—True, but you cannot find these gangers in a short time. I doubt then whether a ganger would give that amount of supervision.

6014. Then you did not make any attempt to get a man of that sort?—Yes, we had several men, we got the best we could at the time.

6015. You say that the stone cost you 7*l.* a ton to break?—Yes.

Chairman.

6016. That is the cost, I suppose, throwing everything in?—Yes, we paid in salaries 1,280*l.*, and we paid to the men 10,782*l.* We spent altogether 17,000*l.*

6017. Then the actual breaking cost 4*l.* per ton, did it?—£4 6*s.*

Mr. *Bartley.*

6018. And superintendents 2*l.* 14*s.*?—Yes; relief, 4*l.* 6*s.*, and supervision, rents, rates, taxes, plant, and materials, brought it to 7*l.*

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

6019. Were any proposals made at your board for dealing with the distress besides the stone-yard?—Yes; the resolution was carried, first, that the stone-yard should be opened, and then a deputation of delegates waited on the local vestries asking them to undertake work, so as to take as much off our shoulders as they possibly could. I headed two of those deputations.

6020. As chairman of the guardians did you go?—Yes; as chairman of the guardians.

6021. Authorised by your board?—Authorised by my board. I went to the Bermondsey Vestry and to the Rotherhithe Vestry; both vestries, I may say, took the matter up very warmly, and did their share to a very great extent.

6022. Did they give work?—Yes.

6023. What was the nature of the work which they gave?—Picking up the roads, and sewer work principally.

6024. Do you think that they succeeded in getting a fair day's work for a fair day's wage?—I think better than we did, certainly. You see they gave it as work, not relief.

6025. And do you think that that makes a great difference in regard to the willingness of a man to do his best?—Most certainly.

6026. Then you would be in favour, would you, as far as possible, when work is given, of that work being given by the sanitary authority rather than by the board of guardians?—Yes, I may state also that the Board of St. Olave's, with only seven miles of streets and no macadam roads, put men on, giving them sixpence per hour, but we told them they must be there at six o'clock in the morning; every night they were paid and told to come the next morning, but they very soon thinned themselves down, and we were practically left without any of these men, because my conviction is that they went down to the stone-yard.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

6027. You think they preferred the stone-yard?—Yes, they preferred it to working under proper officers, who would see that they did their work.

6028. As a rule, do you break your stones by machinery or hand labour?—We do not break any stone at all. We have no macadam roads to use it on. We only break it up to sell to someone else, and then only a small quantity. We have no macadam roads in my particular district of St. Olave's.

6029. Have you any suggestions to make as to alterations in the law in view of dealing with exceptional distress?—No, as a guardian I have not. I think the guardians are well armed with powers, but I do not think myself the question of dealing with distress of this kind should be laid at the guardians' door.

6030. Would you be in favour of a proposal of this kind, that the guardians should be empowered to make a contribution to the sanitary authority of the district, on the condition that the sanitary authority provided a certain amount of employment in a time of exceptional distress?—I should, but I think it would be only taking it out of one pocket of the ratepayer and putting it into another. I think the sanitary authority of a district have power to do it themselves.

6031. What would you say if it were proposed that a part of that contribution should come out of a Metropolitan Common Poor Fund?—To be dealt with by the guardians?

6032. No; a contribution to be made by the vestry, but a portion of it to come out of a Metropolitan Common Poor Fund?—I think that would do good, because when the vestry give work they would naturally get labour for their money.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6033. The guardians do not buy stone, I understand, but merely sell it?—That is all.

6034. What price do you sell it at?—12*s.* a yard, which is about a ton and a quarter.

6035. A ton and a quarter you sell for 12*s.* which cost you 7*l.* to break?—That is so.

6036. How much do you pay for it unbroken?—8*s.* 9*d.* the contract is; we have had to pay more, because we could not get it from the contractor, and had to buy it where we could.

6037. Then you pay 8*s.* 9*d.* for what you sell at something equivalent to 10*s.*?—That is so

6038. I think you said that the board which opened this labour yard was a new board?—Yes.

6039. And I rather gathered from your observations that you are not with the majority of that board with regard to policy?—With regard to this policy I am not.

6040. I also gathered that the board was composed of a large number of guardians with no experience of the administration of the Poor Law?—That is so.

6041. Are they in a majority?—They were at the first meeting in January.

6042. But if they all attended, would they still be in a majority?—I do not think so now; several of them have altered their opinion.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

6043. But, as elected, several of them had no experience of poor law?—That was so.

6044. Can you tell me from what class of persons they were elected; have you any labour men or working-men representatives?—Yes, four or five.

6045. Did they take views in favour of the stone-yard?—Yes.

6046. Have they altered or mitigated their views at all, or are they still in favour of this policy of the stone-yard?—I am sure I should not like to answer that question. They voted against the stone-yard being kept open any longer.

6047. Are the bulk of your board ratepayers?—The majority, I should say, yes.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

6048. But not all?—But not all.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6049. Is there a substantial minority who are not ratepayers?—No.

6050. The majority of them are ratepayers, are they?—Yes.

6051. I think you told the Committee that on one day 1,759 persons were employed in the stone-yard?—Yes, on the 21st February.

6052. Were they employed the whole day long?—Yes.

6053. There was no coming in for part of the day, was there?—No, it was employment during bank hours; I may say, ten to five.

6054. You gave figures showing some very remarkable increases and decreases with regard to the number of persons employed in the stone-yard; can you compare them at all with outdoor relief given at houses; did that show the same increase?—The outdoor relief had increased very considerably as well.

6055. Have you any figures showing to what extent?—During the life of the present board outdoor relief has increased from January to the extent of 40*l.* per week.

6056. Do you mean that each week shows an increase of 40*l.*?—No, the average increase.

6057. The average increase per week since the formation of the present board has been 40*l.*?—Yes.

6058. Independently of this large expenditure in the stone-yard?—Yes.

Chairman.

6059. Do you mean each week on an average was 40*l.* more than the week before?—No, on the previous year. We expend in outdoor relief about 14,000*l.* a year; we give something like 270*l.* per week.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6060. Do you know a body called the County of London Poor Law Officers' Association?—No.

6061. Will you look at this form and tell me if you are acquainted with it? (*The form was handed to the Witness and is as follows*):—

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

LONDON PAUPERISM AND DISTRESS.

Poor Law Union_____

District_____

Month of_____ 189 .

QUESTIONS.	REPLIES.
(1.) Do you consider that at present there is any exceptional distress in your district? Mention any trades specially affected -	
(2.) If so, state any special causes which have contributed to such distress -	
(3.) Does the distress in your district appear to be increasing, declining, or stationary - - -	
(4.) Are any special steps being taken or in contemplation to deal with the distress by the guardians, vestry, or board of works, or voluntary organizations? If so, please specify -	

REMARKS.

*Signed*_____

*Date*_____

Yes, I have seen this form.

6062. Are such forms periodically filled up by any of the officials of your union?—Yes.

6063. What is done with them?—They are sent to the Board of Trade, I believe. I have seen that form, I think, in the possession of one of our masters, and I am not sure, but I believe it is sent in to the Board of Trade. It does not come before the board I may say.

6064. But individually you are acquainted with this form headed "London Pauperism and Distress," are you?—I have seen it.

6065. And you have reason to believe that it is periodically filled up?—Yes.

Chairman.

6066. By whom?—I fancy by the masters of the workhouses.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6067. No doubt you could tell us of some one who could prove it in a more formal manner if thought desirable, but if you will look at the paper, I think you will find it rather an interesting one. You believe it is sent to the Board of Trade regularly, do you?—I am given to understand so.

Chairman.

6068. Is this a Return relating to the particular workhouse of which the master is the head?—I believe it is.

6069. What

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

6069. What is the amount which you receive under the equalisation of rates?—Nothing. There are five parishes in the union, two parishes receive, and three contribute.

6070. Which are the two which receive?—Rotherhithe and Bermondsey.

6071. Do you not receive?—No, we unfortunately have to pay in St. Olave's very largely.

6072. Do you not receive at all?—No, we pay something like 1,000*l.* a year.

6073. Towards the equalisation of rates?—Yes, something like 6*d.* in the pound. The equalisation is taken on the night population, and in St. Olave's we have a very small night population.

6074. Do I understand you to say, as chairman of the board of guardians, you do not receive any money under the head of equalisation of rates?—No, the guardians do not receive any money from equalisation of rates at all, it is only the vestries who receive it.

6075. Then does the Vestry of St. Olave's receive anything?—No, they pay.

6076. Do they receive nothing?—No, they receive nothing, but pay very largely.

6077. With regard to the task work of men who applied for work during the late severe frost, you said just now that it was not possible to task any of these men, because one man was a grocer's assistant and the other a man who could break stones very quickly, owing to the peculiar nature of the employment he generally followed. Would it not be possible to give an allotted quantity to each man, and even if one man did break his portion a little quicker than the other, give him a fresh lot?—Then I do not think he would hurry up at all.

6078. But he would have to do it in the allotted time, supposing you made it a task?—You could not do it.

6079. Why?—Because it would be unfair to his next-door neighbour, who may have never broken a stone in his life.

6080. Take it that one man could do one hundredweight, or two hundredweight in an hour, as the case might be, which would give an allotted task to each man of half-a-ton a day, do you not think it would have been fairer to your ratepayers to have allotted a task of that kind to every man, instead of allowing them to idle away their time?—As the board of guardians, the first thing we have to study is the men.

6081. I thought it was the ratepayers' money you had to study?—I say the first thing we have to study is the man, and we have to deal with him with a humane mind; that being so, I say it would be grossly unfair to that man. He may be a *bonâ fide* man out of work through no fault of his own, and I say it would be dishonest and unfair to expect that man who came to us for the sake of getting money for his wife and children, to do what it was impossible for that man to do.

6082. But you told the Committee there were a number of men who played wtth the stones, and who would not hit the stones hard enough to break them?—Quite so.

6083. Then, where does your humanity come in towards the taxpayer if you allow men like that to remain?—I confess there has been no humanity to the taxpayer.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

6084. What has been the additional amount of taxation in St. Olave's since this state of things has been going on?—Over the whole union, this will increase the rate by something like 7½*d.* in the pound.

6085. The poor-rate alone?—Yes.

6086. This stone-yard?—Yes.

6087. Simply because you feel it is the duty of the board of guardians to pay men 6*d.* an hour to break pieces of stone, knowing full well they are doing no work?—I will not say that. I think I ought to state, in fact, I have authority for stating, that one of the men who was most earnest and took the lead in opening this stone-yard, said had he known it was such a fraud, and that we should have had such a fraud perpetrated on us, he would never have voted for it at all.

6088. Was that Mr. Wilkes?—No.

6089. Who is Mr. Wilkes?—The leader of the deputation.

6090. Does Mr. Wilkes hold any official position in St. Olave's?—No.

6091. What is Mr. Wilkes?—I do not know.

6092. Do you know him?—No.

6093. And you gave ear to a man you knew nothing at all about, did you?—No, we did not. On the first night of this board meeting we had a crowd of something like 500 or 1,000 men in a body to wait upon us, and they sent in this man, Wilkes, to know whether we would receive a deputation of 20 of them. Our board-room is a small room, but we agreed to receive 20, and allowed this man Wilkes to speak as their leader. He laid the facts before us in a very temperate manner, more so than in a good many cases I have had experience of, and, I may say, he touched somewhat the hearts of the majority of the members of the Board, and the resolution the majority of the members came to was that we ought to give them what they thought was work.

6094. On the top of that, did you have a large number of people applying for work the next day who were not ratepayers at all?—Yes.

6095. And you gave them work?—No.

6096. But it is the fact, is it not, that a large number of men did receive out-door relief from St. Olave's Vestry who were not ratepayers?—No.

6097. We have it in evidence that it is so?—We do not acknowledge that.

6098. But you cannot say it was not so, can you?—It was not so after the second day. About 500 applied on the first day, but only 156 were put on. There were, I may say, only our staff of six relieving officers, who dealt with something like 500 applications on the first day, and gave work to 156 only. But the next day I suppose there were at least 1,500 men applied, and they gave work to 517. Then it was found practically impossible for these six men to go on, and *carte blanche* was given to our clerk to engage as many temporary relieving officers as he thought fit, and he engaged 28.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

6099. You said just now that there were 87 men altogether taken on and paid, did you not?—Yes.

6100. How were those men paid?—The assistant relieving officers were paid 2*l.* 2*s.* a week, and the labour superintendents 1*l.* 10*s.* a week.

6101. How long were they kept on?—The whole time.

6102. To look after 500 men?—No, looking after 1,700 men sometimes.

6103. Looking after 1,700 men out of a pauper population of what?—Not looking after them. The assistant relieving officers were employed all day in making inquiries. The system was this: A man comes to the relieving officer and says, "I want an order for the stone-yard." He is asked, "Where do you live?" The reply is, "So-and-so." and he is told, "Very well, you come to-morrow morning and I will see whether it is all right." That application is then handed over to the assistant relieving officer for inquiries, and he has to go to the address given by the man applying, to verify it as to whether it is correct or not; he comes back then with his report, and if it is correct the man is given a ticket for the stone-yard the next day. Of course that entails an immense amount of work.

6104. Had the 87 men who were employed as overseers to give in a report of what they had done every day?—It was not 87 men employed as overseers; we had 28 such men.

6105. I should like to know what these 87 men were at two guineas a week?—The question was asked me as to the total number of officers engaged on account of the opening of the stone-yard, and I said 87 altogether. That included extra clerks, porters, gangers, for the stone-yards, and assistant relieving officers.

6106. How many gangers were there?—The clerk has corrected my figure, 35.

6107. Will you kindly tell the Committee whether those 35 gangers gave in a report every day or week of what they had done?—There was nothing to report; they merely had to walk about the yard.

6108. You told us that a ton of stone cost 7*l.* to break, and that it took 35 gangers to superintend the breaking?—Yes.

6109. I should like to know what these gangers did, whether they did superintend, and who engaged these gangers at two guineas a week?—They walked about the yard to see the men were at work.

6110. And were you satisfied that those 35 men were doing their duty?—Personally, I am not satisfied, I never have been, and I have stated so. I am greatly disappointed.

6111. Will you tell the Committee how many of these 87 men are still employed?—About 15.

6112. Do you still require the 15?—We require them for about a fortnight or three weeks, to clear up the books. The amount of work is enormous. I may tell you that some of these assistant relieving officers are working until 12 o'clock at night.

6113. Have you had any complaints from the ratepayers of this large excess of payment you have been making?—Privately, a great many; we have had nothing before the board.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

6114. Have you found trade very bad in St. Olave's?—It has been very bad, certainly.

6115. And notwithstanding that you have increased the rates 7½*d.* in the £. owing to this indiscriminate mode of giving relief?—Yes.

6116. With regard to pauper lunatics, what is the amount charged in your rates for pauper lunatics?—The expenditure for lunatics for the Michaelmas 1894 half-year, we estimate at 5,590*l.*

6117. That is the expenditure for the half-year, is it?—Yes.

6118. Is it the opinion of your guardians that that is a charge which ought to have been placed under some other head, or do they consider it a fair charge to make to the ratepayers in a poor district like St. Olave's?—It has never been considered.

6119. Although you pay upwards of 5,000*l.* every half year for the purpose of supporting pauper lunatics?—Yes.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6120. Are the lunatics increasing there?—Yes, and I am not surprised.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

6121. The actual expenditure to Michaelmas 1894 was 5,375*l.*, and the estimated expenditure to Michaelmas 1895 is 5,590*l.*?—Yes.

6122. A very important increase?—Yes; lunacy is on the increase among the poorer classes; in fact, among all classes.

6123. What is your pauper population?—Outdoor relief was given 2,629 people for the fourteenth week.

6124. Yet you expend in the half-year upwards of 5,500*l.* on pauper lunatics?—Yes.

6125. You told the Committee just now that the maximum cost of breaking stone would be about 5*s.* a ton?—I am informed that is so.

6126. Would that include all costs?—I should think so, as a vestryman.

6127. You also told the Committee that you had no macadam roads in your parish?—Yes.

6128. Is it all wood pavement?—It is all stone pavement.

6129. And you never required the stone for your own use, but you sold it?—Yes.

6130. In my constituency there is a stone-yard, and for your information I can tell you that we sell stone for a very much higher price than you quoted?—Higher than 12*s.* a ton?

6131. Yes?—We have some thousand tons lying broken, and we should be very pleased to find a customer for it.

6132. Do you find there are many in your parish who are not only unemployed, but unemployable men it is impossible to give work to?—In what way impossible?

6133. Men who will not work if it is given them?—Yes, there are a great many of that class?

6134. Will you tell the Committee what you do in that case?—We do nothing.

6135. Do you pay them all the same?—No, we do not; we do not employ them.

6136. What do you do then?—You asked me if there were in my district a great many of the loafer class.

6137. I mean the men who apply for work and when

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

when you give them work they do nothing?—Our experience upon the unemployed question now with regard to the Board of Works is that when we did put men to work and insisted on getting a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, and they found out they had to do a fair day's work, they did not show up again.

6138. Did they leave the locality?—I cannot say that; I wish they had.

6139. If that is the case, how is it you did not eliminate from the number of men you took on to the stone-yard men of that character who came, not with the desire of doing any work, but with the desire of doing nothing at all?—But we had not the time to eliminate them in that way. You cannot eliminate them from the stone-yard. If a man applies for relief, according to the resolution of the guardians, he is entitled to it, and he is to go down to the stone-yard and receive that pay whatever his character may be.

6140. Yes; but he is supposed to do work, is he not?—He is supposed to do work, but you cannot enforce any particular work; that is the great blot.

6141. Then he can remain there, can he; do nothing at all, and yet you are bound to pay the money?—He can remain there and play, as I say, with the stone, and we are bound to give the money at the end of the day.

Mr. *Round.*

6142. Is the result of your experience, then, against the stone-yard policy in the future?—Yes, and it has always been so.

6143. Would you prefer that the sanitary authority, or local board, or whatever it may be, should find work, and that you should contribute towards the expenses of such work instead of performing the duty yourselves?—Yes, I think the local boards are far better able to cope with the difficulty than we are.

6144. Assuming that the local board only employ those who are competent to do the tasks assigned them, what steps would you take in regard to the other portion of these unemployed who were not competent to perform the work?—Of course, that brings the thing to the great point as to what legislation should take place in dealing with those who are not competent to work, and I have always held that it is a question for such a Committee as is sitting here to get evidence upon from all quarters. It is a most difficult thing to decide.

6145. You are not prepared with any special scheme, are you?—No.

6146. When you spoke of the pauper population did you refer to the out-door or in-door poor?—The out-door poor only.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6147. I take it then that your experiment this winter you consider has been a complete failure?—Yes, I do; a failure in this way, that the guardians have not got what they thought they would get.

6148. From the humanitarian point of view that you referred to, do you think it has done any good really to the people themselves?—I do, to a large class of those people, certainly.

6149. Do you think these loafers who would

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

not work, have been done good to?—No, I should put them into the other class.

6150. Inasmuch as this stone cost 20 or 30, times as much as it should to break, do you think that that does not show that the number of people who are really benefited is very small?—No, I do not think it does show that.

6151. Can you explain why not?—For this reason: I think when these men come there they do not get the whole of the pay in money, they get it in kind as well, and I have every reason to believe, in fact, I know, that in a great many instances the food goes home to the wives and the children.

6152. But as regards those men ever becoming useful members of society, do you mean to say that your stone-yard experience is likely to encourage that object?—No, I think the stone-yard if it was kept on would be a very great deterrent to their getting honest work.

6153. Do you think it would be very demoralising?—Very.

6154. As regards the very large increase of out-door relief, you are still continuing that policy, are you not?—Yes.

6155. Do you think that the people are better for it in consequence. Do you think that in St. Olave's the district is becoming more prosperous by it?—No.

6156. Do you think there is less poverty in it by it?—No.

6157. Do you think it is tending to cure the disease?—No.

6158. Do you think it is tending to increase it?—I think it is.

6159. That is your opinion, is it?—Yes.

6160. That the result of this policy is increasing the disease of pauperism?—I should think so.

6161. And the consequent suffering to the poor?—I think so. My knowledge of the out-door relief system though, as I have said I am in favour of out-door relief being given, leads me to say that it ought to be very carefully administered, and in putting on a new case great deliberation ought to be exercised, because once a pauper always a pauper.

6162. Do you think, then, that the general result of this policy is to increase the suffering of the poor, rather than to relieve it?—To a great degree I think so.

Mr. *J. Wilson* (Govan).

6163. I think you stated that you are pretty generous in outdoor relief during the time of distress?—Yes.

6164. And you paid 3*s.* 6*d.* a day, or 6*d.* an hour?—Yes.

6165. Was there any outside pressure brought to bear upon you to pay the standard wages for charitable relief?—No, that was done by the members of the board.

6166. Is it your opinion that, so far as your board is concerned, it would be perfectly capable of coping with the distress of your district?—Yes; we are perfectly capable.

6167. Have you any idea of any better process whereby in times of distress the distress would be better dealt with than by any mode at present in existence?—No, we have not gone into that.

Chairman.

6168. Did I understand you to say when you opened the stone-yard you had to obtain the permission of the Local Government Board?—Yes.

6169. Is that the usual form you have to comply with?—Yes.

6170. In ordinary circumstances I should have been disposed to ask you whose evidence we could take amongst those who supported this system on your board, but from what you say, I gather that they have not stood by their guns, but have rather changed their opinions?—That is so.

Chairman—continued.

6171. Then we should not do ourselves any good by seeking any evidence from them, should we?—I do not think so; several of them I know have changed their minds.

6172. In the matter of the cost, the 7*l.*, or whatever it is; it is not to be forgotten, is it, that a stone-yard is never put forward as a means of obtaining the performance of work, but more as a system of relief?—Quite so.

6173. So that it is not fair quite, is it, to condemn it entirely because it is costly?—No.

Mr. E. PITTS FENTON, recalled; and Examined.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

6174. ARE you under the Outdoor Relief Regulation Order?—Yes.

6175. Being under the Outdoor Relief Regulation Order, is it really necessary to get the express permission of the Local Government Board before you open a stone-yard?—You must get the sanction of the Local Government Board to the task of work to be performed, not to the scale of relief.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

Tuesday, 9th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. GEORGE H. COX, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

6176. YOU are, I believe, a citizen of Liverpool, taking an interest, as a private individual, in philanthropic enterprises?—That is so.

6177. Will you say what experience you have had with regard to this question of relief to the destitute unemployed?—The principal experience I gained was as honorary secretary, under the late Lord Mayor, Mr. Bowring, of a Commission of Inquiry which we held in Liverpool, which occupied a long time, something like six months, in which we went, as fully as we possibly could, into the various causes which led to want of employment in our own city; we confined it to our own city as much as possible.

6178. Was it the causes of want of employment that you inquired into, or the mode of dealing with the results of want of employment?—Both.

6179. That was a local inquiry, I understand, somewhat of the nature of our inquiry here?—Yes, so far as I understand the nature of your inquiry here. I have not followed it thoroughly.

6180. What did your Commission do in the way of defining the meaning of the word "unemployed"?—Perhaps I could not do better than quote the decision we came to on that point, in which I fully agree. We divided the unemployed into two classes: Class A., those steady and capable men and women who could and would really do work if they could find it; and Class B., those who from one cause and another are incapable of doing, or refuse to do, steady work up to the average standard in quality and quantity.

6181. Class B. would include the weak, the drunken, the unthrifty, the lazy, and so forth, as well as those who are the victims of some particular disability?—Yes.

6182. Now, taking Class A., what sort of men does that class comprise in Liverpool?—Class A. consists chiefly of a very large number of men who, though able and willing to work, cannot find employment. Owing to the fluctuating nature of the trade of the port, it is impossible to give anything like an accurate statement as to numbers; at one time it may be estimated at many thousands, while at another, when trade is brisk, the margin of unemployed is comparatively small. This applies to the great body of men engaged in the loading and unloading of vessels, and in the warehousing and dispatching of goods. There are also, undoubtedly, a large number of unemployed connected with the skilled trades.

6183. To what causes do you attribute the want of work on the part of this class of the unemployed?—Of course, the general depression of trade obtaining throughout the world is one cause; another is the seasonal and fluctuating character of much of the trade of the port which, together with the high rate of daily wages (say from 4*s.* 6*d.* for quay and warehouse porters, 5*s.* and 6*s.* for shipwork, while for timber and coal they range from 6*s.* and 8*s.* per day; and overtime at the rate of time and a-half), has had the effect of drawing into the city large numbers of men, many of whom are farm and other labourers, in the prime of life, and who, for a few years, are capable of working at very high pressure. These men are necessarily chosen by employers as being the best worth the high standard rate of wages, which consequently has the effect of driving the elderly men into the ranks of the unemployed. Our evidence went to show that men thus become disrated from the age of about 45 and upwards.

6184. Do you mean the work is so severe that it uses them up at the age of 45?—Yes. Then, lastly, strikes and lock-outs, both local and in other parts of the kingdom, largely conduce to the want of employment, by lessening the amount

Chairman—continued.

of work, and attracting strangers into the city who, frequently, permanently displace the residential workers.

6185. You mean that men displaced by a strike in another quarter, come to Liverpool thinking that there is a lot of this casual employment there?—Yes. Moreover, when a strike occurs in Liverpool, a number of outsiders come in and often permanently displace those men who went on strike in Liverpool.

6186. Now, as to the remedies; still confining ourselves to this class, who are, broadly speaking, out of work from no fault of their own, what remedies did your Commission take into consideration?—The most important remedy that suggested itself to us, was undoubtedly a better organisation of the labour on the part of both employers and employed, or, in other words, that, so far as possible, it should be "decasualised."

6187. By that term you mean made more permanent and continuous?—Yes.

6188. That, of course, cannot be done in what are called "seasonal" trades?—We thought we had hit upon a plan whereby it might possibly be done, and perhaps you would allow me to explain what it was.

6189. What is the remedy you would propose?—I think this object might be attained by adopting the suggestion of a labour clearing house, as recommended in the report of our Commission. By a labour clearing house, I mean an association based and worked on the following lines: a certain number of employers to bind themselves to take all the men they require from the association, and to be debited accordingly with the wages, day wages at the standard rate, of the men they employ. Some days, for instance, an employer would not require any men, and at other times one or it may be a hundred. The secretary or manager of the association or clearing house would engage a certain number of men, according to his judgment, the number that would be required on the average for the week by all the employers; to these men he would guarantee a weekly wage of something less than the daily rate, say, for example, 25*s.* per week, whereas the daily rate amounts to 27*s.* per week. The difference between the two would serve to cover the risk of having too many men compared with requirements and working expenses, &c. It might require a larger margin than 2*s.* per week, but much would depend upon the skill of the manager; experience alone can decide it. Any profit that might result could be divided among the men at the end of the year. The scheme could not be carried out unless the Dockers' and Warehouse Porters' Unions willingly co-operated with the employers. That is, roughly speaking, the idea we had.

6190. The real employer, then, would be this association?—Yes.

6191. He would keep men on hire, as it were, ready for those traders who required them?—Yes, guaranteeing them a weekly wage.

6192. A weekly wage which would be a little under the probable earnings of a fully employed man?—Yes; but it would be also a little under

Chairman—continued.

what the employers would actually pay; they would pay the standard daily rate.

6193. Do you think many men would accept a weekly wage even considerably below that nominally obtainable at the fair standard rate?—Yes, I do.

6194. In consideration of the more permanent nature of their emolument?—Yes, and I believe many employers would welcome this solution, as would also the men; but there is no disguising the fact that some of the employers prefer the existing system, which ensures them a surplus of labour and the pick of the best men, while a large number of the men, especially the young and active, prefer it, because it enables them to earn (particularly when overtime is added) large amounts of money, which they enjoy the spending of during slack periods of work or when they elect to "play." The elderly and weaker men suffer greatly in consequence, and many steady and fairly capable porters do not earn on an average more than 13*s.* per week, which, when the high cost of rent is taken into account, leaves a miserable pittance for living, while they are unable to save anything to provide for the many weeks when they earn little or nothing, and when they suffer severely.

6195. Would you make any difference between the old and the young?—I would. I should like to come to that point a little later on, if I may. I should just like to add that, I regret no effort has yet been made to carry out this suggestion of a labour clearing house, which we think would enable the bulk of the men to enjoy the certainty of a weekly wage, and would discourage the flow of outsiders, for whom there would then be little casual labour available.

6196. This proposal affects that particular sort of labour; with regard to the skilled trades, how would they be affected?—With regard to the skilled trades, most of which are well organized, the actual distress arising from want of employment is minimised by the out-of-work allowances provided by the trade unions. These unions are for the most part satisfactorily managed, and their members constitute what have been called the *élite* of the workmen; they are very valuable protectors of their interests, both as regards wages and conditions of labour, and are useful educators in thrift. I think that while they are entitled to demand a fair share of the profits of industry for their members, it would be desirable for them to adopt more elastic ways of dealing with capitalists than they do at present. Under existing conditions their action undoubtedly tends to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

6197. Will you explain how that is?—They do not recognise very often until it is too late the altering or altered conditions of a trade or industry, such conditions being frequently beyond the control of either capitalist or workman; and hence for want of a timely adjustment (which might be only temporary as affecting the rate of wages) a trade is wholly or entirely lost. Even if only partially lost the workman suffers by only being employed for broken periods, which though at the standard rate of wages, yields him a small sum for the year; and further, the trade of the country is restricted or diverted altogether

Chairman—continued.

altogether into other channels. Then if I may add this opinion, which I may say was not the expressed opinion of our commission, but for which I must be responsible myself, I think it would be well that the trades unions should, on behalf of their members, be empowered to enter into specific contracts with capitalists whereby they could sell their labour at so much per week, and for a given number of weeks or months, or allow their individual members to so contract. It would be a simple matter of calculation for the employer to say what he could afford to give in wages, and for a fixed period, in order to execute a certain work for which he had the offer of a contract; and it would be for the men to say whether they would accept such terms or not. An agreement so arrived at might be subject to compulsory arbitration, so that any dispute arising out of it would be settled in that way, and the award made a rule of the High Court, as customary with commercial contracts for produce. Such a system would benefit the men by giving them more regular work, and in the end better wages; and it would tend to retain much trade in the country which is now lost, and it would thus help to solve the unemployed problem.

6198. Your idea is very much on the lines of your Clearing House scheme, as applied to the other class of labour, is it not?—Not exactly; it would be a little different in its way of working; but my object is to point out to the workers that it would be very much better for them in the end if they would enter into contracts at a given rate of wages for so many weeks if they could, and make that subject to arbitration; I think it would tend to assist in the settlement of disputes afterwards if it was made subject to arbitration.

6199. Are you in favour of boards of conciliation and arbitration?—Yes, very strongly.

6200. Turning to Class B., what have you to say of the causes of want of employment among that class?—We considered that the chief causes of want of employment among that class were ill-health, intemperance, restlessness (often the result of irregular work), hereditary incapacity, imprudence, overwhelming misfortune, orphanage, &c. Amongst this class is included the large army of tramps. We considered that one of the most powerful contributory factors in this problem is the practice of injudicious and indiscriminate charity.

6201. How would you recommend that this class should be dealt with?—We first of all considered the children, and we thought that they, probably, afforded the most hopeful element with which to deal. We thought that the boys, for instance, might be trained as seamen, and might find occupation in manning our merchant service and the Royal Navy. The merchant service, as you are aware, is largely manned by foreigners at present. We also suggested that girls might be educated and trained for domestic service, there being at present a great need for a supply of capable servants, for whom high wages are willingly paid.

6202. When you say they could be educated and trained, do you mean that they should be maintained at the public expense for that purpose?—Either that, or by voluntary charity; I should prefer voluntary charity.

Chairman—continued.

6203. Do you mean that you would take them from their friends?—Very often it would be necessary to take them from their friends.

6204. To be trained for some useful purpose?—Yes, taken out of the existing deplorable conditions which obtain, to a large extent, in a big seaport like Liverpool.

6205. Are you speaking of cases not capable of being dealt with under the Industrial Schools Act?—There is a vast amount of child life which does not seem to come under that Act, or which, at all events, is running to waste; that is the class we want to get at.

6206. How would you deal with the adults?—We consider that for respectable men and women, who, through natural weakness, either of character or body, advancing in years, or other inevitable cause, are unable to do work of average quality, but who could do a limited amount if watched and guided, a labourers' colony or labour farm would seem to be the natural remedy, but such a colony could not be expected to be self-supporting. In Germany the annual deficit in such a colony appears to be about 5*l.* per head. Such a deficiency would have to be made good by the guardians, but I think the results, physical, moral, and financial, would probably be much better than those obtained by the present Poor Law system.

6207. Would you take the men away from their families, or would you transfer the whole family to the labour colony, or how would you deal with them?—If possible, I would transfer the whole family.

6208. Do you think the trades unions could help by a modification of their rules?—They do very wisely provide sick pay and old-age pensions in many cases, but it is a question whether it would not be better for all concerned if they permitted their elderly or more weakly members to earn what they could, which would necessarily be at a lower rate than the rate for those in full vigour. This, at all events, should undoubtedly be the case when a union does not provide out-of-work or superannuation allowances. A modification of the present rules of trades unions in this direction would enable the working men themselves to largely mitigate the suffering entailed by want of employment; I might illustrate that by our dock labourers, who, as I have said, get disrated from 45 years of age upwards, those men are quite worth 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* a day, and some of them perhaps 4*s.* a day, but they cannot work at less than the standard rate, therefore they are put on one side till there is a great pressure of work; all the younger and more active men are employed at a high rate, and it causes a great deal of suffering to fairly competent men, who practically cannot get a living.

6209. You mean among those men who, though they cannot do what is a full day's work for an able-bodied man, could do an amount of work corresponding to a lower wage?—Yes.

6210. What effect do you expect labour colonies would have?—We anticipated that probably by training the young and unskilled men, it would enable them, if opportunity provided,

Chairman—continued.

vided, to go back to the land, either in this country, or the colonies, and so tend to absorb the surplus labour that now exists.

6211. Those are the better members of your Class B.?—Yes.

6212. What would you do with the less hopeful members of that class, the idle, the dissolute and criminal?—We certainly recommend the sharp remedies of the Poor Law system, and the Statutes against vagabondage, the latter of which do not appear to be regularly enforced.

6213. You would leave them to the tender mercy of the law, whether the Poor Law or Criminal Law?—Yes; one cannot be too strict with them. I may say that I am quite sure from my experience that the working men themselves have absolutely no sympathy with that class of men; they would like to see them severely treated.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

6214. You mean that would be the opinion of the well-to-do working class?—Yes.

Chairman.

6215. What rôle would you assign to the Government in these proposals of yours?—I think the Government might encourage and direct the means whereby capital and labour may be better organised, whereby the disputes that arise between them might be settled, and many of the remedies I have alluded to established; but I am entirely opposed under ordinary circumstances to its granting pecuniary aid to any towns or localities, deeming, as I do, that the local authorities should have the raising and spending of money when it is required. There may, however, arise cases when the Government would be justified in aiding the local funds; for instance, when a large number of people are deprived of work through failure of crops, hostile tariffs, or wars. Such an instance happened during the cotton famine, caused by the civil war in the United States.

6216. I think, during the cotton famine there was facility given for loans, but there was no money grant?—I am quite aware of that; I merely mention it as an instance of a grave case where it possibly might be desirable for the Government in some form, by loans or otherwise, to come to the assistance of the locality.

6217. Can you suggest any plan for ascertaining the actual state of the deserving poor?—The plan that commended itself to me was that adopted, I think, in Germany, where the authorities divide the town into a large number of sections, and appoint committees to have charge of each section; and the members of those committees are obliged to serve although they get no remuneration, and they are made responsible for a knowledge of every person and family in that district as regards their circumstances, character, &c. Something of the kind has been attempted in Liverpool, but on a purely voluntary basis, by the Charity Organisation Society.

Mr. *Mather.*

6218. Are you alluding to the Elberfeld system in Germany?—No; the plan I refer to has been adopted in Berlin, I believe. Something of the same kind, as I say, was attempted in Liverpool through voluntary committees, and it resulted in good work being done for a time, but the committees gradually lapsed, from the difficulty experienced in interesting a sufficient number of volunteers to undertake the duties. I may mention that that plan was advocated and set going by Mr. William Rathbone. It is still in partial force in one or two districts, but it was found almost impossible to get sufficient volunteers.

Chairman.

6219. During the present winter, have the public authorities or the community at Liverpool been able to deal with the existing distress?—They dealt with it in what was not a very wise way in some respects, I am afraid. The Central Relief Society have just issued a memorandum giving full particulars of what was done, which I can let the Committee have if they wish; it is too long for me to read. One of the best things that was done was enlisting the services of the police, who found out as well as they could those who were worthy of relief, and assisted in the distribution of it. That work was very ably directed by our chief constable, Captain Nott Bower.

6220. Was there no objection to the interference of the police in the matter?—None whatever; they were treated in a most friendly way.

6221. In view of the disinclination shown by the better class of poor to applying to the guardians for relief, what do you suggest?—We suggest that a strong permanent committee should be formed, representing all classes of the community, whose duty it should be, first, in periods of exceptional distress to organise the distribution of pecuniary or other assistance, and generally to carry out what may be deemed best for the relief of such distress, with the aid of and in conjunction with existing charities, the Charity Organisation Society and the guardians; secondly, to prevent the present overlapping of and indiscriminate distribution of so-called charity; thirdly, to act as treasurer for an almoner of any funds that might be realised from time to time to meet exceptional demands for relief; and, lastly, to regulate and assist the emigration of surplus labour when practicable. I am sorry to say they have not appointed that committee either.

6222. When you say "they have not," whom do you mean by "they"?—This inquiry was gone into on a request signed by a number of the leading citizens, that the Town Council should take it up; it was taken up accordingly, a report was sent in, and the Town Council have done nothing further in the matter.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

6223. Have they debated it?—Yes.

6224. Have they decided in the negative?—They felt they could do nothing; they really had no power as a council to do anything.

6225. They did not decide it as a question of policy?—No, it was an entirely abortive debate.

6226. I think

Mr. *Mather.*

6226. I think in describing what you called Class B., in Liverpool, among the unskilled workmen, you said that the wages were very high, and consequently men over 45 years of age were not usually employed, that employers sought for younger and stronger men?—That is so, but it does not apply to Class B.; it applies to Class A., who are the steady and capable men.

6227. Class A. comprises not only the unemployed skilled workmen of the town, but also the unemployed, steady and willing and hard-working unskilled workmen?—Yes.

6228. Your statement in regard to wages, had reference, I think, not to skilled workmen, but to unskilled workmen?—Yes.

6229. I suppose you refer to the dock workmen and warehousemen?—Yes.

6230. Did you say their wages were from 25*s.* to 27*s.* a week?—The lowest wage is at the rate of 27*s.* a week, that is to say, at 4*s.* 6*d.* a day.

6231. Are those wages always paid by the day, or are they paid in any case by the piece?—If a man is taken on one day, and only works a day, he is sometimes paid then, and sometimes at the end of the week.

6232. Is this class of work let out at all by piece-work?—No.

6233. Is it always day labour, is it?—Always.

6234. You spoke of high wages; do you mean they are high in comparison with the quality of the work that is done?—No, I would not say that, but they are high as compared with the wages obtaining in other parts of the country.

6235. Are those wages kept at this high standard by some union among the unskilled workmen?—Yes.

6236. The effect of that, you say, is to give in good times ample employment to strong and healthy workmen under 45 years of age, but to eliminate men above 45 as a rule?—That is so.

6237. Is that owing to the fact that the quality of the work is very hard, that it is work only possible to be done with ease and comfort by physically strong men?—No, not necessarily so at all.

6238. I thought you said that the high wages were caused by the fact that the labour is so hard as to use up a man by the time he is 45 years of age?—No, I put it the other way, that the fact that high wages are paid necessitates the work being done at a high pressure so as to get it done quickly.

6239. Then it is not the result of piece-work, but the result of supervision?—Yes.

6240. It results from the fear of losing employment if they do not work as hard as possible?—Yes, that is it.

Chairman.

6241. They have to be worked unusually hard in order that they may earn enough to recoup the employers for the wages they pay?—That is so.

Mr. *Mather.*

6242. Are you of opinion that if wages were lower, say, by 5*s.* a week on the average, the result would be that a larger number of men would be employed even men over 45 years of age, but that each man would not do so much work, the pressure would be less?—I have no desire to lower wages *per se* at all, but at a weekly rate the employer would necessarily have to pay a little less because he would have to take the risk of having the men on his hands for a time without anything to do.

6243. You do not yourself disapprove of those wages being up to what is called a good living wage?—No, I think it is to the benefit of the community all round that men should have as much as they can legitimately earn.

6244. Is there, to your knowledge, any strong disapproval on the part of employers at Liverpool, to the rate of wages fixed by the unions of these unskilled men?—Of course, the advances were disputed at the time.

6245. The employers get their equivalent, you think, by the fact that the men work very hard?—I believe they do.

6246. And, therefore, yield the full compensation for the wages paid?—I believe they do. I think it is really against the interests of the men themselves that they should have to work at such high pressure.

6247. In speaking of the scheme of a labour clearing house which you suggested, are we to understand that the manager of such a clearing house would give one week's employment as the minimum?—Yes.

6248. Therefore he would have to make a very fine calculation as to the number of men he could employ one week; otherwise, having to pay them whether they worked or not, the society would be a great loser in the end?—Yes; experience only could tell what margin would be required between the standard rate of wages with which the employer was debited, and the amount guaranteed to the workers.

Chairman.

6249. I think there has been a system adopted in London of letting men know the night before how many of them would be wanted on the following day at a particular wharf?—Yes.

6250. Do you know if that has been done in Liverpool?—That plan has not been adopted in Liverpool.

Mr. *Mather.*

6251. I gather you would anticipate that if a labour clearing house be established, it would result in keeping the age standard somewhat low, and also it would eliminate from the persons on the books of the society those of bad character?—Yes.

6252. The total number of this class, in Liverpool would be reduced, I presume, if such regular work were given, week by week, to all the members of this society?—That is what we hope would be the end of it.

6253. You hope by that to keep back the stream of casual labour from the country, which is now flooding Liverpool?—Yes.

6254. When you speak of farm labour coming in, tempted by the high rate of wages, do you mean that the men, before they obtain these high wages become members of these unskilled trades unions?—I cannot say whether they become members right away. Of course there are a large

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

number of those men who are not members of unions; there are a great many outside the union altogether.

6255. Do they receive the same wages as the union men?—Yes, exactly.

6256. There is no dispute in Liverpool between the union men and the non-union men?—No; there is sometimes friction, but they work fairly well together.

6257. Consequently, the non-union men get the benefit of the rules of the union?—They do, and the disadvantages.

6258. They get also the disadvantages, whatever they may be?—Yes.

6259. You refer to the skilled traders; could you tell us what are the skilled trades of Liverpool, generally speaking?—The principal would be shipbuilders, boiler makers, ship repairers, ship carpenters, and ship painters, and then, of course, there are the building trades, house painters, and so forth.

6260. Speaking generally, the staple mechanical trades are largely represented in Liverpool?—Yes.

6261. I understood you to say, that you thought the rules of trades unions governing those mechanical trades were so rigid that they had the effect of causing trade to be displaced from Liverpool in bad times, which never revived?—It is displaced even in normal times. I think it is admitted, for instance, that we have lost a great deal of our shipbuilding to Belfast, Barrow, and other places, because, among other things (I do not say it is the whole reason), wages are cheaper there.

6262. Have you absolute facts in your possession, to prove that the high wages required by the trades unions in these mechanical trades have displaced industries in Liverpool?—To a certain extent, yes.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6263. What shipbuilding industry, in particular, do you refer to; who is it that has lost their work; would that apply to Laird's?—Laird's is distinctly on the down grade, but he is over in Birkenhead; but I may say, that shipbuilding has almost become extinct in Liverpool, whereas it used to be a very large industry.

Mr. *Mather.*

6264. Apart from shipbuilding, have you any other trades in your mind?—We have very little manufacturing in Liverpool beyond sugar refining; that is the only large trade of that sort.

6265. The mechanical trades are so largely employed in shipbuilding, that you would probably say, the engineering firms of Liverpool have, to some extent, diminished in size?—They have, undoubtedly.

6266. In consequence of shipping being built elsewhere?—Yes, very much so; that applies to boiler making and boiler repairing, and all that kind of thing. I do not want the Committee to get the impression that those trades have gone entirely, because wages are high; there is no doubt that is part of the reason, but it is not the whole; there are other things which we need not go into.

6267. Of course you are aware that the men

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

who would work in Liverpool at mechanical trades are the same class of men who would work in Manchester, for instance, at similar trades; they would all belong to the same union?—Yes, and the curious thing is they belong to the same union even when they are working in Belfast.

6268. Can you account for the fact that in Manchester the experience is not at all of the character that it is in Liverpool; that the regulation of wages by the trades unions in mechanical trades in Manchester has not in any way affected the prosperity of those trades; are you aware that what you have described as happening at Liverpool has not happened at all events in the nearest great city, which is Manchester, where the same trades are the staple industries?—No, I am not aware of that.

6269. I understand it is your opinion, knowing the facts in relation to Liverpool alone, that the rigid rules of the trades unions in relation to wages in these mechanical trades have caused the displacement of those trades from Liverpool?—To a certain extent.

6270. Only to a certain extent?—Only to a certain extent.

6271. You do not wish the Committee to assume that that is the sole cause?—No.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6272. Beyond opinion what proof have you?—The men admitted it themselves in evidence. My point is this, that the consequence is that the men have so much broken time that they do not get the benefit of these high wages. I should like to see them getting 35*s.* a week, whereas they do not often get 20*s.* a week the year round.

Mr. *Jackson.*

6273. You mean because they do not get full employment?—Yes.

Mr. *Mather.*

6274. I presume you have examined this question of high wages rather closely, because you spoke of it as one of the causes of distress in Liverpool; do you mean to say if the trades unions in the mechanical trades, in the shipbuilding trade, in Liverpool had reduced their wages 4*s.* a week in certain times of depressed trade that would have made any difference?—I think it would have tended to meet the difficulties to a certain extent.

6275. You think it would have given more regular employment?—I do.

6276. Has there been very much overtime worked in Liverpool in the days of its prosperity amongst these trades?—I can speak more for the shipping than for the skilled trades; at times it is always necessary to have overtime there.

6277. You spoke of Class B. comprising those in want of employment through ill-health, and intemperance; it would include, I presume, vagrants, loafers, and tramps, and so forth, or what may be called the pauper class in Liverpool?—Yes.

6278. The class which is dealt with now by the boards of guardians there?—Yes, when they apply to the guardians.

6279. You

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

6279. You have no suggestions to make as to the action of boards of guardians in regard to this class?—No; we came to the conclusion as a Commission that the poor law was pretty well administered in Liverpool.

6280. As to the children of these people, does not the Liverpool School Board have a complete inspection of all the children of the city, and separate children from parents who neglect them?—I cannot say from my own knowledge what they do.

6281. You have an efficient school board, have you not?—Yes.

6282. The children of the whole city are under the control of that board, are they not, so far as education is concerned?—Yes, nominally.

6283. And there are large industrial schools, are there not, in Liverpool?—Yes.

6284. You spoke of a committee being formed through the town council; I presume you alluded to a sort of public welfare committee?—Yes.

6285. You suggested that the town council should take the responsibility of forming that committee?—Yes.

6286. It would be a voluntary society?—Yes.

6287. So far, I understand, Liverpool has not responded?—I am sorry to say it has not. We may be said to have this little excuse, that Mr. Bowring, who was lord mayor at the time, was away for some time afterwards, and it has been, perhaps, partly through his absence that nothing has been done. I think some steps will ultimately be taken, now that he has returned.

6288. When you speak of labour colonies being formed for a certain class, would that class be within the definition of Class B. that you gave us?—Yes, but who are not in any sense vicious.

6289. You mean what we may call the well-conducted pauper class?—I would not say they were paupers exactly; it would be a class rather better than those.

6290. Would you say the well-conducted working classes?—I mean men and women who are able to do a little work if they are put to it, but who perhaps have not the strength of mind or will to do it without being guided; that is the class of people I refer to. Of course, they are on the verge of being paupers, but they are not exactly paupers.

6291. Speaking generally of Liverpool, taking the unemployed working class, skilled men, and men of no trained skill, but of considerable aptitude in general work, is there a large number of persons in that class continually in Liverpool at all times?—Yes, except in periods of exceptional spurts in shipping there is always a very large surplus of that class.

6292. Do you think that many of that class apply to the guardians for relief?—No, they would rather starve than go near the guardians.

6293. Are they eager to accept relief from your Charity Organisation Society?—I am afraid the Charity Organisation Society in Liverpool, like the Charity Organisation Society here, is not particularly popular, because it makes very strict inquiries; but this class of people, of course, do accept charity through its aid.

6294. But does Liverpool contain a considerable number of people always who do not receive relief from the guardians, who are willing to work if they could get work, and who receive no relief from any other source, because they prefer not to apply for it?—Undoubtedly.

6295. May the Committee assume that in your opinion, formed from your experience in Liverpool, if the whole of the unemployed, to whatever class they belong, were left to the mercies of the poor law guardians, or to the chance of relief from charity organisation societies, those two elements of relief do not in any way touch the class I have referred to?—Exactly; we think they require a kind of buffer, in which they would have confidence, between themselves and the last resource, which is the poor law.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

6296. Is it the fact, as pointed out by Mr. Mather, that the trades union rate for wages for Manchester and for Liverpool in the engineering trade is the same?—I cannot say off the book.

6297. Of course engineering has flourished in Manchester, while it has almost entirely died out in Liverpool?—Yes, but the objects of engineering are different in Manchester and Liverpool; our engineering has been in connection with shipping; Manchester may find a little alteration now that she has got her own port, but hitherto it has been different.

6298. I was going to ask about that; practically there is no competition between Manchester and Liverpool, is there, because the one manufactures locomotive engines and boilers, and the other manufactures engines simply for steamships?—Precisely.

6299. Therefore really the wages paid in Liverpool cannot be compared with those in Manchester, but they ought to be compared rather with those of Belfast and Barrow?—Yes.

6300. They are higher, are they not, than those in Belfast and Barrow?—Yes.

6301. Would it not have been wise for the trades unions to have recognised that fact?—I should have thought so; it is a most extraordinary thing to my mind that they allow the very same men who are receiving this high rate of wages in Liverpool to go to Barrow and Belfast and take a little less.

6302. With regard to your suggestion of a labour clearing house, I suppose all the employers would not join it, would they?—Probably not, but I think a very large number of them would.

6303. Do not you think that the employers who did not join your labour clearing house, would be able to obtain their labour at a cheaper rate from the non-union men about Liverpool?—I do not think so.

6304. What would be the difference between the amount which the employers would pay, and that which the workmen would receive under your system of a labour clearing house?—That is a matter we could only decide by actual practice; but I put it hypothetically that perhaps a couple of shillings a week might meet the difference.

6305. Would it not require a good deal more than

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

than a couple of shillings a week?—I do not think so; not if the manager of the association was in touch with his clients, so to speak; the employers. They could tell him pretty well what men they wanted from day to-day.

6306. You do not think a reduction all round of that amount would stimulate trade, and so provide employment for the whole of the labouring population in Liverpool?—I do not think so.

6307. If you reduce wages at all, would it not be desirable to reduce them all round and endeavour thereby to stimulate trade and find employment for all the labouring class?—That is one view; but the object I had in view was to give the men a steady working wage if possible, which must necessarily be a little less than this high daily rate of wage.

6308. But I think you made the suggestion that the steady rate of wages should be graduated according to age?—That is another point again.

6309. Practically, you cannot propose a steady rate of wages?—You might have a certain rate for men who are in full vigour or up to a certain age, and you might have another rate for men who were a little older.

6310. In fact, you suggest a graduated standard rate of wages according to age?—It is a very difficult thing to do. Some of the working men on our committee admitted the evil as it exists at present, but they were afraid that to adopt any disrating of this kind might lead to other evils; it might lead to favouritism, and all that kind of thing.

6311. Even under your labour clearing-house system, would not the employers pick and choose their workpeople and select those who would do the best day's work?—The clearing-house or association would undoubtedly have to keep competent men if they wanted to keep their custom.

6312. They could not keep up a dead level of men, could they?—They could keep up a fair average of men.

6313. As a matter of fact, the better workmen under your clearing-house arrangement would have more constant employment, and the worse workmen would have less constant employment, while they would always receive the same amount of money, one having more work and the other having more leisure?—Of course there is no doubt if a man was a poor workman he would not be used so often in the association as a better class workman would be, but every man taken on would be taken on at all events for a week.

6314. If an employer got hold of a poor man for a week he would not have that man again, I presume?—Probably not.

6315. Therefore, the man who was engaged in the subsequent week would practically displace that man, though at the same time they would both obtain the same payment?—Of course there you come to the old difficulty of a uniform rate of wages for a variety of men.

6316. You spoke of a suggestion to form a strong permanent committee to organise the distribution of relief; by whom was that suggested?—It was suggested by the whole body of our Commission.

6317. Practically you would re-duplicate your means of relief throughout all the districts, would you?—No, it would be merely to supervise the work with other bodies.

6318. With the guardians?—With the guardians, the Charity Organisation Society, and other charities.

6319. Would you give them any funds?—Yes, I would let them be the treasurers if necessary.

6320. Would not that duplicate the means of relief?—No, because you would use the old channels.

6321. A poor man would have the option of going to your charitable agencies or to the poor-law guardians for relief?—Yes.

6322. He might go to both?—Yes, but he would be known.

6323. Do not you think it would be better so to alter the law that your relieving agencies in one district should be one and the same?—No, I do not think so.

6324. In all cases of difficulty you would have two relieving agencies?—Yes.

6325. Do you think a voluntary agency would be able to cope with the difficulty and avoid being put upon in the same manner as the guardians who are regularly at the work would be?—I think, looking at the characteristics of human nature, it is necessary to have the two.

6326. I understand you object to the State making any grant, either to a charitable agency or to the guardians, for relief?—Most decidedly.

6327. Will you explain why you object to that?—Because I think it might lead to a great deal of abuse.

6328. As a matter of fact is not the State doing so in Ireland at the present time; is it not distributing large sums of money for the relief of distress?—I have not any personal knowledge of what is doing in Ireland at the moment, but as I said I think there are exceptional cases where it may be necessary for the State to come to the assistance of the locality, but I should think those cases are very exceptional.

6329. Do you think the recent distress which we have suffered from this winter was sufficient to warrant such a grant?—No.

6330. Not in Liverpool?—No.

6331. Have you any knowledge of the distress that has existed in other places?—Only from what I have read in the papers.

6332. You do not think that any of us who live in the districts where the distress is so abnormal have, at any rate up to the present time, had any claim upon the Government for assistance?—I do not think so, not to my knowledge.

6333. At all events you do not know anything about other districts where the distress may have been more severe?—No, I do not know to what districts you refer. Are you referring to South Wales?

6334. Take, for instance, South Wales, Lancashire, or parts of London?—If you are speaking of the case of the tin-plate workers of South Wales, where there is an industry which has been crippled and partially destroyed by tariffs, it perhaps might be necessary to deal with it in a different way from the way in which we can deal with our troubles in Liverpool at present.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6335. Do I understand you to say that one cause of this want of employment was because the ships were manned by foreigners?—I did not say so.

Chairman.

6336. You said that the boys might be trained up for employment on board ship to take the place of foreigners?—Yes.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6337. That means that a good many ships are manned by foreigners?—Yes, a very large proportion are foreigners; that is a well known fact.

6338. Do you include Lascars among foreigners?—Yes.

6339. Are they foreigners?—I should say so; they are not Englishmen, anyhow.

6340. Are they not subjects of the Queen in India?—I suppose they are, but I should call them foreigners.

6341. As regards this permanent committee you referred to, there is nothing to prevent its being created, is there?—Nothing whatever.

6342. Do you think it will be created?—I hope so.

6343. I should like to ask you about the effect of trades unions; do I understand you to say that the action of trades unions has been to keep up the rate of wages for a shorter time of work per week rather than have a lower rate of wages for work for the whole week?—That is the tendency clearly; it is so much a day.

6344. Is not that a tendency which inclines in the direction of reducing the amount of labour at disposal in Liverpool?—You mean the amount that can be used?

6345. Yes?—I think so.

6346. Is it not one of the sources of difficulty of employers that they cannot then use their machinery and other appliances to the same advantage as if they were working the whole week?—That is my idea.

6347. You look upon the action of trades unions in this respect as, partly at any rate, a cause of the reduction of the amount of labour?—I do.

6348. Does Antwerp compete with Liverpool?—As a port, very largely.

6349. Does it compete for labour?—Not for labour, but as a port it does.

6350. That means labour, I suppose, in the end, because if ships come to Liverpool they would involve a large amount of labour?—Yes.

6351. Are wages higher or lower in Antwerp?—So far as my knowledge goes, the wages are much lower throughout the Continent than they are here.

6352. That is one cause of the want of employment in Liverpool?—Exactly.

6353. Does the action of the trades unions with regard to wages tend to aggravate that condition of want of employment, or to reduce it?—Necessarily if you persist in a high standard and competitors abroad can do it cheaper, you naturally lose the trade, and the workman loses his chances.

6354. You think that foreign competition abroad at Antwerp and other places and the action of the trades unions, are both tending to reduce the amount of available work in Liverpool?—I think so.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

6355. A good deal of stress has been laid in your evidence on the action of trades unions in increasing the number of unemployed in Liverpool; I suppose that is a matter you have gone into pretty closely?—My theory is this: that if you place too high a price upon any article, and somebody is willing to sell it for less, you must necessarily lose your trade.

6356. But have you tried to ascertain information as to the action of trades unions in increasing the volume of the unemployed in Liverpool?—I only know this, that in the returns they send me in, there is a very large number of men who are unemployed. I have tabulated a great number of the skilled trades; for instance, to the Boiler Makers' Association, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Typographical Society, and so on.

6357. The dispute here is not as to the volume of the unemployed or the amount of it; it is the cause of it we are trying now to get at, if you will follow me. You have been questioned as to the action of trades unions in increasing the volume of unemployed, and, as I understand, you have stated that in your opinion by keeping up a high rate of wages, they have displaced men or prevented the employment of men; have you any facts to show to us to what extent that increase in the volume of the unemployed has been brought about by trades unions?—I only know this, that a certain percentage of men in all those trades are out of employment.

6358. So there are in other parts of the country?—I know; it affects the whole country, of course.

6359. Is there a larger proportion of unemployed in Liverpool among the boiler makers and engineers as compared with any other part of the country?—I cannot say off the book.

6360. Has not that a very interesting bearing on this question; suppose there is not a larger proportion out of work in Liverpool as compared with Belfast and Barrow, how would the action of the trades unions at Liverpool increase the volume of the unemployed?—It would not if the proportion were the same.

6361. You can give us no facts?—I cannot state them off the book.

6362. Is it only an opinion or a theory?—It is an opinion from evidence.

6363. Can you say how much the wages are higher in Liverpool than in Belfast and Barrow?—I cannot tell you off the book.

6364. You have no figures to produce?—I am not prepared at the moment to give any figures.

6365. You cannot give us any figure to support the opinion you have put before the Committee?—No; but I think I am correct in saying that in the evidence it was admitted by the men themselves that the wages were higher in Liverpool than in Belfast.

6366. Might it not be a matter of relation; that is to say, might it not be that it would take a higher wage to keep a man in the same position in Liverpool than it would take in Belfast?—It may be.

6367. Therefore, what would be higher wages, speaking of the amount of shillings and pounds, would really not be higher wages, as a matter of fact, but only apparently so?—The men themselves, perhaps, would not be better off, but it

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

must tend to the trade going to where the work is cheaper.

6368. You have no figures to show how much the wages are?—I have not prepared any.

6369. Now, as to the use of machinery as to which Mr. Bartley asked you, have you any figures to show how much shorter a time the machines have been working at Liverpool than at Belfast and Barrow?—No.

6370. I think you stated that the higher wage kept up by the workmen limited the possibility of the employers working the machines?—I did not say so.

6371. I thought you said so in answer to a question put by Mr. Bartley?—As an academic question I should say it would be so.

6372. I understand you have no figures to prove that it has been so?—No.

6373. With regard to this suggested clearing house for labour, I wish you would show me, for my own information, how this clearing house will employ more men in Liverpool than are now being employed?—I do not say it would employ more men; I say it would give regular and satisfactory employment and better wages for those who are employed, and prevent the inflow of this surplus labour which is causing so much damage to all concerned in Liverpool.

6374. Those persons then would have so much less employment?—They must be drafted off in some other direction.

6375. In your definition of the unemployed you would not include men who are working three or four days a week, I presume?—No, those are only partially unemployed.

6376. Would if be fair to say that if your clearing house were adopted now the volume of purely unemployed would be greater?—For the time being they would have to be provided for and tided over for a time.

6377. Would not the effect be that the strong men would be taken and the weak left unemployed?—That obtains at the present moment.

6378. You put it, I think, that a man's strength wore out because he is so driven by the overseer?—I do not say he is exactly driven.

6379. You said he was worked hard?—No doubt the work is done at high pressure.

6380. And therefore the conclusion would be that if he had 25*s.* a week instead of 20*s.* a week the overlooker would ease off the pressure?—I do not see that it follows.

6381. You say he presses the man at 27*s.* a week?—Yes. According to our labour clearing-house system we should still give the standard rate; I mean to say, the employers would still have to pay 27*s.* a week.

6382. Would he still press the man at 25*s.* a week?—I think things would not work in the same way.

6383. His strength would be exhausted the same as before?—Possibly.

6384. Then it would not be any better for the man?—Yes, he would have regular work, probably, the year round.

6385. But he would be exhausted at the same time, and, therefore, be an old man as soon?—Not necessarily.

6386. I gathered it was so from your answers. At present you say the excessive hard work forces on these men very much, and the

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

man becomes prematurely old; if you had a clearing house, do I understand you to say that this driving would be eased off, and the man would retain his strength longer?—I do not say that.

6387. I suppose it would take some time for your clearing house to affect the question of the unemployed?—It would necessarily entirely depend upon the scale on which it was taken up.

6388. Supposing you had a clearing house that included all workmen and all employers, it would take some time before the drift of immigration to Liverpool was checked, would it not?—No doubt.

6389. Consequently, it would be some time before it affected the unemployed question?—Yes, but it would tell pretty quickly, I expect.

6390. As to arranging the weekly wage between the employer and the employed, could you explain that more fully, because it is a very interesting question?—My object would be entirely that the men should get better wages in the end than they do at present; and, at the same time, if the employer was able to work cheaper he would be better able to compete, particularly with the foreign competitor.

6391. I thought they were two distinct ideas: one was a clearing house for the casual and fluctuating labour at the docks, and the other was an arrangement between employers and employed in skilled trades to fix for a certain time ahead the weekly wage?—Yes. I will give you an instance; I do not know that I should mention names, but I may say that one of the very largest of the great employers of labour a few years ago had an offer of certain very large contracts which would have given employment for one or two years. He called his men together and said to them, "Now, I can take these contracts if you will take a certain per-centage less in wages, otherwise I shall lose them." They considered the matter and the men refused to take less wages, and the contracts were lost and the men were walking about the streets instead of working.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

6392. Do you think that the opening of Manchester as a port last year had any effect upon the interests of Liverpool?—Not the slightest.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

6393. This Clearing House Association would be a conciliation board between the employers and the employed to fix the weekly wage ahead?—No; I would have them bargain amongst themselves.

6394. Each man individually?—It would be a matter for consideration by the trades unions whether it was wise to allow each man to do the bargaining; they probably would not allow that. It would be better, I should say, for the trades unions' responsible officers to do the bargaining themselves.

6395. That is to say, the committee of the trades unions in Liverpool would meet the committee of the employers?—Yes, or the individual employers.

6396. They would fix the wage for a certain time ahead?—Yes; I think that would be a desirable thing.

6397. Would they take into consideration the physical

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

physical ability of each man in fixing his wage? I really am not myself an employer of labour in the sense of being able to speak to such a matter as that.

6398. But you have suggested this scheme as a remedy; would they take into consideration the physical ability of each man for so many weeks ahead, and say that he should have this wage for six months ahead?—I should like men who are capable to be paid for their capacity, so far as I personally am concerned; but whether such a thing could be arranged is another matter, because the unions naturally have to look to the great body of their men and to protect them, and I think they ought to protect them.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6399. I understood you to say that you would deal with some of the members of Class B., by putting them on labour colonies or labour farms?—Yes.

6400. Class B. are mainly the unhealthy, incapable, improvident, and unlucky, are they not?—Yes.

6401. What would they do when they got on to the farm?—They would have to be trained, and disciplined, and taught, and led, to produce a certain amount, at all events enough to support themselves.

Mr. *Mather.*

6402. That was not the answer you gave me to the same question; when I asked you the question, I understood you to say that you would take the well-to-do, and well-conducted, and capable, out of Class B.?—I thought I gave the same answer. I thought I was asked whether they were paupers, and I said I meant a class better than paupers.

Chairman.

6403. But, still, in your Class B.?—Yes.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6404. They are men below the average standard?—Yes.

6405. Would such want of health be a great drawback in occupation on agricultural labour?—No doubt, to a certain extent, that would have to be considered. The probability is it would improve their health.

6406. They would not be at all equal to the ordinary standard man?—No.

6407. They could not possibly compete on equal terms with the ordinary agricultural labourers on the surrounding farms?—Certainly not, at first.

6408. They would have to be specially trained and educated for what would be, virtually, a new profession?—They would.

6409. Have you considered the cost of that?—I only know from the experience in Germany; it appears they are able to produce enough to support these colonies, or very nearly so, within 5*l.* per head per annum, I believe.

6410. Is that per head per labourer, or per head per family?—Per labourer, I imagine.

6411. I understood you to say that the wife and family would accompany the man to the colony?—That is a matter of detail; it is most desirable they should, if possible.

Chairman.

6412. In the case of the German farm colonies, are the men taken from the vagrant class?—Yes.

6413. Entirely?—Very largely.

Mr. *Mather.*

6414. Are they not taken entirely from the vagrant, or criminal class?—They find, apparently, that about 25 per cent. become permanently reclaimed.

6415. When they are taken, they belong to the vagrant or criminal class, and it is for that reason they are taken, is it not?—Yes, as a rule.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6416. You say 25 per cent. become permanently reclaimed, and are absorbed in the general population of agricultural labourers?—Yes.

6417. What becomes of the other 75 per cent.?—They seem, according to the German system, to keep moving on from colony to colony; they are not allowed to stay more than two years in one colony.

6418. The colony becomes a sort of casual ward to them, with this kind of labour task in place of the stone-yard?—Yes; it enables them to produce what will keep them, partially, at all events.

6419. You have not worked out any figures as to what the cost of such a system might be in England?—No.

6420. Can you tell me, with regard to these German colonies, whether there is any rentcharge or interest on the purchase money of the land?—I have read a number of accounts of those cases, but I really cannot tell you off the book.

6421. You cannot give the Committee any figures which would usefully guide us in forming an idea of the expense of such a scheme?—No, but such information is very readily procurable; there is quite a literature on the subject now.

6422. You have not sufficiently studied it to be able to give any figures on the subject?—No.

6423. I take it that farm colonies must undoubtedly result in a loss?—I should say so.

6424. The benefit to the community arises (if it arises at all) principally in the next generation?—Yes, and I think it would be a benefit to the community to have these people, at all events, usefully employed in the meantime.

6425. Their surroundings would be better, they would be in a more healthy atmosphere, and they would be doing something?—Yes.

6426. Although it might be considerably less than the ordinary agricultural labourer is doing for 12*s.* a week?—Yes.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

6427. You spoke about the rates of wages ranging from 27*s.* to about 40*s.* a week?—Yes.

6428. That does not mean that the man earns that sum, but that that is the daily rate of pay which would enable him to earn that amount in the week if he were in regular employment?—That is so.

6429. You spoke of a class whom you described as steady, capable, men, only earning about 13*s.* a week on the average?—That is so.

6430. Have you any idea what proportion of the steady, capable, men employed about the

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

docks average 13*s.* a week?—I think it is practically impossible to say. I do not think even the labour leaders themselves can tell you that. I only know this from my own experience as a cotton and sugar broker. I used to employ a good many men, and I know my warehouseman has often told me that on the average, taking the year round, those men did not earn more than, perhaps, 13*s.* a week.

6431. I suppose that was due to the fact that there were more men seeking work than there was labour for them?—Exactly.

6432. Can you give the Committee any idea as to the number of dockers employed in Liverpool at the busiest season?—I tried to work that out before I came away, and I thought of applying to a certain gentleman who is present here now, but I felt it was impossible to go into figures.

6433. Would 15,000 cover the number?—I should say it would be infinitely more than that.

6434. You think that on any given day more than 15,000 would be employed?—Yes.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

6435. I see the figure given in the Report on the Unemployed is 30,000?—That is only guess work.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

6436. Would it be safe to say one-third more men are constantly seeking work than there is work for them?—I do not think it would be very wide of the mark, taking the year round.

6437. I want to ask a question about the shifting of trade; being a Liverpool witness you have been dealing here exclusively with Liverpool?—Exactly.

6438. If the trade had not gone from Liverpool to Barrow and Belfast, is it not the case that there would have been slackness in those places?—Those places would not have been what they are now certainly; they would not have grown.

6439. My point is, that there has been no diminution in the work being done in the country by the local causes which you say prevail in Liverpool, but that the work has shifted from one part of the country to another?—Exactly, because the work can be done cheaper elsewhere.

6440. So that the total number of the unemployed is not affected?—No.

6441. You spoke about the desirability of having labour better organised; "decasualised" was your phrase, I think; would not the result of that be to throw a larger number of men permanently out of work?—For the time being undoubtedly.

6442. Until some other kind of work could be provided for them?—Certainly. Then I think that steps should be taken in decasualising to provide for that emergency.

6443. Have you any other suggestion to make as to how it could be provided for, apart from labour colonies?—It is a very difficult thing, but I think the community would have to take it in hand in some shape or other.

6444. You have great objection (save in cases of special emergency) to any grants being made from the Treasury to assist local distress?—I have.

6445. In the disbursing of money, does it

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

make any difference to the recipient whether it comes from the Treasury or from the local rate?—No.

6446. Then what is your objection to its coming from the Treasury?—Because I think it would lead to things that ought not to take place. I think the community in which the distress occurs knows best what the local conditions are, and that it should itself be responsible, and, if necessary, put its hands into its pocket and provide for its distress. I think it would be much more carefully managed under those circumstances than if they felt they could put their hands into an irresponsible purse, and perhaps distribute it in ways that ought not to be.

6447. It is solely on the grounds of lax administration that you object to a State grant?—Yes.

Mr. *Logan.*

6448. I think I am right in understanding you to say that the fact of there being a large number of unemployed people in Liverpool is largely due to the casual nature of the employment at the docks?—Yes, that is the principal cause.

6449. Is it your opinion that if the work were more constant there, it would largely help to solve the question of the unemployed in Liverpool?—No doubt; but from the nature of the work you cannot make it absolutely constant. There is no doubt the steamships have made it more constant than it used to be. For instance, Mr. Ismay told me he practically has his men regularly on, because his steamers come in so regularly to time, week by week, that his men were practically to a large extent permanent. But even now it fluctuates very considerably.

6450. If it were possible for all employers to do what this gentleman whom you just mentioned has done, and work became more constant, it would do away largely with the question of the unemployed, would it not?—No doubt it would tend to prevent the inflow of men from the country, because they would feel they could not displace men who were permanently employed.

6451. Does not the casual nature of the work, besides creating unemployed, have the tendency to add constantly and always to the number of paupers in Liverpool?—No doubt.

6452. You said just now that the men in the docks in Liverpool were used up at 45 years of age?—I put that as the minimum age at which they begin to be used up. I do not say every man at 45 is used up; some men may go on to 55.

6453. Supposing these men had constant employment instead of casual, would it use them up quicker?—Not necessarily.

6454. Then how do you make out that at present it is the hard work that uses these men up at 45 years of age; surely if three days a week hard work uses a man up, six days a week hard work would use him up quicker?—Not necessarily, because he may work desperately hard in those three days in order to keep himself for the other three days.

6455. That brings me to another point: how do the employers in Liverpool get that amount of work out of the men if, as I understood you to say, the men do not work piecework, but day-work?

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

work?—From the very fact that the high rate of daily wage compels the masters to pick out the best and strongest men; in the very nature of things those best and strongest men will yield a better return in labour than the average man.

6456. They really pay them to work harder?—The very fact of the high wage brings the best men to the front.

6457. These best men, as you call them, do actually in a day more work than the average men could do?—Yes; when I speak of their being knocked up, it is not only the day work they do. Dock labour is not an unhealthy labour; it is a distinctly healthy labour, but they often work long spells of overtime.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6458. Eighteen to 24 hours?—It is the overtime on top of the daytime that knocks them up, and they do that to gain the large amount of money.

Mr. *Logan.*

6459. In your opinion is this overtime absolutely necessary?—Yes.

6460. You do not think that any system of working in shifts would do away with the necessity of overtime?—Not always.

6461. Would you be surprised to hear it said that in some places, Australia, for instance, where they work shorter hours than we do here, it is only under very exceptional circumstances that men do work long hours of overtime?—I think it would be better for the men in the end if they did not work such long hours of overtime.

6462. Do you think there would be difficulty in doing it in Liverpool?—The difficulty is the necessity for the quick despatch of steamers. It is a matter of practical working.

6463. You suggested, as I understand, an association on the lines of a clearing-house to farm out the men to employers?—Yes, in order to give the men steady work and better wages taking the year round.

6464. Would your association employ those older and less capable men, or would they confine themselves to employing simply the very pick of the men?—They would have to employ a fair average, clearly.

6465. Then you would not get away from the difficulty of those who were less capable of falling out of employment?—My suggestion for these men is that if it could be arranged (I do not say it could), they should be permitted to work at rather less money rather than be thrown upon the rates. Of course there are practical difficulties in the way which I see very clearly both from the men's point of view and the masters'.

6466. I suppose in actual working it would be possible to employ these men at a less daily wage and yet that the work itself, that is the actual transhipment of goods, should not cost any more money?—Certainly.

6467. As regards your suggested association, do you think it would work; do you think it possible that one body of men should pay a man and another body of men supervise his work?—I can only say that it was deemed practicable by

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

a lot of hard-headed business men in Liverpool; of course we have not tried it.

6468. You could not give an instance where it has been tried?—No.

6469. Do you not think if such a scheme were possible it would be in work now; supposing it were possible to estimate so accurately how many days' work you could give a man in a week so as to work your clearing-house association, do you not think it would have been done already under the system of piecework?—Not necessarily so, I think.

6470. Has it ever struck you that the working of your association, although it might, and very likely would, solve the question of the unemployed in Liverpool by preventing the influx of men from the country, would still leave us in the country to deal with the question of the unemployed?—Certainly.

6471. You said that agricultural labourers came into Liverpool largely?—Yes; labourers of all kinds.

6472. Have you ever thought of any means of keeping those men employed on the land so as to prevent them coming into Liverpool?—Of course there are a great number of theories in connection with that, and quite a literature on the subject. I have no special knowledge on the subject.

6473. You have no suggestion to offer?—No.

6474. You suggest that after they have come in and joined the ranks of the unemployed you would then send them back again on to farm colonies; you think that would be cheaper than maintaining them as we do now in idleness, and many of them, I am afraid, perhaps joining the ranks of the vicious?—I think it would be cheaper and better for the men themselves.

6475. Do you think it is possible that we might devise some scheme of preventing them from coming into the towns?—I do.

6476. That would be better still, would it not?—It would.

6477. You said just now that there were a large number of honest working men unemployed in Liverpool who would rather die than go to the guardians?—That is so.

6478. And who, may I take it, would almost go through any privation short of dying, perhaps, rather than go to the Charity Organisation Society?—That is a little strong, perhaps.

6479. Then I gather that the Charity Organisation Society in Liverpool have not helped you generally to deal with the question of the unemployed there?—I would not say that. I think the Charity Organisation Society or the Central Relief Society has done a great deal of very excellent work in Liverpool.

6480. You made use of an expression just now which struck me very forcibly; you said there was a great deal of child-life running to waste in Liverpool?—Yes, I think it is the greatest scandal we have.

6481. The fact of having that child-life running to waste is consequent, I suppose, upon the existing conditions of labour?—To a large extent, and also the children are very often the children of vicious and drunken parents.

6482. Seeing that many of these children join the ranks of paupers, and vagrants, and criminals,

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

minals, and come to be kept eventually by the country, would you be in favour of the State recognising their responsibility and endeavouring to regulate labour so as to prevent (if possible) this child-life running to waste, as you say?—Do you mean that the State should regulate labour, or take charge of the children?

6483. I do not suggest that they should do either the one or the other, but I suggest that, putting it on no higher grounds, it would be cheaper if the State were to recognise that our existing conditions do cause this child-life to run to waste, and to recognise their responsibility to see whether some scheme cannot be devised to prevent the present condition of things?—I think it would, but at the same time I admit the question is surrounded by very great difficulties.

6484. But in your opinion that would be better than the present happy-go-lucky system?—On the whole, I think, it would; it would be worth trying, at all events.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

6485. Have you had any Poor Law experience?—Not personally.

6486. How long have you been interested in philanthropic questions?—For a good many years, but I have not taken any active part in it until I retired from business about a couple of years ago.

6487. You gave very strongly your opinion against indiscriminate charity?—Yes.

6488. Your committee strongly emphasise the need, do they not, of taking hold of the vagrant children; is not your opinion that to a great extent the vagrancy of children in Liverpool has been in the past, and up to within the last few years, largely owing to the indiscriminate giving of relief in the streets?—I cannot say that that is the principal cause; I have no doubt it adds to it very materially.

6489. In the Report which you have issued, is there not a very striking statement by a witness who presumably is a person of some authority, the secretary to the Warehouse Porters' Union, who says, at page 41, question 504, that "Those of us who have thought these matters out have found that in Liverpool there are more people living on others than in any other large town in the kingdom, with the exception of London. And those I term parasites. That is, they practically live on other people." Is it your opinion that there is an excess of indiscriminate charity in Liverpool?—It is.

6490. As to the recent distress, is it not an allowed fact that up to the time of the frost there was an unusual amount of labour among the dock labourers and warehouse porters?—Yes; the trade had not been so brisk for years, and also the building trades had been well occupied up to the time of the frost; but I think one ought to say that that spurt was only a matter of about two or three months, and that there had been great distress among the dockers up to the beginning of November, all through the summer; in fact the summer time is our worst time at the docks.

6491. It is to a great extent a season trade, because the great trade is when the cotton crop is coming in?—Yes.

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

6492. Bearing upon this matter of distress, and indiscriminate charity, in the leaflet of the Charity Organization Society which you have presented to the Committee, do not they state that out of 57,500 tickets for relief that were issued by that society only 40,342 were returned, showing that 17,158, each worth 6*d.*, were never made use of?—Yes, they make some statement to that effect here.

6493. And do they also adduce some extraordinary instances of the overlapping of relief?—Yes.

6494. Is it your opinion that lavish relief will create undue demand on the part of the people?—Certainly.

6495. Therefore, would not you be very careful in creating various bodies to give relief?—Certainly.

6496. I understood you to say that you would still like another relief agency between the Poor Law and voluntary charity; some other body which you did not quite define, but which you said in your mind you desired?—It was more as a sort of supervisor and moderator of the others than that it should be in itself a new distributor of charity.

6497. But you stated that many men would not apply for relief to the guardians, and for those people who would not apply you would have another body who should give relief, did you not?—Not to give relief unless they found they were worthy of it.

6498. But still, another relieving agency?—I would not put it exactly in that way.

6499. But if people who were worthy might get relief from it, and it was not an ordinary voluntary body and not an ordinary Poor Law body, surely we must conclude it is to be a third body, must we not?—No; I think the idea in the minds of those who suggested the new committee was that it should be a committee in which the people generally should have confidence; that it should be a voluntary committee of some of the leading citizens of all classes, and that its scope should be rather to watch, and to regulate and supervise the existing agencies for relief, seeing that they acted up to the mark, and in cases of great distress it might also become a treasurer and an almoner of a special fund.

6500. Was it not to be an official body?—No.

6501. Then I understand it is to be really as perfect a system of charity organization as could be brought about?—Yes.

6502. But I suppose you would allow, would you not, that directly a person receives relief from the State, whether under the present Poor Law or any other authority, whether it is by money or by work, the chances are that he practically becomes a pauper, whether he is called a pauper or not?—That is rather a hard-and-fast definition, I think.

6503. Pauperism does not consist in the body that gives the relief, does it, but in the fact that the man is not able to support himself, and has to go to an official body to support him?—No doubt that is so in its essence; but it has become to be looked upon as a little worse than that.

6504. You do not recommend relief works to be started by local authorities, I understand?—Not as a rule.

6505. And

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

6505. And you do not desire to encourage the idea of the State or the municipality undertaking to find work?—I do not.

6506. Is it not, in your opinion, the case that if a central authority, much less an official authority, undertakes to provide any excess for the misfortunes of the working class, that fact will tend to kill benefit funds, trade union organisations, and other means by which the working classes are at present encouraged to provide for an evil day?—It would to a certain extent, no doubt.

6507. And would be calculated rather to keep down the rate of wages, would it not?—It would.

6508. As to the proposal you have made of turning a certain class of people who are apparently not able to do much under your Class B. on to land cultivation, do you not think the class you specially want to send to land cultivation are the ordinary people who now go to the workhouse?—No, not necessarily; of course, ultimately they may drift there, but it would be better to prevent them going there, I think, if we could.

6509. Would not your system be only another form of out-relief?—No; it would be rather in-relief. They would be in colonies under supervision, like the workhouse, in a sense.

6510. I suppose it would be a kind of hybrid relief really?—Yes; it would not be out-door relief.

6511. But it would not be at all in the same category as in-door relief, would it; you say you have no experience of poor law administration, but have you any reason to think that you could return back to the land any percentage of these people whom you picked up in the town worth talking of, people who, by-the-by, I think I understand from you, have been driven down to the lowest state owing to the importation of rural labourers?—I think to a certain extent they might be got back.

6512. But many of these people may have never been on the land; they would probably have been brought up in the town, would they not?—Then they would require to be trained, of course.

6513. And as they have failed in everything in the town, one does not generally find that failures in middle life would conduce towards their making effective cultivators?—The experience of Germany is that they are not able to produce enough to support themselves, but to pretty nearly do so, and it seems to be a better system than keeping them idle.

6514. I am only following up your statement that you thought by that means you might return them to the land?—A certain number of them would return.

6515. As to labour at the docks, you said it is very healthy; do you not think you rather overstated the shortness of time during which a man could work there; I see in answer to Questions 45 and 46, presumably a competent witness, who was a master stevedore and master porter, said, "We generally keep the same run of men all the time; I could not say how many, but we have got a few men who have been working for us over 30 years. I have been in the concern 30 years, and I have got men there now as long. (Mr. Alderman *Hughes.*) At what age do the old hands cease to have a preference, for the witness tells us that they give a preference to the old hands? (*A.*) When we find they cannot do ordinary work of a labourer we have to let them go; but in the case of a few old men, I employ them as watchmen at night, as far as we can manage it. I should think that between the ages of 55 and 60 they are about done. (*Q.*) They cease to be superior able-bodied men? (*A.*) Yes." Does not that seem to show that you rather under-estimated it?—I said, I think, that I placed 45 as the minimum age at which they began to be disrated, but many men were able to work at pretty full pressure for perhaps 10 years longer, but of course it depends on the original physique, to start with, to a great extent. One of the Albert Dock witnesses, for instance, says he has a man 70 years of age, but he, of course, is a phenomenon.

6516. I believe, as to the migration of labour, the boards of guardians in Liverpool (adopting a course which you can affirm has been most successfully conducted with the approval of the whole district) have been for many years in the habit of moving girls to mill districts, have they not?—They have, and it has been very successful whenever they have persuaded the people to move; but they have found a great deal of inertia among them; they have found it difficult to persuade widows with families of girls to move; but those who have moved have been successful.

6517. I see according to the Report that not more than one in five can be induced, even with all the help, to move?—It is extremely difficult.

6518. Your committee thought, did they not, that as your trades unions direct how and when and at what wage their members should work during their work time, that they should provide for them a superannuation allowance; is that your opinion?—It is.

6519. I see the Seamen and Firemen's Union refused to give any information regarding their own body to this Liverpool Labour Conference; do you know the reason of that?—No, I do not.

6520. Bearing on the economical condition of the poor, have you been at some trouble to draw up an interesting table as to the cost of the various necessaries of life?—Yes; I found that the witnesses, as a rule, either avoided the question or said they did not know anything about it, so I was obliged to get the information myself, which I did from leading people in the various trades connected with the necessaries of life.

6521. Briefly, comparing the year 1874 with the year 1884, bread had come down from 2*d.* to 1*d.* per lb., and tea of the most popular quality had come down from 3*s.* 4*d.* a lb. in 1874 to 1*s.* 7*d.* a lb. in 1894; sugar had come down from 35*s.* per cwt. to 15*s.* per cwt., and beef and mutton had come down from 68*s.* a cwt. to 38*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and coal had come down from 22*s.* a ton to 8*s.* 9*d.* a ton?—Yes. I think, with regard to coal, the figure is a little awkward; I had to take the same years so as to compare with the other articles, but 1873 was a year of dear coal, so it is not a fair comparison.

 6522. Bearing

Mr *Lawrence*—continued.

6522. Bearing on the condition of Liverpool and the unemployed, has not the chief constable issued a most interesting statement as to criminality in the district to show that of indictable offences there has been in the last year no less a decrease than 942 cases out of a total of 4,339, as compared with the previous year?—I have read his report and I have no doubt you are quoting it correctly. I have not got it before me.

6523. There are also similar satisfactory indications, are there not, that drunkenness is decreasing, although on some hands we are assured that the unemployed is an increasing question?—The number of arrests for drunkenness have decreased very much in Liverpool.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6524. But still it is a fact, is it not, in Appendix A, of the same report, Mr. Bowring, the lord mayor, Florence Melly, Richard Armstrong, and I believe you, Mr. George H. Cox, made a strong recommendation, first, that "The substantial diminution of the existing undue facilities for the sale of drink, especially in labour centres, as for example, along the line of docks," and 2nd "Insistence by the licensing authorities on holders of licenses for the sale of drink, complying with the original intention of the law, that licensed victuallers should supply food as well as drink." What percentage of the unemployed in Liverpool who could get work are in the ranks of the unemployed, with no work to do, through either past drinking habits, or immediate drinking habits?—That would be a thing which it would be impossible to find out in the shape of a percentage, but one may have an opinion on the subject, and say that there is no doubt a great deal of the want of employment is due to drink.

6525. But as apart from its being a cause, or a contributory cause, it accentuates the difficulty of dealing with the unemployed problem, does it not?—No doubt. Unquestionably one of the evils connected with this practice is the power which young men have of earning a large amount of money.

6526. You stated at an earlier stage of your examination that in your opinion, if the trades unions were to allow their older members to work at lower wages, the unemployed problem could be palliated or mitigated?—I think so.

6527. Do you know that nearly all the skilled trades unions allow that to be done?—I know they do, as far as the joiners are concerned.

6528. And the engineers, moulders, the blacksmiths, and the carpenters?—I am very glad to hear it. It only came out in our inquiry, so far as the joiners are concerned, that they do make some special arrangements when a man has begun to wear spectacles, and that sort of thing, that at once disrates a man. I meant what I said to refer, perhaps, more to the dockers than to skilled trades, because I knew in one instance, at any rate, they do make that allowance, but the dockers do not.

6529. But is it not customary where this rule of the trades union does not apply, for the men themselves in the making up of their gangs at the docks where there are dockers, or stevedores, to squeeze in a certain number of old men, in fact to put the round men in the round holes, and the aged square ones in the square holes; do they not do that at Liverpool?—No doubt it may be done to a moderate extent amongst the sympathetic and kind-hearted warehousemen who put on the men.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

6530. I mean amongst the gang themselves?—I am not aware of it.

6531. Are you not aware of a custom prevalent amongst unskilled labour where, if a certain piece of work is to be done by 10 men, and the average age of eight would probably be 30 or 35, they squeeze in one at 50 or 55 to do a piece of work that must be done, but is less fatiguing than it would be for the other eight?—It is a desirable thing to do, but there is no question about it in Liverpool the elderly men are elbowed out.

6532. But are they not elbowed out because the docking and unloading work in Liverpool is done upon a system that very frequently necessitates overside loading and unloading work in mid-stream, necessitating the men working 18 and 20 hours at a stretch?—We do not load and unload in mid-stream except under very exceptional circumstances.

6533. But all your overside work is frequently done for that number of hours, is it not?—No doubt.

6534. Does it not frequently happen that a strong dock labourer in Liverpool will have three days or three stretches of employment in the week, and that in those three stretches he will probably work from 60 or 70 hours?—I daresay that is so.

6535. And is it not very frequently the case that 50 or 60 hours will be compressed into two and a half or three days; and does not that rather beget the habit amongst the men of what they describe as a hunger and a burst?—Undoubtedly.

6536. Do you consider these long stretches of employment are disadvantageous to the men?—Very.

6537. And to the masters as ratepayers?—Yes.

6538. And to the community generally?—Undoubtedly.

6539. What efforts have been made by the sympathetic and the intellectual head centres in Liverpool to prevent this casual, intermittent, and severe employment?—There has been no attempt made at present.

6540. You told us that Mr. Ismay had made some attempt, did you not?—No.

6541. But Mr. Ismay has, in so far as he could, adopted something like regularity of employment, has he not, with regard to his work?—Undoubtedly many employers do endeavour as far as they possibly can to keep a moderate number of permanent men on.

6542. Are you aware that with regard to a similar class of work the London, India, and Joint Docks Committee is gradually decasualising their men?—Yes.

6543. Is there any hopes of Liverpool, as apart from Mr. Ismay and one or two other shipowners,

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

owners, following that example?—The condition of working at the Liverpool docks is totally different, as far as I understand it, from the West India Docks here. Our docks are nearly all what we call open docks, worked by independent master porters and master stevedores, and therefore there is not the uniform employment there that you have here in your West India Docks.

6544. But given that for dock labour, as a whole, in Liverpool, the alteration made by Mr. Ismay is brought about; it would help things materially from the point of view of organisation of labour, would it not?—No doubt.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6545. I thought what you said about Mr. Ismay was that it was possible for him to do something which others could not, in consequence of the regularity of his steamers working?—That is so. I may, perhaps, make it a little clearer by saying I was discussing with him this theory that we put out with regard to a labour clearing-house, and I asked him, as a practical man, how he thought it would work. He said he saw great difficulties in the way. Of course there are always great difficulties in the way of anything; but he said, "So far as I myself am concerned, I have to a large extent solved it, because my arrivals and departures are so regular that we can keep to a large extent a permanent staff."

Mr. *John Burns.*

6546. But does not Mr. Ismay employ his own stevedores and dock labourers?—He has stevedores and master porters.

6547. But has not he a regular staff of stevedores and dock labourers whom he employs direct?—No doubt.

6548. And to that extent, by the direct employment of these men, he can, so to speak, further your idea of a labour exchange, because the matter is under his own control?—Exactly.

6549. Has there been any attempt made on the part of shipowners, the Dock Company, or the Dock Trust, and the consignees, to have some scheme by which a certain number of men should be more regularly employed than they now are?—I am sorry to know nothing of the kind has taken place.

6550. What is the system of employing labour at the docks; does the shipper unload?—The shipper unloads with the help of a stevedore.

6551. He employs a master stevedore who takes on his men as he wants them, does he?—Yes; then when the goods are on the quay, the quay is worked by what is called the master porter, who employs his men.

6552. Am I to gather, as apart from the men who open the dock gates (the permanent workers in the Dock Trust employ), all the other work, with the exception of Mr. Ismay's, and one or two other companies, is done by contract, or a middleman, or agent?—With the exception of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, the closed docks, the Albert Dock, the Wapping Dock, and the Waterloo Dock; there the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board are the employers, and they give their men 6*d.* a day less than the outside men.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

6553. By virtue of the regularity of the employment, you mean?—The employment is broken there, too.

6554. To the same extent?—Perhaps not; I think, perhaps, they are a little more considerate.

6555. Do you think Ismay's example, if pointed out by a responsible authority like the Unemployed Committee, would get the shippers, consignees, master stevedores, and porters to regulate the employment?—It has been practicable for Mr. Ismay simply because of the regularity of his steamers. If other people's steamers came in as regularly the same thing, to a large extent, no doubt, would obtain.

6556. But supposing your idea of a labour exchange be established at Liverpool, and in conceiving this idea you have taken into consideration the fluctuations and alterations of employment, whom would you constitute as the medium of working the labour exchange and transferring labour from one dock to another; would you make it the Dock Trust or the Liverpool Corporation?—I do not think that that has anything to do with the question as far as the Dock Trust or the Liverpool Corporation is concerned; it would simply be an association of men.

6557. But whether it was done by the Corporation, or the Dock Trust, or by an association of shippers and consignees and philanthropists combined, there would be wanted a centralised authority through whom the labour would be imported from one dock to another; is not that so?—No, not necessarily. My idea is this: that no one association could possibly be made to cover all the various trades. You would probably have to have a clearing-house for cotton porters, a clearing-house for stevedores, and so on.

6558. But the clearing-house could deal with the cotton porters, stevedores, and half-a-dozen unskilled labourers, could it not?—Yes.

6559. A centralised authority would be wanted to some extent, would it not?—I do not think it is necessary.

6560. Supposing you had a surplus of men at the Waterloo Dock, and you had an insufficiency down at Wapping or at the North end, what would be the medium of communication between the two?—The association would have to set the telephone to work, I suppose.

6561. Then you contemplate, for the success of your labour exchange, that there must be a centralised authority, working within the total jurisdiction of the dock, which would be able to get over a surplus of labour at one dock by providing men where there was an insufficiency at another dock; and you believe that to be practicable, do you?—Yes; but I do not think it is at all necessary to have such centralisation as you evidently contemplate.

6562. I am not thinking of excessive centralisation; do you mean centralisation over the whole of the docks, or do you mean a central bureau acting in correspondence and in communication by the telephone with each dock's local labour exchange; is that what you mean?—That is what I mean. The men come to what they call stands; that is one of the grievances,

Mr. *John Burns*– continued.

and it is an undoubted grievance, there are not enough of these stands. They ought to be multiplied, and ought to be in telephonic communication.

6563. Then, whether it is done by local labour exchanges, multiplication of stands by a public body or private association, do you think your theory of a labour exchange would tend to more regularity of employment in Liverpool, and would mitigate many of the difficulties arising from intermittent employment?—That is what we hope. They have no districts assigned to them, they can go to any dock and work any ship.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6564. Then they are in competition one with the other, are they?—They are.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6565. Does not it frequently happen that where a master stevedore is unloading a vessel in the Waterloo Dock, there are a certain number of preferential or favourite men being transferred from the Waterloo or Wapping Dock to somewhere else?—No doubt.

6566. And the result is, is it not, that those who are not similarly favoured have a long stretch of intermittent employment?—No doubt. I am sorry to say, and I should like to say it in public here too, that there is a great deal of favouritism with regard to the putting of men on, and we venture to call it bribery in our report, in plain English.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6567. Favouritism by whom?—By the gangers, and men who have the power of putting these men on.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6568. Is it not the fact, has it not come out in evidence, and is it not the general impression amongst the men in Liverpool themselves, that to secure employment they frequently have to give a certain proportion of their wages to the ganger, or the master porter who employs them?—That is absolutely true.

6569. And there are demoralising effects from that system, are there not?—Very.

6570. Would your labour exchange tend to abolish that and put the employment on what I may term a non-tipping basis?—Yes; that is one of the reasons we give in our report for recommending the exchange, that it would put it on a better basis.

6571. Another statement you made was that you were under the impression that the relatively higher wages in Liverpool had been to some extent the cause of the shipbuilding industry leaving Liverpool?—Yes.

6572. Of course I do not press you for figures, nor for absolutely reliable evidence, but is that the general opinion in Liverpool?—Yes.

6573. Where has the trade gone to?—Belfast and Barrow.

6574. It is as well to kill fallacies; are you aware that the average wages of the engineers (a very large proportion of the men engaged in shipbuilding) in Liverpool, as per Labour Commission evidence, which I can affirm, is 34*s.* per week, and that at Barrow the wages are also 34*s.* a week; are you aware also that at Liverpool the workman pays 7*s.* 6*d.* out of the 34*s.* for rent, and that at Barrow he pays 6*s.* and 6*s.* 6*d.*?—The amount that he pays for rent does not affect the trade of the port. I mean to say, if the wages are high, it affects the amount of work that can be done in the port.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

6575. But still, if he has subtracted from his 34*s.* a large amount, it would make a difference, would it not?—The man is worse off to that extent certainly.

6576. Are you aware that Liverpool, with the exception of Glasgow, where other conditions prevail, is certainly not by any means the highest paid place in shipbuilding and engineering, and that at Newcastle, Shields, Stockton, London, Belfast, and Hartlepool, the wages are either as high or higher, whilst in every other case, with the exception of London, the house rent is considerably lower; now, would you accept those figures as reliable?—I suppose they must be, but they do not tally with the information we got on our Commission.

6577. Do you share the opinion given by the engineers themselves before the Royal Commission, that much of the trade of shipbuilding and engineering had left Liverpool because of the inability of the masters to modernise and to adapt both their shipbuilding yards and their engineering works to new and prevalent ideas?—Yes. I admit there is something to be said for that, and that it is due in the second place to the fact that the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board will only grant a six months' lease of the shipping yard.

6578. Then, as apart from wages, you will admit, will you not, there is much in what Mr. Potter, a well-known shipbuilder, said, when he said, "rent and taxes, high price of coal, and railway carriage, and being handicapped by cartage to the yards, are some of the reasons"?—Yes.

6579. Do you think generally, speaking as a business man, where machinery is an auxiliary to production in any industry, that wages are a material factor at all in trade going here, there, or anywhere else?—Do you mean to say that machinery is a greater factor?

6580. Yes; is not the natural home of shipbuilding the Wear, the Tyne, the Tees, the Clyde, and then Belfast?—But why should it be; at Belfast they have neither iron nor coal.

6581. There iron and steel are won either from the western districts of England, or from Scotland, and as you know, water carriage is very cheap indeed, and in that respect Belfast has an advantage even of the coal and iron fields over Liverpool?—I daresay.

6582. Then only to a slight extent can it be urged that wages in Liverpool are responsible for lack of employment, can it?—I will give another case. In the case of ship-painters there is a great deal of distress among them. It has got to such a point, I believe, that many shipowners have to send their paint, and do send their paint, in their ships, and when they come to some continental port

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

port they get them painted there. They send the actual paint and get the labour done in the continental port, which is a very unfortunate state of things.

6583. It may be slightly profitable, but it is not patriotic, is it?—It is very unpatriotic.

6584. What steps have the local authority taken in Liverpool with regard to its streets and roads, and its general public work, as to carrying on any exceptional work?—The corporation looked around and did what they could, but they were determined not to make work for work's sake.

6585. But generally speaking, does the corporation adapt the execution and carrying out of normal and extraordinary work to the condition of the labour market and the unemployed?—I think so; I think they are distinctly sympathetic.

6586. Has that in any way operated to the disadvantage either of the unemployed or the ratepayers?—I do not think so, because there has been really very little work enforced, as it were.

6587. Then there has been no specific complaint as to that, either as to cost or work being badly carried out, has there?—No.

6588. Do I gather from you that you do not favour an Imperial grant to local centres?—I do not.

6589. Do I gather from you that you believe that only the local vigilant responsible officers, and elected representatives who know the distress and the want of work, should have the official responsibility, and the administrative responsibility, of grappling with it?—I am very strongly of that opinion.

6590. Do you know of an instance in which the Imperial authority has given a grant in aid which has not been paid back to a local authority for distress?—No, I do not.

6591. As apart from loan, you do not know of any grant, do you?—No. It is not a question of paying it back so much as that it may be maladministered when it arrives; that is the point I am strong about.

6592. You think easy come, easy go, do you?—Yes.

6593. And if a locality gets money for nothing from a central authority, it wastes it, is that it?—It is very apt to do so.

6594. And the consequence of so wasting it leads permanently to very demoralising results, does it not?—Undoubtedly.

6595. Have you visited any labour colonies?—I have not, unfortunately; I have read a good deal about them.

6596. Are you in favour of labour colonies?—There seems to be a good deal to be said pro and con; but from what I have read of these things I think they are worth trying.

6597. Do you think that the averge unemployed man, I mean a man who is out of work and willing to work, whom one finds down Bootle-road, Scotland-road, and North-end, would go to a labour colony?—No, he might object.

6598. Do you think in the majority of cases he would object?—I should think he very probably would; but if it were a question between that and starvation or the poor-house, I should imagine he would choose the labour colony.

6599. You would imagine that, but you have no statistical evidence to show it, have you?—No; it has not been tried.

6600. But generally speaking, do you find amongst the unemployed of Liverpool a repugnance to a country life?—Undoubtedly there is a strong tendency to prefer the town, and that is one reason, over and above the high wages, that draws men from the country into towns; they prefer town life.

6601. Have you come into actual personal contact with these unemployed men?—Yes.

6602. Have you questioned them?—Certainly.

6603. Have you ever met with cases in which men have deliberately left 16*s.* or 18*s.* a week regular employment in the country to come into Liverpool to earn a precarious 27*s.* a week?—Yes; that is the restless type of man.

6604. Is that restless type of man likely to make a good labour colonist?—Yes, under strict supervision.

6605. But to what extent; as in Germany, where the people in charge walk about on a farm with a loaded musket, keeping him to his work?—Do they go to that length?

6606. They do on some of them?—With vagabonds, that is necessary.

6607. That is just the point; do you think the average unemployed man would submit to the penal discipline, or, failing penal discipline, to the severe restrictions that would have to be imposed upon him?—I do not recommend, and we do not recommend, in this report, that the unemployed that I think you have in your mind, the steady and capable man who from misfortune is out of work, should go to these labour colonies. We rather meant them for the men who are thriftless, restless, and improvident; it might be necessary to put them under strict discipline.

6608. Then I gather from you that you would prescribe a different treatment for the steady, regular unemployed man?—Most certainly.

6609. And you would prescribe another form of treatment for the type of man who too frequently lives on his woman-kind or his family, and with the alternative of either going to the casual ward or to the prison?—Yes.

6610. Do you think that kind of remedy would be popular with either of the two sections of the unemployed?—I do not suppose it would be popular.

6611. Have you considered what class of employment these men could have given to them at labour colonies?—The ordinary farm work and reclamation, I suppose.

6612. Assuming that 5,000 unemployed Liverpool dock labourers, good, bad, or indifferent, were taken to a labour colony, say in Cheshire, and they could be persuaded, drilled, or disciplined to grow cabbages, celery, and potatoes, would not those men in carrying out that work, without protection, mark you, displace a similar number of men in growing vegetables, and so forth?—In one sense they would, no doubt.

6613. Have you heard from the unemployed in Liverpool complaints as to prison labour and workhouse

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

workhouse labour, and labour of Church Army and Salvation Army homes competing with them? —No.

6614. Have you many of those institutions in Liverpool?—There are a certain number of them, undoubtedly, but I do not know that they are producers of anything.

6615. Then, I gather from you that labour colonies are experimental?—They are.

6616. That the Poor Law as administered in Liverpool should continue?—Yes.

6617. That the local authority should charily undertake relief works?—Yes, very charily.

6618. That private charity should be more closely and discreetly administered?—Yes.

6619. That beyond the labour exchange, which you suggest for regulating work, you have not many specific remedies to offer for the unemployed problem?—No, and I have never found anybody who had.

6620. That leads me to my last question. Is it not in your experience, and according to evidence given, that the unemployed exist because wealth is badly distributed or badly organized in its production, and labour is intermittently employed?—Yes, there is a great deal of truth in that.

6621. Do you think that if the total amount of work to be done in Liverpool was averaged out and regulated, your unemployed problem would almost disappear?—No.

6622. You would still have a residuum, would you?—I am afraid so. First of all you would have a residuum of the submerged tenth, and you would have a residuum also of perhaps competent labourers, because if everybody was comfortable, and so on, the population would increase at perhaps an even greater rate.

6623. But is not the opposite the fact that brain does not run to babies, but that brawn does?—That, undoubtedly, is the case, but you require brawn to do the active work.

6624. Perfectly true; you do not favour, do you, any scheme of relief works, or labour colonies, which would get over the unemployed difficulty by adding to the already overwhelming mass of commodities?—No, but I think the theory of these labour colonies is that they should produce what they consume themselves and not to enter into competition.

6625. But supposing they were growing cabbages, they could not live on cabbages, they would have to exchange it for boots and shoes? —No doubt, to a certain extent.

6626. So far then, you have not much evidence to make you very enthusiastic about labour colonies, have you?—The only thing is this: that it would be a production of wealth, and therefore the community would be so much better off, necessarily, if they succeeded in growing more cabbages and more potatoes.

6627. But according to your Report, would not you rather favour the curtailment of the competition of apprentices with men, women labour with male labour, and child labour with women labour; would not you rather look for a relief in that direction than in deporting skilled men with local home associations to labour colonies?—It would undoubtedly be better to send those young men, training them perhaps first, to the colonies.

6628. You mistake my question; is it not the fact that before your Unemployed Commission in Liverpool it was urged that one of the reasons for the large number of unemployed was the substitution of women and boys to do the work performed by men?—That is so.

6629. Would not you rather give employment to unemployed men in Liverpool, by reducing the child and boy competition with adult male labour, than send the father to labour colonies whilst the children were at work?—Certainly, but then the difficulty is to know what you are to do with those apprentices and children; you have to deal with them in some way.

6630. But the gradual raising of the age of child-labour would get over that difficulty, would it not?—Yes.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

6631. With regard to the sending of children to industrial schools, have you any suggestion to make as to how the present legal definitions could be extended?—Do you mean so as to take the children away from their surroundings and their parents?

6632. No, I mean so as to increase the numbers of children to be so dealt with?—No, I have no specific recommendation to give, but it is a felt want that something of the kind is necessary.

6633. You feel that you cannot so deal with all the children that you would like to deal with, do you?—No. In fact the watch committee, at present, I believe, is trying to get some extended powers to deal with the children who hawk in the streets.

6634. But you cannot point to any words in the existing Industrial Schools Acts which have the effect of unduly limiting the operation of the Acts, can you?—No, I am afraid I am not sufficiently conversant with the Acts to say anything about that.

Friday, 26th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. EDWARD JAMES PHILLIPS, called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

6635. You are, I believe, a Justice of the Peace for the county of Monmouth, and chairman of the Pontypool Board of Guardians?—I am.

6636. How long have you been a member of the Board of Guardians?—About 25 years. I have been a member of the Pontypool Board of Guardians for 23 years. I resided in another portion of the county before that.

6637. You have been chairman since 1885, I think?—That is so.

6638. Is the union a large one?—We have 24 parishes in the union.

6639. What is the rateable value of the union?—The rateable value is 155,921*l.*

6640. What is the population?—According to census of 1891 it was 39,791.

6641. What are the principal industries of the district?—Coal, tin, iron and steel works. Then we have in addition a locomotive establishment connected with the Great Western Railway Company at Pontypool-road, which is within the union; there is a large number employed in those works.

6642. I suppose you have periodically had times of distress in your union?—We have ; but upon two occasions I may say they have been very severe.

6643. Generally it was the stoppage of individual works that caused some distress?—The most serious case within my recollection that I can now recall was in 1874, when there was a strike arising in the coal trade, then there was very great distress.

6644. Will you tell us what your board did at that time ; what steps did you take?—We opened a quarry and worked under the outdoor labour test under the powers of the Order of 1844, which we had not adopted until 6th June 1852. Under that Order of 1844 we opened a stoneyard and employed a large nu nber of men, and had a great deal of stone cut. That stone after it was broken we had considerable difficulty in getting rid of; it remained for some years before we could get rid of it.

Chairman—continued.

6645. Was the result at all satisfactory?—It was not satisfactory as a means of profit.

6646. But so far as it was a test applicable to the men relieved did it succeed?—As a test it was used.

6647. Of course you did not open the stoneyard for the purpose of profit?—Quite so.

6648. Since the tin-plate trade has become disorganised have you had difficulties?—The board of guardians have to a very small extent had difficulty, but there has been great distress in the district.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

6649. Among the tin-plate workers?—Yes.

6650. In the Pontypool district?—Yes.

Chairman.

6651. You have also had, as I think we were told by a former witness, some collieries stopping work, have you not?—That was in 1893. The strike of 1893 was a very short one ; it did not last more than about three weeks.

6652. I am speaking of the Glyn Colliery ; that stopped in 1894, did it not?—Yes, it was an absolute stoppage of the works there, not a strike ; it was an absolute stoppage in consequence of the commercial want of success on the part of the lessees. The original lessees were the Ebbw Vale Company. Those collieries, I may say, were opened for the purpose of providing coal for an ironworks which was close at hand, called the Race Works, and when the Race Works ceased to be used as an ironworks, the coal was thrown upon the market. The Ebbw Vale Company continued for a time working the coal, but after a time they discontinued being coal merchants ; they underleased the colliery to a Nottingham firm, Wood and Company, and they afterwards underleased

Chairman—continued.

underleased to the Bryndu Company. The Bryndu people were unsuccessful, and they ceased to work in April 1894, and upon that occasion a considerable number of persons, I should say somewhere about 600, were thrown out of employment.

6653. What became of them?—There was, no doubt, considerable distress among them, but the bulk of the men, all the young men and men able to work, went into other collieries in Monmouthshire; some went into the collieries in the Rhondda Valley and in Glamorganshire; so that at present I think there is a comparatively small number who have not found employment in the various collieries within reach of where they resided.

6654. The men were absorbed elsewhere?—I think to a very great extent they have been, excepting the old people; they are still in the district.

6655. In 1894 what measures were taken to cope with the distress that existed; there were three separate organisations, were there not, independent of the guardians?—There were. At the time you now refer to a portion of the works of the Pontypool tin trade had ceased to be remunerative, and those men came out as well. I am referring to the Pontymoile works. There were three organisations started, one started in Pontypool; they only started in the early part of this year.

6656. The one at Pontypool was worked by a relief committee, was it not?—Yes.

6657. Over which the vicar presided?—Yes, the Vicar of Trevethin.

6658. Can you put in a table showing the number of people relieved by that committee?—Yes, showing the numbers from day to day.

6659. The numbers relieved run up to nearly 1,200 on some days, do they not?—Yes. The figures extend over several weeks. I have a return here from the 25th January till the 15th day of April. [*The same was delivered in and is as follows:*—]

DATE.	No. of Families.	No. in Families.	Single People.	TOTAL.
1895:				
25 January -	92	468	13	481
24 February -	156	779	29	808
11 „ -	184	896	37	933
18 „ -	211	991	34	1,025
25 „ -	238	1,151	45	1,196
4 March -	227	1,122	46	1,168
11 „ -	218	1,075	43	1,118
18 „ -	169	790	36	826
25 „ -	152	704	34	738
1 April -	132	615	30	645
8 „ -	118	520	7	527
15 „ -	110	481	7	488

Chairman—continued.

6660. Besides the expenditure of money there was also relief given in kind, I believe?—The expenditure up to date has been 200*l.*, but there has also been relief given in kind; for instance, 1,091 loaves were given and three trucks of coal and sacks of potatoes, and so on.

6661. There was a second organisation, was there not?—There was at Pontnewynydd where the steel and sheet works were.

6662. Which also gave relief in the way of provisions and soup kitchens and so forth?—They first of all gave orders for provisions and then afterwards they established a soup kitchen which was opened on the 15th of January and was still going on on the 6th of April.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

6663. Is it still going now?—No, there is a little done.

Chairman.

6664. I suppose during the time you speak of all the persons who really deserved assistance did not apply, but they were helped by their own friends to a large extent, and also, possibly, they lived on the proceeds of their furniture and other effects?—I have not the least doubt, judging from the small number that applied to us, that men who were out of employment during that time, rather than apply to the Board of Guardians got some assistance from their friends and in very many cases disposed of their goods and furniture, and their clothes also, in order to raise money to support themselves.

6665. The third organisation was, I believe, promoted by the Undenominational Christian Mission, which did some good in a charitable way also?—Yes, they did a great deal of good, and I think we cannot give too much credit to Mr. Wintle and the people who organised that work. They are still doing good.

6666. I think between August 1893 and December 1894 they gave 100,000 meals at their different stations?—Yes.

6667. During this time what was done by the public authorities; did the urban district council take any steps?—There are three urban district councils in which this distress existed, the Pontypool, Abersychan and Panteg. The Abersychan placed an advertisement in the paper to say that they would afford work to any persons who would apply to them. The surveyor was instructed to give those who applied work, using his own discretion as to what he should pay for breaking stones and cinders. He commenced by giving them 2*s.* a yard, which was afterwards reduced to 1*s.* 6*d.*, and at that price it now stands. Then the Pontypool District Council employed men in breaking stones, and gave them, I think it was, 1*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* 4*d.* a yard. The Panteg District Council gave them 1*s.* 6*d.* for stone-breaking and 1*s.* 4*d.* for cinder breaking, which is easier broken than stone.

6668. But that work has practically ceased now, has it not?—It has really ceased.

6669. Can you say what the individual men made at those prices?—Men who had been working in the tin works I am afraid could not do a great deal; their hands are not accustomed to labour

Chairman—continued.

labour of that description, their hands are tender and soft; whereas if it happened to be men who had been working in collieries, who were accustomed to use a pick and shovel, their hands are harder and they would break more stones. But, so far as I can gather from the letter which the surveyor wrote me, some men would break from five to nine yards, and one or two men broke as much as 12 yards, in the week, and therefore would earn 13*s.* 6*d.* a week, taking nine yards, and taking it at 1*s.* 6*d.* a yard. If they were paid 2*s.* a yard, of course it would be more, but I do not think the 2*s.* continued for a long time. They found the men earned more, and they reduced the price to 1*s.* 6*d.* a yard.

6670. Do you know whether those men were selected in any way; was this test applied to all comers, or were only married men or men of deserving character employed, or was any particular test applied, or any discretion exercised of that kind?—There was discretion used, but so far as I can gather from the reports, and from what I was told, any men who applied were put on to the work, whoever the men were, provided, of course, they were not strangers to the district. The men employed were men who would otherwise become chargeable to the rates, no doubt.

6671. I think the other councils did something of the same sort upon a rather smaller scale?—Yes, upon a smaller scale.

6672. When the distress first commenced what steps did your board take?—We directed our two relieving officers, who lived there, to grant relief in any case that they could meet that applied to them.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

6673. Did you direct them to grant relief in every case?—In every case where they found, upon inquiry, the man deserved relief. Of course no relieving officer would grant relief to a person unless he has made inquiries; he would not grant relief merely because a man applied saying, I am badly off. It is the duty of the relieving officer to make inquiries, to go to the house, and see the condition of the house and the inmates before he gives relief. In every case where, upon inquiry, it was found the man deserved relief it was given.

Mr. *Logan.*

6674. Without any test?—That was so.

Chairman.

6675. Can you say what was the amount spent in out-relief during each of the last three years?—I can. To compare the three years, in 1892-93 the amount expended was 4,399*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; in 1893–94 it was 4,719*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; and in 1894–95 it was 5,056*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

6676. Do you find among the labouring classes a reluctance to apply to the guardians for relief?—I really do. I believe that both skilled artizans and unskilled artizans do not like to apply; they have a feeling of the stigma attached to applying for relief. That is my own experience, I think, that both the skilled artizan and the unskilled artizan are precisely the same in this very high feeling, as I should regard it, that they do not like to come and ask for relief.

Chairman—continued.

6677. With your experience, what do you think can be done in the way of remedy; do you think the Poor Law should be altered to meet such cases?—I do. I think the Poor Law ought to be altered in this way. That some means should be devised by which the guardians should have the power of relieving persons without putting them to the test and humiliation of stonebreaking, if there could be some other means found.

6678. You think that you should, in fact, have greater facilities and greater power of giving able-bodied people relief?—I think I would even go a step further and say that I think the Poor Law should be altered in this way, especially now that our position, as compared with what it was a few years ago, has very materially altered. I think the labour test should not be applied by the guardians at all; I think that is a matter that should be dealt with by a different authority; it should be dealt with by the urban authorities. If we, the guardians, have to use the test of stonebreaking, we have no means of using the stone that is broken; we have to be at the cost of breaking it or bringing it to our place to break, and then afterwards of disposing of it; whereas under the Act of 1888 the county authority receives a considerable grant for the maintenance of its roads out of the Imperial Exchequer. Of course we in the county used to receive a grant; one-fourth of the cost of maintenance of the public roads was refunded. I have a return here as regards Monmouthshire, which shows that our county receives about 30,000*l.* a year from the Exchequer, which they expend upon police and different things, but then, after paying for lunatics, vaccination, and different matters, there seems to me to be a balance of about 10,000*l.*, so far as I can make out, left for other purposes. Perhaps I may make the matter clearer by reading a letter I received from the clerk of the peace for our county. I may say I applied first of all to the county surveyor, thinking he might be able to give me the information, but he sent on my letter to the clerk of the peace, who sent me this letter.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6679. Are you referring to the Exchequer Contribution Grant?—I am. The letter says: "The county gets no direct specific allowance from Government towards the cost of maintenance of main roads. Before the Local Government Act of 1888 they did get one-fourth, but that has been discontinued. The county do get grants out of the Exchequer in aid of local rates, amounting in round figures to 30,000*l.* a year. Out of this sum they have to pay, as a first charge, all the claims upon what is called the Exchequer Contribution Account under Section 24 of the Act of 1888; this includes payments towards the remuneration of teachers in Poor Law schools, public vaccinators, inspectors of nuisances, medical officers of health, registrars, lunatics, and union officers. The county also has to pay out of that amount half of the cost of the pay and clothing of the police. If there is any balance left, after paying all these claims, it is transferred

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

to the General County Fund, and, so far, it is applicable towards the general expenditure of the county, which, of course, includes the maintenance of main roads. The balance this year amounts to 10,000*l.*" What I would say upon that is this: the county could find employment in stone-breaking, but since the Act of last year, sanitary matters and improvement to roads, and all matters of that kind, have come within the powers of district and parish councils, and they would be the proper authority to use any test because they could employ the labour profitably, whereas the boards of guardians cannot employ it. They have the officers also in the shape of surveyors, and so on, and could deal with it.

Chairman.

6680. You think the municipal authorities should rather be charged with the relief of distress than the Poor Law authorities, because they have better means of disposing of the material which results from the test?—Yes, I think so, as regards the test.

6681. There may be another reason, may there not, namely, that the stigma which you speak of would not be felt so strongly, at all events, if the relief was given from the municipal authority as if it was given by the Poor Law authority?—I think so.

6682. You desire that the Poor Law authorities should have larger powers of out-door relief, but does not that convey that stigma of pauperism that you spoke of?—I think as regards out-door relief the Poor Law should be more elastic, so that we could distribute relief to the destitute poor to a greater extent than we could now; at present, in order to become entitled to a payment under the Poor Law, the first thing to qualify persons is that they must become destitute; they must have nothing. The law says distinctly that the only people entitled to relief are those who are destitute. My idea is that it would be very much better that some means should be devised whereby those who are not absolutely destitute could be helped. For instance, the mode adopted in Scotland is very much better; there is greater power given to the guardians there, and any deserving person who has through care saved something may get assistance, whereas in England persons in any benefit society or having any other means are not destitute, and therefore are not entitled to relief according to the English law as it stands.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

6683. Would you consider a man destitute if he had furniture or clothing, or other effects, but was without money; what do you consider to be the standard of destitution?—I am merely stating the law, but I am afraid after my admission just now I have done things for which I might be surcharged; indeed I have been surcharged before now in consequence of what I have done; I have taken too lenient a view of the law.

Chairman.

6684. You consider that you have not the power at present (as the law stands now) to give relief of this kind without the danger of being surcharged?—We have not the power to give relief if the person is not destitute as the law stands.

Chairman—continued.

6685. Except with the labour test?—Yes, with the test. The Order of 1844 has been applied to our union, and the Circular that followed it; but the Order of December 1852 has never been applied to our union. The later Order is really almost the same Order, but it is rather more stringent than the previous one; however, the second one has not been applied to our union yet.

Mr. *Billson.*

6686. Where people are over the age of 65 you are at liberty to give out-relief without any test, are you not?—Yes; we do not put them under any test after they are 60 years of age.

6687. Can you give out-relief to persons over 60 where there is not complete destitution?—There is no doubt we have given relief.

6688. You consider, I understand, that it is the law that you shall not give relief unless there is destitution?—That is how the law stands.

6689. Do you think it would be a good thing if an order were made by which the guardians should give relief to all persons over the age of 65 who applied for relief, whether destitute or not, without a test and without disqualification?—I would rather say in dealing with that that my idea is that we should supplement anything that the applicants save themselves.

6690. You mean that you would give something to the thrifty man who had saved something as well as to the thriftless man who had saved nothing?—Yes, to the deserving poor; that is what I understand to be the law in Scotland. If a man has saved some small sum, that can be supplemented by the board of guardians.

6691. If a rule were made or a law passed to that effect do you think it would have a beneficial effect upon the condition of the working classes?—I think it would. If I may put it in my own way it would be this: as the law at present stands we discourage thrift; we say to become entitled to any assistance from the board of guardians you must have made no provision for yourself. If the law was as you put it, if a man has saved some small trifle then we could add to that.

6692. In your opinion ought it to be possible to do that without disqualifying the man from being on the register?—I should much prefer that if it could be done.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

6693. I understand you to say you desire to have two relief agencies in a district, namely, the board of guardians and the local authority?—No, I did not make myself clear if I was understood to say that. My idea is that the board of guardians should be the authority that should deal with the old, the infirm, and the destitute, and with lunatics; with the paupers proper; and they should have power, wherever they could, to provide for respectable paupers by some better mode, giving them greater comforts than we give them now, and to separate them from the idle and

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

and worthless paupers. Then what I say is that the labour test (not the relief) should be applied by the district authorities as they have power to do, and can employ the material at less cost to the ratepayers.

6694. By your answer you have stated that the idle, worthless, able-bodied paupers are not to come under the Poor Law but are to go to the local authority to find work and to be tested by work; that is your statement, as I understand?—No.

6695. What are you going to do with the idle able-bodied paupers?—They should come into the workhouse; the idle and worthless pauper should have the workhouse test put to him.

6696. And no stoneyard at all?—He would have to work in the workhouse.

6697. I gathered from what you told the Committee that your chief reason for suggesting that the local authority should use the test of work was that you, as the Poor Law authority, had so much stone broken that you could not get rid of it, whereas the local authority having charge of the roads could make use of the stones?—What I wished to convey was that in exceptional cases of distress, such as the one we have been speaking of, the local authority should deal with it; these cases they have the power to do so.

6698. From your experience as a guardian for many years, would you not think that it would be a bad policy to start two agencies for the relief of distress in various forms in the same area?—I should hardly say that. One of them is for exceptional distress.

6699. Anyhow it would be another agency for dealing with a distress?—The law already provides under the Act of Parliament, or the Order of the Local Government Board, that urban district councils may employ this labour and break stones for themselves.

6700. Unless I am very much mistaken, no law actually authorises a local authority or commands a local authority to provide relief works?—Of course you have more experience than I have, but I had an idea that there was an Order or a letter written from the Local Government Board authorising and directing that district authorities should deal with these things.

6701. I understand there is the well known circular suggesting that the local authorities should direct their work so as to facilitate the employment of people who are temporarily out of work?—That is for temporary distress, and I am dealing with temporary distress in what I say.

6702. Do you want that circular to be made into law so that the local authority should be another relieving agency outside the Poor Law authority to help relieve distress?—To meet these particular emergencies.

6703. You said that working men have great reluctance to apply to the Poor Law; is not that a very proper feeling?—A most commendable feeling.

6704. Would it not be very undesirable that we should promote the popularity of the Poor Law so that people should apply to the Poor Law?—I do not think any Poor Law Authority would grant relief without making inquiries into

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

the circumstances of the person applying for relief.

6705. That is not quite an answer to my question. I put it before you that it would be very undesirable that we should in any way make the Poor Law so popular to applicants that by that means we should encourage applications; is it not the case that the facility of relief being given does promote too easy application on the part of people who need relief?—Yes; there is no doubt it is not desirable to make it; so that relief could be obtained easily, but the case that presented itself to my mind was a case where the persons were in distress. No relief would be granted excepting to persons as to whose state inquiries had been made; they would not get relief granted merely because they came and asked the Board of Guardians, "I want you to give me a 1*s.* or 2*s.* a week."

6706. But speaking to you as a guardian of many years' experience, do you not recognise that the weakness of human nature is such that you must make inquiries before you give relief?—Yes.

6707. In fact, if public relief were not given only after as full inquiry as possible, the demoralisation of the district caused by people rushing to the public relief would be very serious?—Quite so.

6708. Therefore you must have a test for relief?—Relief is applied for because they are sick, or because they are ill, or because there is some cause. What I was referring to when I said that two authorities should deal with it, was that the one should find employment which would be remunerative; that would be the district boards; they have full power to deal with these cases, and they would only meet exceptional cases. Supposing in the ordinary course of events ordinary paupers come to the guardians; if they are known to be idle and worthless they are taken into the workhouse, and we do not give them out-relief; they are brought into the workhouse, and they have either to cut up wood or cultivate our gardens. We have, I may say, between nine and 10 acres of ground. That is the way we employ our men.

6709. Are you here as an advocate of doing away with what I believe is at present the rule of Poor Law relief, that a man must be tested as to his destitution before he can get any public relief; do you want to give relief without any test?—No, not without a test; not that the man should be put to work.

6710. Is it not the case within your experience that with all the best ability you can get from inquiry officers, you cannot get at the merits of the applicants as to destitution; and that there must be some test to supplement even the inquiry officer?—There is not the least doubt that we are very often imposed upon, but I think that is exceptional.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

6711. Let me apply what you have said to one specific case, the case of a married man with a family, a workman, say, in the tinplate works, who has a house and some furniture, who has been out of work until he has exhausted all his money,

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

but still has a certain amount of furniture left in his house; supposing he applies to you for relief, under the present law what can you do for him?—Strictly, we can do nothing for him.

6712. Forgive me, you are not quite applying your mind to my question. There are certain tests that you apply; would you tell me the course you would have to take under the present law in giving such a man relief?—If he is an able-bodied man he must do work.

6713. Let me put this question first: is it necessary he should have sold or pawned all his furniture before you help him under the present law?—It is.

6714. Could you take the furniture yourself; could you offer him the house and take care of his furniture?—No doubt we could do that.

6715. Is it necessary before you do anything for him that he should have pawned or sold all his furniture?—As the law stands, it should be so; but I have never known a single case where that has been put in force.

6716. You cannot refer us to any statute or rule; you are speaking more from your experience of the working of the thing?—Yes, but there is no doubt that as you put it, as I understand the law, we could not. Let me take a case of this sort: a provident man has been out of work for some time from some cause——

6717. Please keep to the case I put to you, the case of a man who has been out of work for some time and parted with everything except a certain amount of furniture of his house; your view is that you could not help him at all until he had parted with everything?—That is strictly how the law stands, but we have never carried it out so. As the law stands, even if a man had a pig in a sty, for instance, he would not be strictly entitled to relief.

6718. I rather gather your proposal is this: that if a man comes to you to whom in the ordinary way you would apply the labour test before you relieve his family, instead of your setting him to stone-breaking you should tell him to go to the local authority and ask them to assist him to work?—No, not in exceptional cases of that sort. We should be bound to find a man work in such a case.

Mr. *David Randell.*

6719. You have had, I believe, but very few applications from working men in Pontypool for relief?—Very few.

6720. Is that accounted for by the fact that there is an impression in their minds that notwithstanding they are prepared to submit to any test, whether the stoneyard or any other test, still you as a Board of Guardians refuse to give them relief; is that their impression?—I have an idea that is their impression.

6721. Assuming they go up in a body, and I have a telegram here saying that between 50 and 60 have applied to the relieving officer to-day, and he has said he cannot give them relief, but will submit the matter for the consideration of your board; supposing all these men go to ask for out-relief, what is going to be the result, so

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

far as your board is concerned?—We should have to put them to the stone test.

6722. Do you know to what extent the distress is now existing; things have improved, I suppose?—A good deal of distress still continues in the Pontnewynydd district.

6723. What is the gross number of the cases at present?—I have only returns I can depend upon for 150 in the Pontnewynydd district; as regards the two other districts I have no reliable authority.

6724. From your information there are about 150 out of employment in Pontnewynydd?—Yes, in that one district, and in the others I am told by letter that a great many of the tin-plate men have gone away from the district, but they have about 200 employed now.

6725. Do you know Mr. Wintle, of Pontypool? I do.

6726. He has done very noble work, has he not, in affording relief to the poor?—Mr. Wintle has done a great deal of good, and has assisted very materially, not only in relieving distress, but also in helping to find work for the people.

6727. He is a man who gives his life up to work of this kind?—He is.

6728. He would be personally conversant with the conditions of the Pontypool district?—Yes.

6729. Let me put to you the figures he has given as to the present distress: number of men totally unemployed, 250; partially employed, 350; children dependent, 1,114; women, 350. Then for another part of your union the figures are 180 totally out of employment, and 200 partially employed. Those are the figures for to-day; have you reason to dispute the accuracy of those figures?—I should be disposed to think that is rather excessive.

6730. Then as to the future, in regard to absorbing some of the unemployed, I think the Panteg Council spent 700*l.* on road and bridge work, and the Local Government Board refused to sanction the expenditure of another 800*l.*; is not that so?—They spent 700*l.*, and they are very anxious to get additional work done, but they are unable to get the Local Government Board to sanction that expenditure in which they have spent about 800*l.* more.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6731. Has your board any rule regulating the granting of out-door relief?—It is regulated according to the Orders of the Poor Law.

6732. Have you no rules of the board specially?—No; no special rules.

6733. Do I understand you to say that your idea is that the district authorities should deal with temporary distress?—That is my idea; in the way of finding employment and putting the test.

6734. I used the word "temporary." I wish to get exactly at your meaning. Is it temporary distress or permanent distress in the district with which you would deal?—Temporary distress.

6735. From want of employment?—From want of employment.

6736. And that they should deal with those who under the present administration of the Poor Law

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

Law are ineligible for out-door relief?—That is so.

6737. That is to say that they should find work for them?—Yes.

6738. And all those men should have a right to have work found for them. I will put it in another way; the testing authority is to have no option in the matter whether they find employment for them, or not; does not your suggestion amount to that?—It would almost mean that, but I hardly think I wish to convey to the Committee an idea that they are bound to find work for these men because if they were to do that there would be the carpenter, the skilled artizan, whom they could not find work for. These local authorities could only find a certain class of work.

6739. Then with regard to men not habituated to work of that class, what would you propose to do with them; would you put them to agricultural work, or stone-breaking?—Agricultural work would be hardly remunerative in any way for temporary distress; agricultural work would not be remunerative, for we could not put men to dig in order to afford a profit.

6740. Let me take you this step farther. Who is to get the profit; the employing authority?—They would get a certain amount of profit; they would get their stones broken, and any work done at a less cost than if they had to pay otherwise. I do not mean to say they would make a profit out of it, but it would be a less loss to the ratepayer.

6741. Do you mean to say the ratepayer would get the advantage of having some return for the relief afforded?—That is so.

6742. What should the relief be; should it be according to the necessities of the man and his family, or according to the habitual earnings in the trade in which he worked?—According to the Poor Law it must be according to the scale.

6743. I am taking your scheme; take the case of a carpenter out of employment, and he comes to the district authority and asks for work; is he to be paid carpenter's wages in the district, or is he to be paid some other standard wages?—He is to be paid the wages for the work he does, stone-breaking or whatever the test may be.

6744. To be paid simply the wages for the work he does?—Yes; not the wages of his own trade but such a sum as would pay for that work done by another person.

6745. I want to test your scheme; a carpenter has to come to the district authority when he is out of work, and they are to find him work?—Yes.

6746. At what rate are they to pay him?—They are merely to pay him such a sum as would keep his family.

6747. Then it would be simply out-door relief in another form, would it not?—It would really come to that.

6748. And he might work at his own trade if the district council wanted him to do so, might he not?—Then if he worked at his own trade, or they wanted carpenter's done, they would pay him the ordinary wages of a carpenter.

6749. Then it comes to this, does it not, that if they want the work done they are to employ a man at the standard wage, and if they do not want the work done they are to employ a man at some minimum of subsistence money, which equally will come out of the rates, because it is work that is not wanted?—That is so.

6750. That is what it really comes to, is it?—That is really what I tried to convey.

6751. I did not quite understand your point with reference to the Exchequer Contribution Account in your account of finance. Will you kindly explain what you meant?—My own idea is this, that it would go to supplement the road-making, and when there is work done by the stone-breaking method, if it is done at a profit, a portion of the Exchequer Account should go, but if there is exceptional distress in any district arising from no fault of the men, and no fault of the masters, but from a failure of business which is a national calamity, I think there should be some means to meet that.

6752. How does that bear on the Exchequer Contribution?—They should get some Imperial assistance.

6753. Would you use the balance of the Exchequer Contribution Account for those purposes?—A portion of it.

6754. Would you make it a next charge after what I may call the present statutable charge upon it?—Yes, so that there should be some direct assistance.

6755. I want to find out the point of your reference to the Exchequer Contribution Account. You made a point of it in your evidence in chief, and I want to follow it up. Am I right in thinking you suggest that as a particular fund which could be devoted to the relief of exceptional temporary distress?—The county gets its main roads repaired, and a portion of that money is paid out of the Exchequer to assist in defraying the cost.

6756. The county does not get any subvention to its main roads from the Treasury. The main roads are paid for out of the general county funds, are they not?—They are; but a portion of this money is applicable for that purpose.

6757. The balance of the Exchequer Contribution Account is carried to the general county fund, is it not?—Yes.

6758. And as part of the general county fund some of it may be spent on the roads, and you say a portion of that should be spent in relieving distress, do you?—Yes, that is it.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

6759. You know the Monmouthshire Valleys very well?—Yes.

6760. And you know of all the trades which are done there at the various collieries. I want to ask you whether it is not the fact that there is great difficulty in obtaining proper qualified colliers to do the work in that district?—There is no doubt that one collier will do a great deal more than another collier will do, but it comes to this, that a collier is paid by the ton for the coal that he gets, and he only gets remunerated according to the work he does.

6761. But is there not a difficulty in getting what I may call proper qualified able-bodied colliers all along the Monmouthshire Valley; I will

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

will take all the collieries along there, including the colliery you mentioned?—Yes.

6762. Is it not the fact also that there are large building operations going on all along the valley and that cottages which are built for the colliers are eagerly snapped up by the colliers?—Yes.

6763. I think you are the chairman of the board of guardians of Pontypool and represent something like 20 parishes, do you not?—Yes.

6764. What is the number of unemployed who apply to you for relief collectively?—Are you referring to this particular occasion?

6765. Yes, on the occasion on which we have been called together?—We have none who applied collectively.

6766. Then you had none unemployed, had you?—They did not come as was suggested by one of the members of the Committee, in a body and ask us for relief.

6767. I am taking you now in your position as chairman of the board of guardians of Pontypool and making up your returns once a week; will you tell the Committee what number applied during one week for relief?—I cannot tell you how many applied each week.

6768. Have you not those returns made out?—I have not the figures by me.

6769. What class of people applied to you for relief if they were not unemployed?—The persons applying to us for relief were unemployed.

6770. In what trades; what trades did they follow?—No doubt they had been tin-plate workers and colliers, and such persons.

6771. Then they were the very old men, I suppose?—Yes, the older men. The younger men had gone away; there is no doubt they had found work.

6772. You told the Committee just now that there was great difficulty in getting able-bodied colliers in the whole of the Monmouthshire Valley?—No, I did not say that. I must have misunderstood your question if I said that.

6773. I accompanied that with another question as to the number of cottages being built and every cottage which was completed being immediately taken up?—There have been recently in our valleys, according to a return I have here, several new collieries opened, and one of the collieries I have in my own mind is in our own union, where they are building a number of houses to accommodate those people who are coming there.

6774. That is in the case of a new colliery, is it not?—Yes.

6775. Let me give you this instance; there has been recently started in the Blaena Valley a cottage company, has there not?—Yes.

6776. Which has built a very large number of cottages?—Yes.

6777. And as fast as they can build them the colliers inhabit them, do they not?—Yes.

6778. They have not a single cottage unlet, have they?—That is so.

6779. I know this from personal observation?—That is so.

6780. Andyou may take it all up the valleys in the same way, may you not?—Yes.

6781. Then I want to find out the class of people who have created this distress; the class of people who have applied to you, and who they are?—The distress is on the part of people who have applied to us, who do not live in the district you refer to.

6782. But you represent 20 parishes, do you not?—I can put the thing quite clearly, for I know every step of those valleys. I was a director, and have been a director always of the railways there, and know every step of the valley from the top to the bottom. I perhaps know the county of Monmouth better than almost anybody in the county; from Nant-y-glo to the town of Newport. I know every step of it, and I can make the matter quite clear. Taking the various collieries that are now being opened, the people migrate from other places, and as the collieries are opened and developed there is a demand for colliers; therefore, those houses are occupied by men who come from other parts. Take one of the places which we have been now dealing with before the Committee, the Glyn Colliery. There were 600 men employed in that colliery up to April last year. There are 80 houses close to the Glyn Colliery, and we will take five or six people to each house, whichever you like, so there are 400 or 500 people living just round those works. Many of those people had been working temporarily in the Llanilth Valley, where there is another colliery higher up. As the men do not care to travel from the Glyn right over to Haford Yrinis, six or seven miles to their work and back again, they would give anything for a house on the spot.

6783. What was the cause of the closing of the Glyn Colliery, was it the inferior coal?—No; it was the want of success on the part of the lessees of it. As far as the coal is concerned, I am sanguine enough to believe that the colliery will be opened again. The works now will revert to the original lessee, the Ebbw Vale Company. The colliery is 90 yards deep, which is not a deep colliery, and the coal is a very good coal, or a fairly good coal, and it is within nine miles of the shipping port.

6784. May the Committee take it that except for the failure of the Glyn Colliery you had no special distress?—On the part of colliers?

6785. Or from any other source?—Yes, the tin-plate workers are thrown out.

6786. But they are gone, are they not?—A great many are gone, but there are a large number still living in the district; there are about 200 at the outside, who only get spasmodic employment now and again. I think the men have shown a very high spirit. Instead of saying: "I will work the whole time," they have said to their neighbours, "You shall work half a day this day and I will work half a day another day."

6787. What has become of the girls who were employed at the tin-plate works?—They are there now, a great many of them still, having no employment.

Mr. *Whiteley*.

6788. With regard to your idea that the local authority should find the labour test in the case of temporary distress, seeing that the local authority and the guardians represent the same ratepayers, what does it matter?—It is not exactly the same, if you will pardon me. The guardians find

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

find employment and payment out of the Poor Rate; the local authority get it out of a district rate, a different rate altogether.

6789. But they are practically the same ratepayers, are they not?—Yes.

6790. And it really makes no difference, does it?—No; but my idea is, it would be very much better that they should have the power of using materials which the guardians have not. We have to bring the material to a place, break it up, and cannot use it, but the local authority might use it for the repair of the roads; they can find employment for men in the district; but we have no power to do anything except to provide unprofitable work.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

6791. You made a statement in respect of the Scotch Poor Law from which you rather led the Committee, I think, to infer that you thought it more favourable to the able-bodied unemployed than the law in England, did you not?—If a deserving poor person in Scotland had saved some small sum, that could be supplemented out of the rates, whereas to be entitled to any assistance from the rates in England under our law, a man must be absolutely destitute; that is really the only test. There is no encouragement in the English law for thrift at all; a man must be devoid of everything to be entitled to relief, whereas in Scotland, as I understand it, they can be assisted in the way I have said. I have instances in my own mind which I have had to deal with, in which I have found the utmost difficulty, and if the auditor had found out what I had done I should be surcharged.

6792. Are you aware that the unemployed, however destitute, under the Scotch Poor Law, if able-bodied, have no claim whatever to parochial relief?—I accept that as true.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

6793. I think you stated that one of the industries in your district was that carried on at tin-plate works, did you not?—Yes.

6794. Which has been very depressed of late, has it not?—Yes.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

6795. On account of the American opposition?—That is chiefly the cause.

6796. Is it within your knowledge that some of the employers of labour at tin-plate works told their men if they would take lower wages, they would be able to employ them still?—I believe that is so, but I am not aware of it personally. I have heard it, but I think it is due to the men to say that; I have also heard the men have made concessions to their masters. We have several works besides the ones I have referred to to-day in our valley lower down, between Newport and Pontypool, but the larger manufactories are in what we call the Western Valley; at one time there was some slight misunderstanding between the masters and the men there, but I have been told, and I believe my information is correct, that the men have met the masters in some way.

Chairman.

6797. Have you anything that you wish to add to your evidence?—Yes; there is one thing I should like to add. I am a very old magistrate of the county; I preside at the court at Pontypool, and I think it is due to the men who have been suffering so much, and who have been subject to such privations to make this statement. The thermometer during January and February showed 20 degrees of frost, and, during the whole of that time, I had not one single case of a workman, or any of the employees at the tin-plate works, they or their children, or their families, not one of them was brought before the court for doing anything which was contrary to the law. I think it is only due to say, however hard their privations were, or however great their sufferings were, they have never been tempted to rob or steal, and that, mind you, in a district where we have a large amount of coal floating about on the railways. I think I ought to say that, in common honesty to men who have suffered so much and who have behaved so well. I think I may also say that at our last Quarter Sessions we had only two prisoners, and neither of them came from that district.

Mr. PHILIP MEADOWS MARTINEAU, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

6798. You have had a large and varied experience and acquaintance with the subjects with which the Committee have to deal, have you not?—Yes.

6799. I believe you have for many years acted as a Justice of the Peace?—Yes.

6800. And therefore have heard excuses from paying rates on the ground of poverty in St. George's-in-the-East?—And in Whitechapel and Spitalfields, Limehouse, Ratcliff, and in Mile End Old Town, all separate sessions.

6801. Then you have had a still more direct experience of the subject as guardian of the poor in St. George's-in-the-East, have you not?—Yes.

6802. I believe you have for many years acted

Chairman—continued.

in that capacity, have you not?—Certainly twelve years, and I do not miss attendance twice a year from the fortnightly meetings.

6803. Primarily, were you a delegated guardian?—I was.

6804. But now I think you are in another capacity?—I stood my election, and I happened to be returned at the top of the poll.

6805. Which shows, I suppose, that the opinion of the electors, at all events, confirmed your conduct in the previous capacity?—At all events they did not feel strongly that my views were wrong.

6806. I believe you can also speak as a School Board Manager?—Yes.

6807. In the same part of London?—For the

Chairman—continued.

Berners-street School, St. George's-in-the-East, which is, I think, about as poor a school as there is in East London.

6808. Further, were you connected with the Mansion House Relief Fund?—I was. I was one of the two almoners for St. George's-in-the-East.

6809. In what year was that?—That was ten years ago, I think, exactly; 2,000*l.* was sent to me and my colleague, and I had the main distribution of it, because I happened to have rather more leisure than Mr. Sly, my colleague, had.

6810. Further, your position on the London County Council brought you into contact with these questions, did it not?—It did.

6811. In what way?—I was Chairman of the Industrial Schools for the County of London which take vagrant boys from the poorest parts of London. I also was Chairman for three years of the Asylums' Committee of the London County Council, and had to do with all the pauper lunatics of the County of London, and in connection with that I may say that for the last ten or a dozen years, as a magistrate, I have certified the insane paupers for three parishes in East London; I certainly certify one insane pauper every day in my life, averaging 360 a year. I certified three this morning, for instance.

6812. I wish to bring these facts out, because really the authority which is due to your opinion in these matters is almost unique. You also have been, I believe, an active member of the Charity Organisation Society?—I have for ten years, and I very seldom miss their meetings once a week.

6813. Further, are you a director of a dwelling house company?—Yes, for a very poor class especially; for the costermonger class, the East End Dwellings Company.

6814. And lastly, have you been, and are you, an employer of labour?—I was a large employer of labour ten years ago in St. George's-in-the-East, but I am not now.

6815. During the past severe winter, did the East of London poor suffer very exceptionally through loss of work, and what, in your opinion, were the causes of that?—I think in St. George's-in-the-East they did not suffer very exceptionally, only rather exceptionally during the very severe weather, when the river was frozen and the docks were frozen; they did suffer more than usual then, but otherwise not more than they normally do.

6816. Do you think any exceptional distress was due to the exceptional severity of the weather?—I do.

6817. Were there in that locality ways and means sufficient for relieving those who did suffer?—I think there were.

6818. In what way?—The Charity Organisation Society never refused to give help, even money help, in fit cases that came before them. I think every poor person in the parish, with the rarest exception, is aware of that; it is a small parish, and they talk over things together; the relieving officers are also in close touch with the society, and therefore, I think, nearly every poor person in the parish was aware of that society; that they could come before them if they liked, and that if they came their cases were gone into; we never refused help in what we thought a helpful case. The clergy also, I may say, had plenty of funds, speaking not only of the Church of England, but of the dissenting clergy, with whom I am in touch.

Chairman—continued.

6819. You are probably aware, even if you have not seen the evidence, that the Committee have had a good deal of evidence bearing chiefly upon St. George's-in-the-East from Mr. Mackay?—Yes.

6820. With whose views, generally, I suppose, you are in sympathy?—I am.

6821. What is your opinion as to the effect that out-door relief would have had in St. George's-in-the-East?—I think it would have helped us very little indeed.

6822. Do you think it might have done harm?—I do. I knew the place 20 years ago, when there was a great deal of out-door relief given. In 1875, when I knew St. George's-in-the-East intimately, we had in the workhouse then 1,248 in-paupers, and 1,799 out-relief paupers. In this year, 1895, we have 1,016 in-paupers only, less than 20 years ago, though the population is about the same, and only four out-relief paupers at the moment.

6823. And that without leaving, you think, any large number of people in destitution?—They are all very poor; the whole parish is very poor, but I doubt whether any real starvation cases occur, or very few. Perhaps I may say, as a Board School Manager, this last winter I made a point of asking the girls' schoolmistress and the infant schoolmistress several times, whether the children had breakfast before they came to school. I have gone with the mistresses into the schools, looked round at the children, and have asked, can you pick out any children here who have not had breakfast to-day; the ladies have said always, we think every child here has had something for breakfast. I not only have asked that question this winter, but I have made it my business for past winters. I believe those ladies speak the truth. Though they are the poorest children in London, they always come to school with clothed feet.

6824. What is the general occupation of the bread-winners of the people in St. George's-in-the-East?—Dock labourers, carmen, painters, and tailors' hands.

6825. Since what would you consider a more healthy management has been applied to the Poor Law of that district, do you discern any increase of frugality and independence on the part of the people?—I think so.

6826. That they do more for themselves now than they used to do?—I think so. I am intimately acquainted with the neighbouring parish of Bethnal Green, where, I think, they are giving 200*l.* a week in out-relief as against 2*l.* a week with us; and I think the poverty in Bethnal Green is as bad as ours, if not worse. I go to the houses of the poor in Bethnal Green often to certify the lunatics, and the poverty there seems quite as intense as with us.

6827. What have you to tell the Committee as to your experience of the great Mansion House Relief Fund some years ago?—I had

Chairman—continued.

2,000*l.* sent me that year. I gave it away with great misgivings, and then I consider I did as much harm with that 2,000*l.* as I did good.

Mr. *Acland.*

6828. Was that in 1886-87?—Yes. In connection with that I may perhaps say I happen to know that in St. Pancras parish 2,000*l.* was raised this winter to be given away among the unemployed. A guardian, with whom I am very intimate, a man of great experience, told me two days ago that he had great difficulty in getting rid of 1,200*l.* of that; he has 800*l.* left over for the next winter, and his words were, "I look with dismay to having to get rid of that money next winter."

Chairman.

6829. Still, the Charity Organisation Society, with which you are connected, does give charitable relief, but only of a temporary kind, while the recipients are looking out for something to do?—Yes; and not to a greater extent than 500*l.* or 600*l.* a year all told in St. George's-in-the-East. The last three months were exceptional, and the amount then distributed was 200*l.* about.

6830. Then is it your opinion that men out of employment can get along without out-door relief?—I think they can get along hardly and poorly, but I think they can get along. Some three days ago I met an old hand of my own, a man about my own age, and I said to him: "How have you got on this winter"; he said, "I have managed it. I have one or two children." Children in St. George's-in-the-East can always pick up money.

6831. In what sort of way?—As errand boys, and in carmen's places they can always get employment; in fact at times I cannot even get boys from my Berners-street Board School for posts I can get them. The women can always earn a few shillings a week at sack-making, and the men get odd jobs. This man I allude to, not a skilled hand, had managed to rub through this winter without coming into the house.

6832. And equally without applying to the Charity Organisation Society?—Yes, he had got no help. The poor are extremely neighbourly and helpful one towards another.

6833. What do you believe to be the general feeling in the parish as to out-door relief?—I do not think they can feel strongly in its favour, or they would hardly have returned me, a known opponent of it, at the top of the poll.

6834. Do you draw any distinction between ordinary and exceptional times?—Personally, I should be always against out-door relief in St. George's-in-the-East. I am only speaking of a parish I know. We have got through the last winter without it.

6835. But supposing in another parish there was, from exceptional causes, and causes implying no fault at all on the part of the people affected, a great amount of distress; would you still harden your heart against out-door relief?—I should like to try and meet it by the local charities and the Charity Organisation Society; until they failed I should have faith in them.

6836. Do you think the giving of what we call

Chairman—continued.

charity in that manner has something of the degrading character of Poor Law relief?—I do not think it does so much harm, because if there is Poor Law relief given, everyone thinks they have a right to it. If it is charity they are more diffident about applying; they do not feel they have a right to it. I think in our parish if we had out-door relief we should have to give it to pretty nearly half the parish, to be just. They are all very poor.

6837. Among your many charitable occupations and public duties, you are manager of a company for dwelling houses for the poor in Whitechapel, I believe?—Yes.

6838. What was your experience this last winter with regard to that, as to rents?—The arrears of rents did not grow; they were scarcely larger than in previous winters.

6839. And that is with reference to the very poorest class, is it not?—Yes, for the very poor we have rooms as low as 1*s.* 9*d.* a week; costermongers I put as the lowest respectable poor people there are.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6840. Costermongers sometimes make a good living, do they not?—Oh yes, they make a living.

Chairman.

6841. It has been proposed that the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund should be extended to out-door relief; what is your view upon that point?—I am very strongly against that. I find in our poor parish whenever anything can be got from the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund the tendency is to have it; and I think if out-door relief were found by the Common Poor Fund, a poor parish like ours would think we ought to have a giant's share of it.

6842. And create a demand upon it, even if the demand did not actually exist?—I think so.

6843. Would that be equally your view of any form of public subvention?—It would.

6844. In exceptional winters, I suppose, the ordinary sources of charitable assistance are more active and widely opened than usual, that is to say through the clergy and different societies?—Yes. East London gets plenty of money sent it in bad winters.

6845. We have heard it hinted to this Committee that East London gets a little too much charity?—I am not sure that it does not.

6846. I am not sure it was not an honourable Member of the Committee who said if there was a barrier at Temple Bar to prevent anything going from the West to the East, it would be an advantage to the East. That may be too broadly put, but there is something in that view, is there not?—Yes, there is something in that.

6847. Are you able to compare two parishes where out-door relief is not given?—Yes; Whitechapel and St. George's as against Bethnal Green.

6848. Have you any figures you can put in?—I can merely say, roughly, that in Bethnal Green they give 200*l.* a week compared to our next to nothing in St. George's, and I am confident that the poverty in Bethnal Green is as severe and acute as it is in our parish.

Chairman—continued.

6849. Have you any general remarks you would like to make?—I would like to say my own view is that what we should do is to make the poor more independent, more thrifty and careful, as far as possible; to discourage the very early marriages that occur with us. We have boys of 18 and 19 constantly marrying girls of 16 and 17, and even 15. I should like also to see wages rather higher and better than they are. I am in favour of trades union rates of wages being paid; I am against sweating; I should improve, as far as possible, the status and pay of the working man; I should like as far as possible to encourage their being in clubs; I am a strong advocate for teetotalism, certainly temperance among the poor, and I wish the children could be brought up to some skilled work. The great trouble we have is when a poor man comes and asks for work, and we ask him what he wants, he says, "I can take anything"; that means he can do nothing; and if the children could only be taught some definite trade, instead of being brought up to nothing definite, it would be better. Then the children of the very poor in East London do not get their schooling; they shirk and escape their schools. At the industrial schools of the London County Council, countless waifs and strays come of 13 and 14 years of age who have never been to school; they are not caught. They are of the vagrant class, living sometime two or three weeks and then shifting somewhere else. I am much impressed with the enormous benefit board school teaching does to children not only with regard to their lessons but in their cleanliness and health, and making them manly boys and womanly girls.

6850. That would be a difficulty which could not be got over, would it not?—I think it ought to be got over.

6851. It is not from want of care on the part of the school board officers, is it?—I think they go after the easiest cases of course. Then I think that children should help their parents more than they do. They are so inclined, in East London, to cut themselves adrift by these early marriages and not help the old people. I see a great deal of that.

6852. I suppose there is no way of preventing them, but if there were any means of discouraging early marriages would not that lead to other evils?—Of course there is that; but 17, 18, and 19 is very young to think of marriage. My own feeling is, that out-door relief, and also finding State money for the unemployed in exceptional times, would run counter to all these views that, rightly or wrongly, I think to be the sound ones; and I am even inclined to question whether pensions in old age is not a subject which ought to be very carefully considered and weighed before legislation takes place in that direction.

6853. There would no doubt be time for that, because no scheme for that purpose has yet been put forward?—Quite so. Perhaps on the question of rate appeals I should say this: We can excuse rates on the ground of poverty only when the appellants ask to be excused their rates. When, 15 years ago, I used to sit, we used to excuse a great many poor people from paying their rates. I generally sit with a colleague, sometimes alone, and in all the cases that come before us now we hardly ever excuse at all, and I do not see that the poor have suffered by our ceasing to excuse their rates. It used to take, in Mile End Old Town, two days to hear the cases; now I hear them in an hour and a half. They do not come, and I do not think they suffer.

Chairman—continued.

6854. What moral do you draw from that?—I think that if you help number one in a street by excusing him on the ground of poverty, number two, up to number one hundred, will all come on the same grounds. You must excuse them all, and, if you do not excuse number one, he does not come up again and does manage to pay somehow.

6855. The rate is not a very heavy amount, after all, is it?—In the cases I am speaking of it may easily be 10*l.* a year. So many live by taking lodgers; those are the people who come and say they cannot afford to pay, because the lodgers do not pay them.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

6856. What sort of assessment would that represent?—The rates are about 6*s.* in the £. with us, poor and general.

Chairman.

6857. Do you think that the boards of guardians have, at present, enough powers to deal with their duties?—I do.

6858. And you would not extend those powers, would you?—No; I do not think we are perfect, but I think the present Poor Law works well.

6859. In cases of positive destitution do you think they have perfect power?—Yes, I am sorry to say it, but I think there is the workhouse for those cases.

Mr. *Acland.*

6860. You have read Mr. Mackay's evidence, I suppose?—Yes, in the papers.

6861. And I gather you agree in the main with his views, do you not?—Yes, I do.

6862. You think, do you not, that stone-yards and out-door relief are mistakes?—Yes.

6863. And that all forms of relief works are mistaken methods of helping the poor?—Yes.

6864. I rather gather that you think the amount of charitable funds required by what I suppose is a well-administered society like the Charity Organisation Society, is really small even in a district like your own?—That is so.

6865. Are they trusted with the administration of existing charitable endowments?—Yes.

6866. Are they many?—We have not many in St. George's-in-the-East. I am upon one or two of them, but they would be mostly pensions.

6867. Supposing anyone left a considerable endowment for nursing the poor, and old age pensions, in St. George's-in-the-East, which amounted to a large annual sum, do you think that possibly might do more harm than good?—I do.

6868. And you are doubtful, are you, whether any form of bequest for old age pensions would be a good thing?—I think it wants very careful watching indeed.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

6869. You would not welcome, in fact, any large charitable gift to the parish?—I should be very sorry to have to give it away.

6870. Even if it took the form of a charity for nursing the poor?—I think there is almost sufficient done in that way now there.

6871. Do you think the very poor people in the parish really have enough in the way of comfort and assistance in sickness at the present time?—I daresay they would benefit by having more, but extreme care would be required in giving it. If given with very great discretion, as the Charity Organisation Society gives it, I think it might be given.

6872. Do you think the sending of a capable nurse to the house of a poor person in a case of real sickness would have a demoralising effect?—I would rather take them to the hospital; I do not know that it would demoralise them.

6873. You do not feel confident, then, that the sending of a nurse to a sick home would necessarily be demoralising?—I would much rather take the poor into an infirmary or hospital.

6874. Do you not think there are a good many cases in which they do not wish to be taken?—Yes, but I think it would be good for them to be taken.

6875. They are very much like other people, are they not, that they do not wish to be moved any more than the rich would like to be moved to the hospital themselves?—But I think a poor woman in one or two rooms, with a nurse, would not be so well off as she would be in an infirmary or hospital.

6876. In your experience of the last 20 years, do you think on the whole there has been a lessening of the poverty in your district?—I think so.

6877. Do you think the general conditions are not quite so bad as they were?—I think they are not quite so bad as they were 10 years ago.

6878. Do you think, on the whole, there is more opportunity of employment than there used to be?—For the children I think there is more.

6879. How about the adults?—For the men there is not more.

6880. Is there a tendency on the part of the children to cut out, by their labour, the older people?—Yes, the growing-up young people cut out the old people.

6881. How are the older people to be provided for?—They are often helped by their children.

6882. Do I understand it is your wish that that help should be much more frequent than it is?—Yes.

6883. And where it is not given, the older labourers are in a difficult position, are they not?—The older people ought, if they had been in good work, to have saved a little something.

6884. But there are a good many cases, are there not, where illness and trouble come upon them, in which it would be very difficult for them to do so, however much they might wish to do so?—That is so.

6885. I suppose there are a certain number of workers willing to work who do find it difficult to keep in continuous employment, are there not?—Yes.

6886. What do you think would be the best

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

way of dealing with them?—I do not like outdoor relief for them, certainly. Are you speaking of people past work?

6887. No, not people past work, but people who find it difficult to get into work?—I should say people who have been in good work, and are now out of employ, ought to have put by something to carry them through the time when they are out of work. If they have not done that, they can get on by pawning, which is not nice of course.

6888. But I am speaking of a class of people who possibly through some deficiency of their own, inherited possibly, are not able to keep in very regular work, and who therefore really find it difficult, or who may have had misfortune or sickness in the family. Take such people, say, of the age of 50; how would you propose to deal with them?—I should think they ought to be helped by their own people.

6889. If they have any?—Yes.

6890. And if they have not?—Are you taking the case of people who could never get work again?

6891. I am taking the case of a man of 50 who cannot get work for some weeks; how would you treat him?—I think he will get on really by help from his children or neighbours. In the case of a man who has no children or neighbours, I think the Charity Organisation Society would pull him through, if it was only for a short time.

6892. Supposing it is a permanent case?—I should think if it is a permanent case, he would have to go into the house if he has made no provision at all, and has no friends to help him; I think he must go into the workhouse.

6893. Even if he has had no opportunity of making provision?—Yes, I am afraid you cannot draw such distinctions.

6894. You would like to see, would you not, if possible, the wages higher than they are now?—Certainly.

6895. But I suppose it is rather difficult to look forward to any method by which that is to be achieved, is it not?—Yes, it is.

6896. With regard to the children who have had something, as you say, to eat before they came to school, I suppose that something may be very small?—Very poor.

6897. But sufficient?—I think sufficient; the children do not look to me starved.

6898. Do cases ever arise in your school where a teacher would feel it necessary to send out, perhaps, out of kindness of heart, to get something for a child to eat?—I am sure the ladies I referred to would do so.

6899. But do those cases ever arise?—I think not.

6900. You spoke of the irregularity of attendance at school on the part of children who come to you for the first time in industrial schools?—Yes.

6901. Do you think there are a certain definite number year by year who really escape school altogether?—I am sure of it.

6902. Have you considered at all, as a manager, or made any recommendations as to how that

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

can be avoided?—No; you see I am not a member of the School Board.

6903. But it is open to managers to make such recommendations, is it not?—Yes, I have often talked it over with the masters and mistresses, but we have always felt the difficulty that they are on the move every two or three weeks.

6904. And you think, do you, it is really difficult even for a skilled attendance officer to get hold of them?—It is difficult, but I think it ought to be surmounted; I am not prepared to say how. I think it is very important it should be surmounted. Sometimes at the age of 16 we have to turn out children from the industrial school who have had very little education; they have had a very bad start in life.

6905. Are you satisfied with the present administration of industrial schools?—Yes.

6906. The weak point is that you do not get them as you would like to get them, is it?—We do not.

6907. You said something about the importance of their having a more definite trade. Have you, as a manager of schools, seen your way to any practical suggestions as to how children should be better taught in that respect?—Yes, we have introduced several fresh trades into our schools in the form of mat-making, basket-making, and other trades.

6908. Do you think that is going to be useful?—I think so.

6909. What you want to do is to make them as handy as possible before they leave school, is it not?—Yes, so that they may be able to say they can do something. We want them to have a definite trade.

6910. When you say a definite trade, it is rather difficult at that age to teach a definite trade, is it not?—Some industries, such as tailoring and shoe-making, can be learned.

6911. Do you think they can learn that before leaving the ordinary elementary school?—Yes.

6912. Then, in your opinion, is there a good deal more to be done in that way?—I think there is.

6913. And that something is gained by making them a good deal more handy in several trades, than, perhaps, their parents have been?—Yes, we teach them gardening and farming, for instance.

6914. Have you opportunities for that?—Yes, we have cows, pigs, and so on.

6915. That is in the industrial schools, is it not?—Yes, in the industrial schools.

6916. I was speaking of the elementary schools?—We have nothing of the kind there.

6917. Are you anxious to see such things in the elementary schools?—Yes, and we have improved them lately.

6918. Then when you talked of definite trades you were speaking of the industrial schools, were you not?—What I mean is this, that it is a pity that the parents do not put their children out to learn something definitely, and not let them work as simple dock labourers.

6919. You were speaking, were you, of what the parents should do, so as to prevent their children growing up without their being able to do anything definite?—Quite so.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6920. You heard, did you not, the proposal that those who received relief should not lose the Parliamentary Vote?—Yes.

6921. Do you approve of that proposal?—I should certainly approve of it so far as infirmary relief goes, but I am not sure that I have made up my mind as to out-door relief on the subject.

6922. Do I understand that you consider all these proposals as to State help and employment, and so on, tend to discourage thrift?—I think they do.

6923. Do they tend to decrease the wages?—I think so, certainly.

6924. And that they are such evils that they counterbalance any good they might do?—Yes.

6925. As regards your practical experience over these many years in this very poor district, do you consider that the strict administration of relief has tended to decrease the suffering of the people or to increase it?—I think it has tended to decrease it.

6926. Do you think it has actually decreased it?—I think it has.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

6927. Your experience has been principally confined to the metropolitan district, has it not?—Yes. I live in the country.

Mr. *Logan.*

6928. I understood you to say that you thought the present Poor Law works very well, and that you are opposed to the granting of out-door relief, I might say practically, under any circumstances?—Yes.

6929. Do you consider it fair that a man who has never had a wage which enabled him to put anything by should be compelled, when he is out of work through stress of weather, or through any other cause, to go to the workhouse?—I think an exceptional case like that must go to the workhouse; I should be very sorry for it, but I think he must.

6930. Have you any remedy to suggest for that exceptional case?—No.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

6931. In fact if it was known that relief would be given in the case Mr. Acland put, when a man had turned 50, it would assuredly enable men of his class to work for a less wage than one out of which savings could be made, would it not?—Yes.

6932. Can you give any information as to the causes which have driven the shipbuilding industry from your district. Can you give any figures as to the rate of wages which prevail in that district as compared with what prevails in Glasgow?—I cannot.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6933. You said that you feared that the competition of children and growing-up persons rendered

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

dered it rather difficult for men above a certain age to secure employment?—Yes.

6934. Is that due to deficiency of adaptability on the part of the older people?—Yes, I think it is to some extent.

6935. A lack of assimilative power?—Yes.

6936. And refused to go outside the immediate district to secure employment?—Yes.

6937. You have had, as I know, great experience in industrial school work; do you find that in your district, with regard to child labour, a certain class of parents are reckless as to what happens to their children until they reach what one may term an earning period of their life?—That is so. They hardly come to see them at the schools till they are sixteen, but when they come to be sixteen and fit to leave and earn a few shillings a week, they show the greatest devotion for them, and forbid us to send them away to occupations we could get for them. When they get to be sixteen they look them up with a view to getting them home, and they tell us they have beautiful berths for them.

6938. To what extent does the tendency of child labour to compete with labour of older persons demoralise men who are over say 35 or 40 years of age?—I do not think it interferes so much with them, but I think a lad of 18 or 20 would cut out a man of 50 at work.

6939. Do you believe that the tendency is for child and young labour to displace adult labour in manufactories?—I was talking more of dock labour. In a manufactory, of course, a skilled man is valuable at 50, and even older.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

6940. Then it only applies to certain industries, in your opinion?—Yes.

6941. Have you formed any opinion as to the value or otherwise of local authorities adapting certain of their public works to seasonly and climatic circumstances?—No; I do not know that I have thought of that.

6942. May I put it in this way: supposing you were a member of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, or any other such public body, and they had to spend 50,000*l.*, say, in six months, with two hours a day overtime for all men who worked on that class of work; in the event of it being possible to distribute that work over nine months of a normal day, would you prefer it being done?—Certainly.

6943. Then I gather that you are in favour, where practicable, and not extravagant and wasteful, of distributing the total amount of work to be done under conditions where the greatest number of men would be employed with no overtime?—Certainly I should like to limit all labour, if possible, to eight hours a day if it could be done.

6944. And no overtime?—Yes.

6945. Do you think that would have a beneficial effect on the unemployed problem?—I think it would, and I think the work would be as well done as it is now in the 10 hours.

6946. And do you believe the fact of so limiting the day would lead to steadier and more regular habits on the part of the men?—I do.

Tuesday, 30th April 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Reverend WILLIAM TUCKWELL, M.A., called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

6947. YOU are Rector of Waltham in Lincolnshire?—Yes.

6948. You have had considerable experience of the condition of agricultural labourers, and have formed strong opinions on the question of their position, and the tendency to depopulation in country districts and congestion in towns, have you not?—I have. I have visited 500 or 600 villages in different parts of England, and have seen the men's homes, and have talked to them, and I have tried an experiment in my own home of replacing men upon the land; and all my experience points to the fact that one chief cause of the unemploy in the towns is the rural exodus from the villages.

6949. Can you give any figures showing the decrease in the village population?—The decrease began, as far as I can make out, about the year 1873. The 1881 census, when dissected, showed that, whereas previously to that the normal increase in the villages had been 17 per cent., in the decade between 1871 and 1881 in 2,000 ex-metropolitan sub-districts one-half showed an actual decrease of population, and that this decrease was most noticeable in purely agricultural counties. For instance, in Lincolnshire, 47 out of 55 sub-districts showed a decrease, and in Wiltshire 27 out of 37 sub-districts showed a decrease. Dr. Wallace, who is an authority on the subject, and has taken great pains with it, adding to this actual decrease the observable decrease from the previous increase of 17 per cent. in the previous decade, works out figures to show that in the 10 years two million persons, including agricultural labourers, small farmers, small tradesmen and artizans, had migrated from the villages to the towns. On the other hand, everyone who investigates the conditions of employment in the big towns learns how very many of the unskilled labourers who flock there have come in from the country; and I observe that Sir John Gorst, in a speech in the House of Commons early in the year, told them that from his observation of West Ham he had ascertained

Chairman—continued.

that out of 10,000 men actually unemployed at the moment he visited it, 5,000 had recently migrated from the country. I have asked Dr. Wallace if he had taken the figures for the more recent decade, from 1881 to 1891, and he tells me he has not, but that all the evidence points to a yet larger decrease than in the previous decade.

6950. Is this a decrease, do you think, of individuals or of families?—Of individuals, the individual representing the family. The figures represent individual heads of families.

6951. What I mean is, have whole families migrated to the towns, or have the more able-bodied members of the community gone to the towns and left the others behind?—Unquestionably the able-bodied members of the community have invariably been the first to go to the towns. Villages in many parts of England now are garrisoned, like David's Jebus, by the halt, the blind, and the lame, who were "hated of David's soul," because the able-bodied men have gone to the towns.

6952. What is your opinion as to the causes of this exodus?—First of all there has been the diminished demand for labourers. The obsolete methods of farming which the big farmers throughout England have continued to practise are ruining them in every direction, and have compelled them to starve their labour bill. I know an immense number of places where three men are employed now where as many as a dozen used to be employed; so that a young man looking round for his livelihood finds he will really have no chance of being employed at all in the country and leaves the village.

6953. You think it is not that they have adopted a new system of agriculture which requires fewer hands?—No, I think not.

6954. But that they are applying the old system with a diminished number of hands?—That is what I wanted to convey. Then a much more important point is the growing formulated discontent of the labourer with his condition. In former days he took it as he took rheumatism or the

Chairman—continued.

the bad weather. But education has shaped and increased his discontent with it. He feels, first of all, discontented with his poverty. It has been shown and proved, and it has never been answered, that a labouring man with a wife and four growing children requires 21*s.* a week to live upon as the minimum of decency and comfort.

6955. In country districts?—In country districts. Now Mr. Kebbels and Major Craigie, who have taken great pains to strike an average, are of opinion that the average wage of agricultural labourers in England, taking the 1*l.* a week of Northumberland and the 10*s.* of Dorsetshire together, and making every allowance for harvest-money and house-money and perquisites, cannot be made more than 15*s.* a week, which is 6*s.* a week below this minimum of decency and comfort. Then, again, the labourer of late revolts against the thraldom in which he is held. He holds his house and his work in almost all cases at a week's notice; he is at the mercy of his employer, and his employer is, in many cases, very merciless. If he shows independence, if he is known to vote against the will of his employer, or if he complains of the foul surroundings of his cottage, he knows there is a good chance of being turned out. It is a common saying, to my knowledge, in agricultural districts, before an election for Parliament, or for the School Board, or for the County Council: "Now mind, John, if Mr. So-and-so gets in it will be worse for you"; and the labourer has come to be dissatisfied with that state of things. Then, finally, the labourer is distressed by the utter hopelessness of his position. His 10*s.*, or 12*s.*, or 14*s.* a week will be his wages for the end of time, and the vista is closed by the workhouse.

6956. Has his condition suffered, do you think, from the loss of income on the part of the squires, and from their absence in many cases from their properties, so that there is less of that generous treatment which used to exist of a patriarchal kind?—You mean less of the coal and blanket element?

6957. I mean that sort of thing. The Lady Bountiful element?—No, I do not think that is so. I do not think there are very many non-resident squires, nor do I think that those who remain have economised in coal and blankets. But the labourer is no longer able to gild with coal and blankets the bitter pill, as he did previously.

6958. Of course, the easier communication with the towns enables them to contrast their own position with that of other people better than they did before?—Precisely.

6959. I understand you have made an experiment in attempting to improve the condition of the labourer; will you tell us something about that?—I was rector of a small and very poor village in Warwickshire, with a population of about 800, and in the beginning of the year 1886 I offered the men 100 acres in allotments.

6960. You say you offered them this land; how did you become possessed of it?—It was glebe land, and it happened to fall vacant; it fell on my hands, and I offered it to the labourers; 80 labourers took it up. We divided it into

Chairman—continued.

portions ranging from a third of an acre up to four acres, and settled by lot, according to what each man wanted, what he should have. The land was very foul, and I gave it to them for two years without rent, on the condition that they should thoroughly clean it in the time, and at the end of the two years it was some of the cleanest land in England. Then I made an agreement with them that they should have it with fixed tenure, as long as my incumbency lasted, at 1*l.* an acre, which was the fair agricultural rent of the district. Once a year I gave prizes for the best allotments, and got Members of Parliament and other eloquent people to come down and talk to them and encourage them. In the year 1888 we found that whereas the average yield of farmers' land in England was 28 bushels of wheat to the acre, our average yield was 42 bushels of wheat to the acre; and the average went on increasing, some men getting as much as 60 bushels out of their cultivated acre of land. Shortly afterwards we began to take stock of the actual money gain, and the result showed that any man working an acre in his spare time could, and they most of them did, clear four shillings a week throughout the year upon his acre of land. That result was disputed, and eagerly disputed. I invited criticism. I published balance-sheets of my labourers' accounts, and an expert from Birmingham was sent down to inspect the sheets and survey the land, and he bore me out in every respect. I had proved my point. The last year I was there (that is the year before last) we found in looking into our figures that we had in the past year taken 800*l.* out of the land and put it into the cottages.

Mr. *Mather.*

6961. In how many years?—The experiment lasted from 1886 to 1892.

Mr. *Bartley.*

6962. Has it stopped now?—I am sorry to say it has. Perhaps I may come to that presently, if the Committee will allow me.

6963. Can you tell us something of the manner in which they cultivated the land?—There are two reasons why allotment land bears so much more than farmers' land. One is that the cultivation is very much better. Where the farmer hoes once, the labourer hoes four times, for he has no labour bill; where the farmer puts on one load of muck, the labourer puts on two. But a much more important reason is that the farmer grows for sale, but the labourer grows for consumption. Low prices knock down the farmer; but the labourer snaps his finger at low prices, for he knows that he must grow very much cheaper than he can buy. A labourer with a wife and four growing children (which I take as a typical family) eats in a year 30 bushels of wheat and 43 bushels of potatoes and 208 lbs. of bacon, which is fed on 13 bushels of beans. If you total that up you find he would pay for that food stuff 19*l.* 10*s.* in the shops. His outgoings of rent, rates, the pig, and manure and seeds and threshing barely reach 5*l.*; so he buys 19*l.* 10*s.* worth of food for 5*l.*

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

6964. Out of how much land?—One and an eighth or one and a quarter acres.

Chairman.

6965. That is your explanation of the large profits that were made under your allotments, as compared with the ordinary results of farming at the present time?—Yes.

6966. Was there anything that militated against the success of your experiment?—Yes, very seriously. I could not give the men permanent fixity of tenure, and I could not enable them to put cottages on the land under the same conditions. It was glebe land. Several Members of Parliament and other gentlemen offered to put up cottages for me; but they were men of business, and, of course, required the security of the cottage and the land it stood upon, and that I could not give, for my successor might have repudiated the whole thing as soon as I left. As a matter of fact, he did repudiate it, which was a question asked me just now. He turned out some of my tenants with no notice, and he has raised the rent on others. To alter a line of Sir Walter Scott's:

"On his head,
A parson's malison be said."

Mr. *Bolton.*

6967. Did you apply to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for consent to lease a portion of your land?—I might have had 25 years' lease with the consent of the bishop, the patron, and the incumbent; but the bishop refused.

6968. You applied to the bishop for his consent?—Yes, and he refused.

6969. Could you not grant building leases under the Ecclesiastical Commissioners?—I was informed not, without the consent of the bishop and patron.

Chairman.

6970. You applied to the bishop for his consent. Did the bishop say why he did not consent; was it because it was something unusual?—No; the bishop first fenced with it, and said it would be troublesome. I showed him I should not mind the trouble, and then he said he feared it would be disadvantageous to a future rector. My allotment holders petitioned him, and my college, who were the patrons of the living (New College, Oxford), sent him a very strong letter, entreating him to yield, but he was obdurate. I should like to explain why not being able to give cottages on the land is so very serious a point. Only by having a cottage on the land can fruit be grown, and poultry and bees be maintained; and I can show by figures that fruit, poultry, and bees would increase the 4*s.* a week clear profit on the acre to at least 13*s.* a week. I want also very much to bring before the Committee the fact that the great advantage of an allotment is not terminable with the allotment itself, but is comparatively nugatory, unless the allotment can extend into the small holding. I am convinced that the salvation of England in the future lies in small holdings. Great holdings can never more be made to pay; small holdings may be made very profitable indeed. A report was presented to the House of Commons some months ago on the agriculture of Lincolnshire. Mr. Wilson Fox took Lincolnshire as a characteristic agricultural county, with good land, large farmers, having large capital. He picked 17 of

Chairman—continued.

the largest farms from all parts of the county, and stated that in every case they were being worked at a loss, and that the farmer was on the road to ruin. He found, at a village called Wainfleet, a small man, who, 20 years ago, bought twelve acres of land; he had grown on it new potatoes, bulbs, and flowers; he bred pigs and poultry, and in the 20 years he had not only maintained himself and his family in comfort, but he had put by 780*l.* I know two young fellows, lately come from Australia, who have taken a piece of land in Worcestershire and are making very large profits in growing nothing but cut flowers for Covent Garden Market.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

6971. On what area of land?—About 12 acres. I also know a man in Oxfordshire, near Banbury, who has taken a piece of land of about the same extent, and is growing on it Turkey rhubarb, poppies, and henbane; and is also making very large profits. The old four-course system is done for; we cannot grow cereals against foreigners; we grow them at a loss. But there are enormous quantities of crops for which there is immense demand, which we are importing at great cost from France and Belgium, which are grown in France and Belgium entirely by small men, and which we might grow in England; such crops, for instance, as hemp, flax, buckwheat, chicory, lavender, saffron, stramonium, teazels, and woad, and I might enumerate many more, all which might be grown. Those cannot be grown by a large farmer, but they can be grown by a small farmer, and they can be grown at a profit; only there must be the opportunity of the allotment expanding into the small farm.

Chairman.

6972. You would look to the allotment leading up to a small holding, so that when a man had saved money by the frugal use of his allotment he could extend his borders?—Yes; when he found he could manage more than an acre he might take a hectare, as in France, and so climb up.

6973. There is, of course, a critical time in the process, when you pass from the amount of land capable of being managed by the labour of the individual man to that which requires the employment of horses, as, for instance, in ploughing?—Ploughing is not a very heavy additional item. In most country places you can plough for 18*s.* an acre. But what you want to cultivate the land with is brains, and it is brains that come in when you pass from an allotment, which is almost automatic, to a small holding, which requires great judgment.

6974. What is your view of pasture as distinct from arable land for these purposes?—I have examined the finest pasture allotments in England, Lord Tollemache's, at Peckforton. He has there something approaching two hundred allotments, all in pasture. Each allotment contains three acres, a cottage, a brick cow-house, a pigstye, and a closet, which is let at a uniform rent of 10*l.* a year. Half an acre is kept in arable; an acre is left for mowing, and an acre and a-half for pasture. The men have a cow, a heifer, and pigs, and poultry, and they grow vegetables; they have 15*s.* a week wages, and

Chairman—continued.

and their wives earn 3*s.* a week milking at the great cheese farms. They all told me, and I believe they are right, that the cow and the heifer pay the rent. Then the pigs are fed upon the buttermilk, and the children upon the skim milk and the unsold butter, and eggs and poultry and vegetables are taken in large quantities to Chester Market. I could not find one of them who had kept accounts, but they had all got money, some considerable sums of money, in the savings banks, and the men, women, children, and the pigs are all as fat as butter.

6975. What is the result to Lord Tollemache?—Lord Tollemache gets 2½ per cent. interest on his outlay nominally; but the old lord, who initiated this fine experiment, and who has now passed away, told me that it was quite worth another 2½ per cent. to him, for he picked the finest labourers in the country.

6976. I presume any system of that sort would not be possible in all parts of the country?—It was peculiarly advantageous there; the existing enclosures lent themselves to subdivision. It would be an expensive business to sub-divide on a large scale.

6977. There was also a cheese industry prevailing in the district?—That is so.

6978. Parliament has legislated lately with regard to allotments; what is your view of the probable effect of the recent legislation?—I look upon the Act of Parliament to which you refer as a museum of forfeited opportunities, and among the forfeited opportunities is the opportunity of putting the labourer upon the land. First of all, you will observe the process of compulsion is complicated, expensive, and protracted; and all experience, so far as it has gone hitherto, points to the fact that any landlord with a strong will, with a long purse and a lawyer at his back, who does not want to let his land, can beat the parish council. Now, if it were otherwise, if the men get the land, you will observe first of all it is limited to one acre of arable land, and no buildings can be put upon it; therefore the conditions for advance which I postulated are entirely absent. The labourer wants to grow into a farmer. He cannot do so under that Act of Parliament. The labourer for 10 or 12 years past has been demanding three things: first, as much land as he wants; secondly, that he should have it at a fair rent, to be determined, if necessary, by some impartial tribunal; and thirdly, that he should have perpetual tenure of his land so long as his rent is paid; and none of those things will come from the Local Government Act.

6979. You have, I believe, visited and examined some of the small holdings in France; can you say anything on them that throws light upon the question we are discussing here?—They throw, I think, very much light upon the question. I have examined the holdings in the Pas de Calais, and in the valley of the Somme and round about Paris, and in the Burgundian vineyard district. We found there that in almost every place we visited 90 per cent. of the men own the land on which they work. They began life, as our labourers begin life, earning wages. The regular wage is 7*s.* a week and food; they put by money till they have amassed 40*l.*, and then they buy an acre of land, which is as easily bought in France as a cow or a horse is with us. That increases their savings very considerably, and in a short time they are able to increase their acre to a hectare. Then they buy or build a cottage on their land, or near it. Then they look out for a wife. The girls will not look at a man till he has got a bit of land and a cottage of his own. They bring the money, the money they have been saving; they begin with a well-stocked purse, and become more and more prosperous every year. They have large sums of money after a time in the savings banks. There are 112 million pounds in the French *Caisse d'Epargnes* at this moment, which extracts the sting of old age. But observe the difference between the whole agricultural system of France and that of England. In England we have a little over 300,000 holders of more than an acre; in France they have seven million holders of more than an acre, four millions of whom work the land entirely with their own hands. In England the average size of a farm is 390 acres; in France the average size of a farm is 10 acres. In France there are eight million acres of common land, almost exactly the amount which by successive Enclosure Acts has been taken out of the hands of our labourers and swept into the hands of the landlords in the last 170 years. The consequence is that while, before the recent diminution of the rural population, the average population of the villages in England was 33 per cent., the average population of the villages in France is 75 per cent. The English peasant is degraded and underpaid and servile and despairing; whereas the French peasant is decent and comfortable and independent and full of hope and happiness; and it is simply from this cause, that land in small quantities is easily accessible in France, and is not easily accessible in England. You will excuse my speaking dogmatically; it is the form in which one can best put forward evidence; I do not mean to be presumptuous.

6980. We are much obliged to you for putting it as you do; we wish to get your opinion in the most emphatic form; but of course you know as well as other people that there are exceptions on both sides; that there is another side to the French peasant, and that there is a better side to the English peasant, is there not, sometimes?—I have not seen either.

6981. Now let me ask you what you would suggest to arrest the depopulation of the rural districts which you have referred to?—I do not think an enlargement of the Local Government Act in the direction of my criticism would cover the matter. It would leave the heavy charges, rent, and royalties, and ground rent which cumber industry both in town and country, untouched. It seems to me a Free Trade country like ours cannot bear a double tribute, the tribute of rent and the tribute of taxation, and that only by a gradual and merciful extinction of landlordism and by the nationalisation of land, is there any hope of doing more than scratching the surface of the problem; though no doubt what I should call a righteous Parish Councils Act on extended lines would help it on and improve the condition of the labourer.

6982. What is commonly known as the nationalisation

Chairman—continued.

nationalisation of the land is not the same thing as the creation of a large system of small holding proprietors?—I am not sure that I know what is commonly understood by nationalisation of the land, but I know what I mean by it.

6983. You mean that the land should be the property of those who till it, and it should be capable of being freely disposed of from one to another?—I mean that the land should be the property of the community, and that all rent that is now paid to the landlord should be paid to the community. Were I a statesman (which Heaven has not thought me worthy to become) I would say that from a given date the land of England should pass to the community——

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

6984. To the State?—If you like to call it the State I will not quarrel with that term, but I prefer to call it the community.

Chairman.

6985. May we say the State as the official embodiment of the community?—Be it so.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

6986. Do you mean the State or the municipality?—If the question is whether I mean nationalisation or municipalisation, I should prefer municipalisation.

Chairman.

6987. The principle is the same in both cases?—The principle is the same. Immediately on this taking place I would have the land of England valued. I would secure to the landlord his fair rent for a certain limited time, 30 or 40 years; or for his own life and the life of his successor. At the end of that time it should lapse to the community, and the landlord would cease to have any connection with it. That process would be absolutely cheap; there would be no passing of money, and it would be intensely popular. There are three topics, I may tell the Committee, which would at once lash the dullest and most bored audience in any town or country, I mean an audience of working men, into passionate enthusiasm, and one of those three is the nationalisation of the land. I want also to point this out emphatically. I have had very large converse with landlords on this subject. I have spoken everywhere throughout England on the subject, and landlords who know that I should treat them as gentlemen should be treated have come to my meetings constantly, and have afterwards come to talk the matter over with me, and I am amazed at the immense number of cases in which landlords have told me that they would welcome such a result. They are in a most forlorn condition at present; their rents are frightfully in arrear, and I am told that some gentlemen in Lincolnshire (it makes one's heart bleed to think of it) are unable to hunt more than two days in the week. On the other hand, they know, or think they know, that a democratic Parliament, which is a possibility in the future, will heavily tax land values, and they would think themselves well out of all this anxiety if they had what is virtually a terminable annuity at 40 years; and if they are anxious for their children, insurance offices would show them how to deal with the question.

Chairman—continued.

6988. Of course, otherwise, your object being to bring about, as I said, small holdings, a system of small farms such as they have in France and other foreign countries, it could be brought about without this somewhat revolutionary process, by facilitating the breaking up of estates and giving larger inducements for men to acquire land for the purposes of tillage?—If they were given as much land as they want, and if they were given it at a fair rent, and if they were given perpetual tenure, it would be a very long way towards it. But the giving of land will not terminate the whole subject. The villages must be made attractive as well as lucrative. The villages require lighting and paving, they require recreation grounds, they require institutes and libraries, and they require cottage hospitals; and if there were no rates to pay (the rates being covered by what is now rent) the money in the hands of the village authorities would enable them to do this, which though they have permission to do under the Parish Councils Act they are unable to do at present because they are afraid of raising the rates. If you wish to bring the people back from the town to the country (and that is my whole point with regard to this Committee) you must not only make the land lucrative, but you must make the village as attractive as the town plus the additional advantages of the country; you must reverse the rural exodus; and in my opinion the first condition of that is the extinction of our system of landlordism.

Mr. *John Burns.*

6989. Do I understand you to say that the rural exodus from the village to the town and city reached its highest point about 1873 or between 1873 and 1880?—No; I said it began about 1873, and I have no figures subsequent to the 1881 Census.

6990. Did it reach its highest point between 1873 and some six or seven years ago?—I should think not. I think it has been increasing ever since, and is now at its highest point.

6991. In your experience where did the people mostly go from the villages from 1870 up to 1880; did they go to the mines in many districts?—I have no statistics that would tell me.

6992. The sudden inflation of the coal trade, and the consequent high wages between 1870 and 1875, would attract a great number of agricultural labourers, who were working on lower wages, to the mines in that period, would it not?—No doubt the inflation of any trade would attract men; for instance, the inflation of the fish and ice trade at Grimsby would attract men from Lincolnshire.

6993. I will go through the trades, if you will allow me; may I take it that an inflation in the coal trade would attract men to the mines?—I suppose it would. But I may say I confined myself to speaking of the loss of the men from the country; I have not followed them into the towns.

6994. You believe that the sudden inflation of the coal trade between 1870 and 1875 would necessarily attract a great number of men from villages

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

villages contiguous to the coal and iron districts?—It seems probable, but I have no knowledge of it.

6995. You have no evidence, have you, after 1875, of many of the men who took to the coal and iron and steel work going back to the villages that they had come from?—No, I have no evidence.

6996. Do you think they do go back, or do you think that once from the village it is always from the village?—I fear it is once from the village always from the village.

6997. Would not the similar inflation of trade at that period with regard to factory works also be another attraction from the village; would not the sudden accession of profitable business in the factories and workshops from 1870 to 1875 and 1876 act similarly to the mines?—If you mean it would attract men from the pauperised villages, no doubt it would be so.

6998. The sudden development by local authorities of water and gas and tramways in neighbouring towns in that same period would also be an additional attraction besides that of mines and factories, would it not?—No doubt.

6999. As apart from the economic reason through high wages attracting the agricultural labourer of lower wages to the town, is there an individual repugnance on the part of the labourers to village and agricultural life?—No, I think not; I think the hereditary local feeling is very strong, and if life were possible in the country they would stay there.

7000. Do you think the hereditary feeling, as you very correctly put it, the desire for a healthy open-air life, strong enough to resist the counter attraction of the town and the city?—You mean that the smell of gas beats the smell of the honeysuckle. I would have the smell of gas in the village, too.

7001. Or, rather, you would have the electric light?—By all means.

7002. Do you think, as apart from economic and industrial causes, there are moral causes operating to attract the labourer to the town and city?—Would you indicate what you mean by moral causes?

7003. Is not there a desire on the part of the labourer to be less under the supervision, say, both of the parson and of the squire?—Undoubtedly. That is what I spoke of under the head of thraldom.

7004. But it does not only apply to the squire or the landlord, or the farmer?—No.

7005. It applies also to other institutions of the village, more or less dependent upon territorial influence, or to any small community?—Precisely.

7006. In many cases he prefers to be exempt from the irritating inquisitiveness both of the squire and the landlord, and, I may say, his neighbours?—Or, say, the parson. My relations with my men have been so absolutely fraternal and unparsonic that I cannot give an opinion upon the subject, but I can suppose it is so.

7007. Do you also think that the long hours, and the monotony of agricultural work under the existing conditions, act as an incentive, even where permanent work exists, to take men to the town; do you not think that the mere monotony of agricultural employment under present conditions drives men to the town?—As a passionate horticulturist, I see no monotony in any agricultural operations.

7008. May I put it that every agricultural labourer is not a modern Vicar of Wakefield?—He is happier than if he were employed in looking after a machine, or, for instance, in making a safety pin, which involves the twisting of his thigh at regular intervals for 10 hours in the day.

7009. Has an agricultural labourer the sense of proportion to see that, or does he see it?—So far as I know, I think he has.

7010. Coming to another point: you said the present methods of farming in the main were obsolete?—Yes.

7011. You simply stated that?—Yes.

7012. Can you give us one or two practical instances, because it bears upon the migration of the labourer to the town?—Abundant instances are given in the very interesting report I quoted from Mr. Wilson Fox with regard to Lincolnshire. He gave us as the causes of the sufferings of the farmers, first of all the falling off in prices, and, secondly, the extortionate charges of railroads.

7013. Excuse me; what I am asking is as to obsolete methods of farming, and not as to railway charges?—What I mean is that if prices fall it is an obsolete method of farming to go on growing what will not pay, and that is what farmers do. They know that cereals will not pay. But these great farmers have put their foot down, and they said to Mr. Fox, all over Lincolnshire, "It is either the four-course system or pasture; there is no other alternative." I have tried to show there is a most profitable alternative.

7014. To what extent are farmers indisposed to adopt the principle of high farming, machinery and so forth; would you say that farmers generally were indisposed to adopt machinery?—Oh, no.

7015. Or that they were indisposed to adopt modern notions?—I have tried to indicate modern notions by what I have said about small farming; and I am sure 99 out of 100 of what are commonly called farmers would refuse to adopt anything of the kind, but cling to the old arrangements.

7016. I want to know to what extent large holdings, by obsolete methods of farming, are throwing men out of work?—That means you wish me to define what I meant by "obsolete." I meant growing food-stuff that will not pay.

7017. You mean a lack of adaptability on the part of the farmer to meet the market?—Yes.

Mr. *Heneage.*

7018. What do you mean by large farmers?—Mr. Wilson Fox means farms from 500 to 1,500 acres. I should have gone a little higher, but that is Mr. Wilson Fox's estimate.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7019. To what extent does the agricultural labourer get permanent labour from the landlord who cultivates, as compared with the intermittent character of his labour from the tenant; or, putting

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

putting it another way, is the labour of an agricultural labourer when employed by a tenant more intermittent and casual than it is when he is employed by a landlord who farms direct?—I have too small an experience of landlords farming their own land to tell you.

7020. Where you have had that experience, did you find the landlords and landowners less inclined to suddenly terminate the labourer's work than where the land is cultivated by a tenant who does not own it?—So far as I know, they would be disposed, as men of business, to look at their balance-sheet as a farmer would, and, if it were necessary to economise in the direction of labour as being the weakest point, they would do so.

7021. Obviously, the landowner who cultivates himself must be as susceptible to commercial influences and the sudden termination of his labourer's employment as a tenant?—We must allow for the principle *noblesse oblige* as affecting the landlord rather than the farmer.

7022. Does that operate to a greater extent to-day than it did 20 years ago?—I am not prepared to say.

7023. You said you had a hundred acres under allotment, which was glebe land, and unfortunately did not continue to be dealt with in that way after you left, and you said that whereas on large farms 28 bushels on an acre had been grown, on your allotments from 42 to 60 bushels were grown?—Forty-two bushels I took as the average.

7024. You said that this difference between 28 bushels per acre, on outside farms, and 42 on your allotments, meant a money advantage of 4*s.* per week to every allottee?—Yes.

7025. That is out of one and a-quarter acres?—Yes; you may call it one acre.

7026. You said that the total product from each allotment was 19*l.* 10*s.*, or you put it in this way: that from his allotment a man got for 5*l.* expenditure 19*l.* 10*s.* worth of products?—Yes.

7027. I want to know what would have been the result to the agricultural labourer if the 19*l.* 10*s.* worth of agricultural product had been paid for per hour, at the price that he was getting from the farmer per hour during the period of cultivating the allotment?—I do not quite follow the question.

7028. I want you to tell me, if you can, how many hours a labourer, working at the same price per hour as he received from the farmer, put into the 19*l.* 10*s.* worth of product that he raised from his acre?—Not one. That is the kernel of my scheme. Unless the allotment is worked in the man's spare time I treat it as a failure.

7029. What do you call "spare time"; were these allotments cultivated after the man had done his day's work?—Yes, and before his day's work began; they were cultivated very largely by the men's wives; the wives in my parish were as good farmers as the men; they could do everything except dig and hoist the sheaves, and it may be there are growing children.

7030. What was the number of hours per day at regular farming done by the allottees?—Taking the time for meals, taking the time of absence from home, it would be 12 hours.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

7031. What was the average number of hours per day through the year, after he had done his day's work for the farmer, that he put on to the allotment; was it two or was it four hours a day?—I totalled it, and I made out that he would have to spare for his allotment 372 hours in the year.

7032. That is roughly one and a-half hours a day?—Yes, you may take it at that.

7033. That means 13½ hours a day altogether. Does that include Saturday?—There is no Saturday half-holiday with these men.

7034. Then I gather from you that their hours per week would be six times 13½; is not that so?—Yes.

7035. So that altogether, working for the farmer and working on his allotment, your ideal allottee gives an average of 81 hours per week between the two?—Yes.

7036. Do you consider 81 hours per week is the standard of hours that ought to prevail in Arcady?—Well, you know a man's nature, both moral and physical, is such that he acts very differently on land which is his own and land which is another person's. Charles Lamb says somewhere that his pen never frisked and frolicked so delightfully as when he had been grinding at the India Office all day; and my men were never so happy working on their allotments as after they have been working for the farmer; they worked till it was so dark that they could not distinguish a spade from a fork, and one of them fastened a lamp to his trousers to work by, and then, after working on the allotment, instead of going to the public-house, they went to bed, and slept the sleep of the just. I think on the whole they were morally gainers, and certainly they were not physically losers by the large amount of time they spent on the allotments.

7037. Do not you apprehend that the development of this spirit of thrift which wishes to work 81 hours a week, either on the farmer's land or on the allotments, might give rise to that earth hunger that the small peasant proprietor has in France and Belgium?—So far as we saw it, the earth hunger had anything but an evil effect in France and Belgium.

7038. You think it has not an evil effect?—Wherever I have had personal experience of French land, I should say not.

7039. Have you visited the French peasants yourself?—Yes; I described to the Committee when you were out of the room what I had seen of the peasants in the valley of the Somme and around Paris and in the Burgundian vineyard districts.

7040. Are you anxious to reproduce the healthy earth hunger of the peasant proprietors of France?—I am not anxious to reproduce the system of peasant proprietors, but I am anxious to reproduce it in the form I have stated, as tenants of the community.

7041. You would not like to reproduce the family system of cultivating allotments that one sees in peasant life in Belgium and France, where the peasant works 14 and 16 hours a day for six days a week, with his wife and children frequently working on Sundays on his small allotment; you would not like, I presume, to see that adopted as your ideal?—I saw no working

on

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

on Sunday; Sunday was a holiday—a day of best clothes.

7042. For half the day?—As regards the families, I never saw happier families, parents or children, in any part of the world than I made acquaintance with on those French holdings.

7043. Have you calculated, if your system of allotments was general and the product from those allotments entered into competition with the professional farmers and professional labourers who have no allotments, what would be the effect in displacing what I may call the professional agricultural labourer?—Do I understand you to suggest that the small farmer would displace the labourer?

7044. No; do you know anything of Nottingham?—No.

7045. I daresay you know it is a district in which small allotments generally prevail around the town?—Yes, I know that.

7046. Are you aware that those small allotments have displaced, for a ring of 10 miles, what was formerly the professional farmer and the professional agricultural labourer; do you know he has been displaced by the grower of flowers, cabbages, and vegetables which these professional labourers previously produced?—You mean that he grows them for himself instead of for a master?

7047. Yes, and sells the surplus in a competitive market in the town?—I do not know it.

7048. Would not an indefinite extension of your small allotment system lead to that all over the country?—In all I have done I have rather shrunk from adopting the rôle of prophet; or rather modern criticism points out that the rôle of a prophet is hortatory and not predictive; so that I would decline to say what would be the result under a combination of circumstances that I have not considered.

7049. Taking your 80 allottees, with their 100 acres of allotment, do you not think if the 100 acres, instead of being split up into 100 allotments, was farmed co-operatively with the 80 men as a farm, that would give practically as much produce as they now produce, with considerably less labour?—I have only seen one instance of co-operative farming. It was undertaken under very favourable circumstances in the neighbourhood of Warwick, and it was an absolute failure.

7050. What was the reason?—It issued in the whole thing being abandoned as not paying.

7051. What reasons were assigned?—The reasons assigned were that the profits gained upon the farm were not sufficient to divide in bonuses and make the labourers better off than they would have been if working by themselves, nor, indeed, so well off.

7052. I gather from you that what an allotment scheme requires is the individual incentive of personal profit; is that so?—Yes.

7053. And a nucleus of permanent, or relatively permanent, employment from the farmer or adjoining landlord; would you add that as another factor?—I am not quite sure that I follow you.

7054. My first point is the individual incentive of personal profit?—Yes.

7055. And, secondly, that the agricultural

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

labourer who worked the allotment should have either regular, or relatively steady, employment from the farmers or adjoining landowners?—Precisely.

7056. And the allotment system under present forms of agriculture must necessarily mean very long hours?—Yes.

7057. You are anxious to see that system reproduced and extended?—As a step towards something better.

7058. You said that on many allotments it would be possible to grow flowers and vegetable products which are now grown in France and Belgium?—Yes.

7059. I gather from you that till the French and Belgian producer was, so to speak, starved out of the English market, the allottee would have a barely better time than if he did not have an allotment at all, and that in keeping the French and Belgian cultivator out of the market the allottee would have a much better position till that was exhausted and done away with; but what would happen then?—I did not speak of the allottee growing those things for sale; he grows for his own consumption. It was the allottee growing into the small holder who was to grow these things for sale.

7060. I gather your system of allotment for the agricultural labourer means that he should only grow for his own consumption?—No; I would repeat that that is what I have done in default of better possibilities; it is only the first stage towards what I should put down as the necessary thing, namely, the expansion into the small holder; that is a man who, instead of working on his small allotment, gives all his time to his little farm.

7061. Would you not prefer, with the view of employing more labour (which is the object of this Committee), that the local authority, or the county authority, or the municipal authority, should endeavour to farm co-operatively, under decent hours, wages, and conditions, rather than have the present system of allotments, with its extravagantly long hours and its consequent disadvantages?—Subject to the conditions I laid down, I think that is the idea, that the municipality, or what you please, should be the proprietors of the land, and should let it to the men on conditions of perpetual tenure, fair rent, and as much land as the men want.

7062. Would you not rather see the total amount of agricultural labour to be now done spread over the existing number of agricultural labourers rather than more farms, more homesteads, and more villages being created; would not that be better than building up a new system?—I suppose the desire to rise is inherent in our nature, and my object has always been to give the agricultural labourer the chance to rise, which he will not do if you fix him on an allotment; that is gilding the pill for ever.

7063. Would he have an opportunity of rising if he had an allotment under the local authority or the parish council?—Not as at present worked under the Act.

7064. Would he if it were worked on the co-operative principle?—It may be so.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7065. You spoke very highly of the French system; are you aware that recent French statistics show that the great towns in France are increasing relatively just as they are in other countries, in spite of the land system?—I am not aware of it. It is an interesting fact.

7066. It is the fact; is it not the case that, so far as anything so uncertain could be proved, the land system in France is responsible for the stagnation of population there?—I suppose the stagnation of the population is a matter of economy, and that the motive of economy, taking their *quasi*-Malthusian lines, would operate off the land as well as on it. If you get it into the mind of a man that he is only to have two children, he will have only two children, whether he is off or on the land. I should not connect the land with it.

7067. I can imagine that economical principles might operate outside agricultural districts; but where you find practically in almost every other country in Europe an increase in population and in France a stagnating population, France being a country which is largely agricultural, is not it natural to connect the agricultural system with that singular fact?—I do not see that there is necessarily any connection, any more than between Tenterden Steeple and the Goodwin Sands.

7068. Have you not heard there is an undue amount of litigation among the small peasants on the small pieces of land liable to fall to the different members of a family?—I am only speaking of France from my own personal knowledge, and all I can say is that I came across no such instances. It may be so.

7069. Have you had occasion to look through a book by Lady Verney in relation to this subject?—Yes. Her evidence is very interesting, but it belongs to a part of France I have not visited, and she has not visited the parts of France I have visited.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7070. Have you read Zola's book, "La Terre"?—No, I have not; but I may point out that Zola is a novelist.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7071. Is it not the case that the indebtedness of the peasantry is very great in France?—In our experience it is quite the contrary. We hardly found a family who had not money in the bank.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7072. May I ask who you mean when you say "we"?—I mean an experienced friend who accompanied me, and myself. I used "we" from feelings of modesty, to avoid egotism.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7073. I understand from the Blue Book of a few years ago that the indebtedness of the country round Nantes is very extraordinary?—I did not visit Nantes.

Mr. *Logan.*

7074. You do not advocate allotments as likely to bring about the Millennium?—No.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

7075. But simply as a stepping-stone to something better?—Yes.

7076. The agricultural labourer, if he is to rise, must begin at the bottom of the ladder and make himself master of his business?—Yes.

7077. You do not believe that allotments should stand in lieu of wages?—Certainly not.

7078. You would rather see the agricultural labourer working eight hours for the farmer and the same number of hours for himself that he does now so as to make his day shorter?—Certainly I should.

7079. You mentioned small holdings as being the ultimate aim of the agricultural labourer; do you consider that the Small Holdings Act, which was passed some two or three years ago, is at all likely to lead to the acquisition of small holdings by the agricultural community generally?—No, I think it is even less likely to do so than the clauses in the recent Act.

7080. Will you tell us shortly why you think so?—Because of the extraordinary difficulty of getting land under the Act.

7081. You are aware, I suppose, that it is currently said that any quantity of land can be got in the neighbourhood of our villages?—It cannot be got in small quantities.

7082. But you are aware of the fact that people discussing this agricultural depression question generally assume that land can be got?—I have heard it assumed.

7083. Perhaps you would not be surprised to hear that a gentleman told me the other day that I could have any quantity of land for 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre?—I should be very much surprised.

7084. In your experience in going about England can you tell the Committee whether you have found that it is a very easy matter to purchase small quantities of land at a reasonable price in or near our villages?—Not without mortgaging; and that plays into the hands of the money-lender rather than the labourer.

7085. Even by mortgaging do you think land in small quantities can be got at anything like a reasonable price?—Certainly not in the places I have visited.

7086. You have told us that you have had some considerable experience of French peasant proprietors, and that the peasant proprietor is prosperous in France; can you give the Committee any proof of the prosperity of the French peasant proprietor?—I put on record a great number of proofs a year and a-half ago in an article in the "Contemporary Review." It is an elaborate sort of proof, and I could not at this moment recall it; but wherever I went I found that the man was saving on every year's experience; that his possession of land and his addition in the shape of beasts, and so on, was growing, as the money laid by in the bank against old age was also increasing.

7087. Has it ever occurred to you that the small proprietors of France have found the great bulk of the money for the loan?—I believe that is notorious.

7088. Does not that rather prove that the peasant proprietor must be fairly prosperous?—Undoubtedly he is prosperous. The 112 millions in the Caisse d'Epargnes, I am informed, is almost entirely in very small deposits.

7089. Supposing

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

7089. Supposing the fear which was expressed by one of the Members of the Committee just now that the allotment-holders might, by growing large quantities of stuff more than they wanted for their own consumption, displace the produce grown by the farmers, do you think that would be a very serious difficulty?—You mean as tending to extinguishing the British farmer?

7090. Yes?—I think it would be a gain.

7091. Would it not be a national gain, supposing it had been possible to multiply by a thousand the 100 acres which your men cultivated?—It is obvious that instead of taking 800*l.* a year out of the land, it would have taken 800,000*l.* out of the land, and the community would have been 800,000*l.* a year richer.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7092. Or would it have enabled them to work for lower wages; do you think that if, on the average the allottee, from his allotment, adds for the moment 4*s.* per week to his spending power, if that were generally expended would the farmer not exploit that condition of things by reducing the wages?—No; I think the men would be strong enough to prevent that; because the prosperous allottee is a much stronger man than the penniless non-allottee.

7093. Is it the fact that the allottees resist the reduction of wages more strongly than men without allotments?—I am afraid they are too few to enable one to judge.

7094. Have you any information in that direction?—No.

Mr. *Logan.*

7095. You think that the man with an allotment is much more likely to be independent than the man without it?—He is on his way to independence. He clears 4*s.* a week, that is 10*l.* a year, and if he runs it up to 13*s.* a week with his wages he has touched the limit I have laid down for decent living.

7096. So that the man with an allotment is not entirely dependent upon the farmer, and is not compelled to take whatever wage the farmer chooses to offer him?—That is what I meant to say.

7097. Are we to understand that your proposed remedy for the want of employment in this country is land nationalisation?—Yes.

7098. You have gone very carefully into the subject; are you of opinion that the present system of land tenure, apart from its effects on agriculture which you have slightly touched upon, is detrimental to the interests of the community?—Clearly; I have always been of opinion that the system of royalties and ground rents is seriously detrimental to the interests of the community.

7099. Would you explain what the effects of ground rents are upon agriculture?—I understood you to ask, apart from the effects upon agriculture, what was the effect upon the community. Ground rents affect the urban community; I am not prepared to connect them with agriculture.

7100. I ask whether, apart from its effect upon agriculture, the effect of the present system of land culture in the urban districts is detrimental to the interests of the community?—Yes; that is the question I answered.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

7101. Have you ever considered where the large increase in land values comes from?—I suppose it comes from the enterprise and energy of the individuals who, by building houses and shops, and by causing trade to flow to the place, and setting up churches and theatres, and so on, have raised the value of the land, acre by acre, and yard by yard.

7102. You said, just now, that the present system of land tenure had a detrimental effect on the community by increasing land values; was that so?—I think you suggested the increase of land values.

7103. You agree with that?—Yes; that is increasing the land values for the proprietor, and not for those who create the increased value.

7104. You would say that these increased land values, which are the result of the industry of the people, are used to the detriment of the people from the fact that an increased rent has to be paid?—Yes.

7105. You say that landowners would welcome your system of land nationalisation?—The rural landlords would.

7106. Do you think the town landlords would?—I cannot say; I should be very much surprised if they did.

7107. So should I. You suggested terminable annuities to be given in exchange for the land?—I suggested the equivalent of terminable annuities. The security of the rent for a given period.

7108. Could not the same thing be effected by land bonds?—Possibly.

7109. As you believe in land nationalisation, I suppose you hold that the creation of a large number of small proprietors in England would only intensify the present evil?—Of course it would retard land nationalisation indefinitely, for it would arm a very large number of persons against it.

7110. You consider that what is known and what you advocate as land nationalisation would be absolutely just?—It would be ethically just absolutely, as it appears to me.

7111. Therefore it follows as a matter of course, does it not, that the present system is an unjust one?—Not necessarily; but I think it would be just to do as I have suggested.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

7112. You have drawn attention to the insufficiency of the wages of the agricultural labourer for his decency and comfort; the question I want to ask is this: is there distress amongst the agricultural labourers arising from want of employment?—I think the problem solves itself at once in the direction of the men leaving. I do not think you find men loafing about the villages except in the winter time; in winter they suffer very much, but if a man finds he has no chance of employment for the greater part of the year he goes away.

7113. Is it your experience that agricultural labourers are discharged during the winter?—Yes, in very large numbers.

7114. Are they not kept on in large numbers during

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

during the winter?—It depends upon the farmers' necessities; we have always had, in any village I have been in in the winter, men thrown out of employment.

7115. Have not the wages of agricultural labourers risen during recent years?—Not in the 10 years I have been concerned with.

7116. You mean the last 10 years?—Yes.

7117. According to your experience, agricultural wages have not risen during the last 10 years?—No.

7118. To what parts of the country does that apply?—I have visited in every county.

7119. You state that generally?—I state that generally.

7120. Would you agree with what has been stated here, that the supply of competent agricultural labourers is not equal to the demand in country districts?—I have rather tried to show that it was more than equal to the demand, that men were leaving because they could not be employed.

7121. As I understand it, the object of your proposals (to use your own words) is to bring the people back from the town to the country?—Yes.

7122. Are we to understand those words literally, that you contemplate people who are now in the town actually going back to the country?—Yes; I think that a man who finds that advantageous circumstances have supervened in his old home, would find the ties of his old home draw him back on the chance of sharing in them.

7123. Although he was employed in the town?—I was thinking of the unskilled labourer, who is congesting the towns, and is, in a great measure, unemployed.

7124. That is clearly the great object of our Committee, to deal with the unemployed in the towns?—Yes.

7125. That is what I wanted to put to you specially; whether your proposal, in your opinion, supplies an immediate means of relieving the unemployed in towns?—I put it, if carried out as I have proposed it, as an immediate and effective bait to the unemployed in the towns.

7126. Do you think, then, that the unemployed in the towns would, of their own motion, individually go back to the country?—After learning from their old friends how things were going, I think they would.

7127. Does not that imply the lapse of time for the operation of these legislative changes?—Undoubtedly.

7128. Then your proposal is not an immediate means of relief, but one that would operate only after an interval?—I think the complete reversal of migration would be a matter of time; but I think the moment it was understood that the condition of the agricultural labourer was ameliorated in the country, the migration from the town would begin.

7129. So that it would be, in your view, an immediate means of relieving the pressure?—It would be a commencement of relieving the pressure.

7130. Do you contemplate the people in the towns being left to their own initiative, or do you think that the community should take some special means to transfer them back to the country; in other words, do you think the attraction would be sufficient in itself, or would the community have to take special means to reverse this process?—I think it would be automatic; I think it would act of itself.

7131. Are you in favour of the establishment of farm colonies?—I have seen two or three, and I think as a palliative they are useful; but I should not take them as supplanting my scheme.

7132. I meant rather, supposing your scheme were accepted, would farm colonies be a medium of bringing about a reversal of the process more quickly than leaving people to their individual motion?—No doubt it would create new areas to which the unemployed would be brought.

7133. You would be in favour of farm colonies concurrently with your own scheme?—Certainly.

Mr. *Heneage*.

7134. When Mr. Burns referred to labourers working 13½ hours a day by working on their allotments after their day's work for the farmer, you said that it would be better for them to spend their evenings at that work than in the public-house. Is it your experience that labourers after working 12 hours spend their time in public-houses in agricultural villages?—Yes.

7135. I am sorry to hear that that is your experience; where else are the poor fellows to go?—At any rate, they do go there.

7136. How long have you lived in Lincolnshire?—I am so unfortunate as only to have been there for 14 months.

7137. Then may I take it that you do not speak on behalf of the Lincolnshire labourers in that respect?—Except so far as what I have seen of them within the 14 months.

7138. I gather that you thought it was a great objection that the cottages could not be built on each allotment?—Yes.

7139. Is it not better that the gardens or allotments should be adjacent to the cottages than that the cottages should be all crowded together on the allotments?—I do not care whether Mahomet comes to the mountain, or the mountain to Mahomet; but the allotment-holder is dependent upon fixity of tenure for his cottage.

7140. You stated that you wished a cottage to be put on each allotment of one acre each, that is to say, in a field of 20 acres there would be 20 cottages crowded together one to each allotment; is it not better for the health of the labourer, and in his interest that the cottages should be separate with the gardens or allotments adjacent to them?—If you mean an acre to each existing cottage, I should have no objection whatever to that.

7141. Now, with regard to the point of large farms, you take large farms as over 500 acres; is it not the case that labour on those farms has been very much diminished by laying down a great deal of grass, and by machinery, and by the fact of farmers reducing their labourers and taking a larger share of the supervision of the work upon themselves and their families?—As regards what you say about pasture, that is so, to some extent, no doubt; but I do not think the other

two

Mr. *Heneage*—continued.

two elements come in in Mr. Wilson Fox's report, which is what I was arguing upon.

7142. Is it not the fact that where farmers 10 years ago were employing, we will say, nine or 10 labourers, with a foreman, a shepherd, a gaffman, and a couple of waggoners, they have now reduced the number of what I may call their confined labourers, and are now doing by themselves or by their sons the shepherding and foreman's work, and other work, and that that is the reason why there is less labour employed on the farm?—May I ask whether the honourable Member is speaking of very large farms?

7143. I am speaking of all farms above 200 acres?—I should not have thought on a thousand-acre farm the man and his sons took much part in working the farm; I should have thought it was entirely done by hired labour. But my experience is that the great cause of the reduction of labourers is the desire to economise, and that the land suffers by the reduction of labourers.

7144. Then I will take a thousand-acre farm. Ten years ago on a thousand-acre farm you would have not less than six confined labourers; is it not the fact that on very few of these thousand-acre farms are there more than three or four such labourers now?—I am afraid that is quite true.

7145. Is not the reason of that because a farmer who kept 10 years ago, we will say, a foreman, a shepherd, a gaff-man, and three waggoners, now does a great deal of the foreman's work and the shepherd's work himself, and his son acts as a sort of head waggoner, and therefore they only require three of these men instead of six, and the other three men have to find work elsewhere?—It is absolutely true that in adverse times they require very much less labourers than they did in prosperous times.

7146. Because they are economising?—Because they are economising.

7147. Is it not the fact that about 20 or 25 years ago a farmer made 8 or 10 per cent. on his capital even at the higher rent he was then paying?—I should think that is very possible. If you put it between 1852 and 1872 I think you are right.

7148. I will say up to 1872?—Yes.

7149. Is it not the fact that the farmer, upon a rent now reduced by 30 or 40 per cent., is not making 5 per cent. on his capital?—I do not think he is making one or a-half per cent. According to my experience he is farming his land on borrowed money or unexhausted capital.

7150. At any rate, he is not making 5 per cent.?—Certainly not.

7151. Therefore he is compelled to make these reductions?—Quite so.

7152. You stated in answer to the Chairman that in your opinion in Lincolnshire the rents were greatly in arrear, and that farmers were unable to farm their land; do you know of many estates where the reduced rents are in arrear, or where farmers are unable to farm their land?—In saying that I was quoting entirely from Mr. Wilson Fox's report. Whatever information I have upon that point is public property.

7153. I have read Mr. Wilson Fox's report; but his report divides itself into different districts very much. He deals with high lands and low lands, strong land and small holdings, and so on. However, I will pass from that. Now, still limiting myself to Lincolnshire, you also stated that labourers were in the habit of being sent away at a week's notice, especially before any election, whether Parliamentary or otherwise; are you aware that the great body of labourers in Lincolnshire are yearly labourers?—I said that where the tenancy was by the week the labourer was warned before any crucial occasion that his action would be watched.

7154. Do you know of any farm or any estate where labourers are let by the week except in the case of builders' cottages or jerry-built cottages?—I know of hundreds.

7155. Can you name one single estate in Lincolnshire where that is the case?—No, not in Lincolnshire. In Lincolnshire, I believe what you call the confined system of labour prevails, but that is not usual in England. As regards Lincolnshire, I will make you a present of Lincolnshire, if that will save any trouble.

7156. Then I need not carry it further?—I have abundant evidence from all over England, and I will not press Lincolnshire.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

7157. You spoke about the difficulty in getting farmers to change the methods of cultivating land; that is due to the fact, I suppose, that their knowledge is largely traditional and handed down from father to son by rule of thumb, so to speak?—Yes, and is not supplemented by any system of agricultural education.

7158. In your opinion, would the establishment of agricultural schools, or training colleges; call them what name you please generally; get over that difficulty?—Undoubtedly. We have no agricultural colleges in England, except two, namely, Cirencester, which is only for rich people, and Aspatria, which costs 50*l.* or 60*l.* a year. In France there are scattered all over the country agricultural colleges on a very large scale, the education at which costs only 18*l.* a year, supplemented by 240 free scholarships given by the Government. Every young fellow who goes there, and labourers' sons go there quite as much as farmers' sons, spend three years in going through a course of partly theoretical and partly practical agriculture. The result is that those men are sent out first-rate farmers and know how to lay out land, as our farmers will never know, until such a system is adopted here.

7159. If the County Council had power to establish these agricultural technical schools, as we may term them, do you think it would be advantageous?—We have the material absolutely to our hands. There are enormous educational endowments, not only in the universities and the great schools, but in the grammar schools all over England, and nine-tenths of the money that feeds those schools was bequeathed by the donors to "*pauperes scholares*," which means the sons of poor men; but we maintain, at a considerable cost, an institution called the Charity Commissioners, which has suggested that *pauperes scholares* means the sons of the well-to-do, and as the land has been taken away from the labourers, so too have the educational endowments.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

I would get back that money. I would pick the most desirable secondary schools, the grammar schools, in every county, and abolish Latin and Greek, which are luxuries and ought to be paid for, and re-convert them to the use of *pauperes scholares*. I would have one as an agricultural college, another as a commercial college, another as a technological college, and another as a women's college for domestic industries.

7160. You referred to one scheme of co-operative farming, which had proved a failure. You have heard of another I presume, which has proved a success at Ralahine, in Ireland; have you heard of that?—No.

7161. You said in your evidence that the smell of the gas was more attractive to the labourers in the country than the smell of the honeysuckle; that is true, I presume, chiefly of the young men. There comes a period in the life of a man, does there not, when the smell of the honeysuckle would be immensely more attractive than the smell of the gas, and when he would desire to return from the life of the town to the life of the country?—Quite so.

7162. This proposal of yours would open up a way whereby there could be a circulation of labour from the country to the town and again from the town to the country?—Yes.

7163. It was rather hinted at that allotments would tend to lower the rate of wages; do allotments lower the standard of living amongst the cultivators or do they live better?—They live very much better.

7164. Having regard to the ultimate bearing of the standard of living on wages, that means that a higher rate of wages will prevail where there are allotments?—It sounds like a sophism, but it may be so.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*.

7165. I understood you to say that you would wish to see more attention paid to agricultural education in England?—Yes.

7166. Are you aware that under the Technical Instruction Acts agricultural colleges can be founded and are being founded?—Yes.

7167. And that agricultural scholarships can be offered and have been offered?—Yes.

7168. Are you also aware that a Bill has been before this House for some years which would enable agricultural education to be given in elementary schools?—Yes.

7169. You would gladly see that done?—I should he very glad to see that done.

7170. It is now done in Ireland. but there is no power at present in England to teach agriculture as a subject in elementary schools?—Quite so.

7171. Passing from that I understood you to say that in your experience the condition of the French peasantry was much superior to that of the English peasants?—That is so within the limits of my experience.

7172. In that respect we might learn a lesson from France?—Yes.

7173. France is a country where, for good or evil, there is a very high protective duty as a matter of fact, is there not?—Yes.

7174. At present I think the duty on imported corn is equal to 12*s.* 3*d.*?—Yes.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

7175. And, in fact, very considerable bounties are given to the growers of certain crops?—Yes, tobacco for instance.

7176. And sugar beet?—Yes.

7177. Have you any knowledge of what is the amount of taxation upon agricultural produce in France?—It is a point that I have not been able to ascertain, and it is a factor in my contention.

7178. May I ask you if it is not stated in the last edition of Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics that, whereas the value of agricultural products in France is 460,000,000*l.*, and taxation on land is only 21,800,000*l.* in, England, the value of agricultural products is 251,000,000*l.*; that is to say, about half that of France, and the taxation is 20,800,000*l.*, nearly the same as that in France; that is to say, the agricultural products in England are taxed almost twice as much as the agricultural products of France?—That is a most important factor.

7179. You are not aware whether that is the fact or not?—No.

7180. Continuing with France, can you tell us what is the cost of living there for the ideal family you have given us, namely, a man and his wife and four children?—I think, so far as our experience went, their dexterity in cookery lowers the cost in living considerably.

7181. Can you give us the figures?—No, I cannot; I hesitated to ask them that question.

7182. Would it be 10*s.*?—Are you speaking of food alone?

7183. You gave us the figure of 21*s.* a week as a minimum for England?—That includes everything except beer and tobacco.

7184. That includes all the necessaries of life?—Yes.

7185. Can you give us any idea of what a similar provision for a family would cost in France in money value?—No.

7186. Have you any idea of what you should put aside for rent or interest on capital in France?—There is very little land rented. Interest on capital, of course, ought to be considered. I am not prepared to say how much it would be.

7187. As a matter of fact, broadly speaking, a French peasant and his peasant's family could live on very much less than an English peasant and his family could?—That is so.

7188. Whether they make the money go further or not, the fact remains that they require much less for their sustenance?—Yes.

7189. To some extent, if not to the entire extent, that might account, might it not, for their thriving so much better than the English peasant?—It would enter into it,

7190. I think you said in your examination in chief that it had been shown that 21*s.* a week was the smallest sum on which a man and his wife and four children could live with decency and respectability; where has that been shown?—I have shown it in a great number of publications, and in the newspapers.

7191. Have you a publication here showing that?—I have. This one; it is not quite up to date. The most recent I have is in an article in the "Contemporary Review," but the Table I have here will give you an idea of it.

7192. Can

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

7192. Can you give me the items?—They are contained in this table, which I will hand in.

[*The following Table was handed in*:—]

	s.	d.
Rent of cottage, with small garden and pig-sty, per week	2	–
Sick club	–	6
Bread, eight loaves at 4*d.* to 5*d.*	3	–
Flour	–	9
Meat, 6 lbs. at 8*d.*	4	–
Potatoes	–	10
Cheese, 1 lb. at 8*d.*	–	8
Sugar, 2 lbs. at 3*d.*	–	6
Tea, ½ lb. at 2*s.*	1	–
Butter, 1 lb. at 1*s.*	1	–
Milk	1	–
Treacle	–	3
Salt and pepper	–	2
Candles and paraffin	–	6
Fuel	1	6
Clothes, washing, materials, repairs, &c.	2	8
Tools, furniture, sundries	–	10
Total	£.1	1 2

7193. You put the rent at 2*s.* a week?—That I found to be the average rent.

7194. And the schooling at 6*d.*?—That is obsolete now, of course. That Table is not up to date. This was in 1887. I have republished it at a much later date.

7195. That item for schooling may be knocked off now?—Yes.

7196. Have you compared it with the labourers' budgets in the Reports of the Agricultural Sub-Commissioners to the Labour Commission?—I have not.

7197. May I ask you, with your 18 years' experience of your late parish, what is the average labour wage?—We were highly waged because there is a large cement industry in the place, so that our wage was 14*s.* a week; that is higher than our neighbours; 12*s.* rules at a little distance.

7198. I suppose you have families consisting of a man and wife and four children?—Many.

7199. Are none of them decently and properly clothed?—My allotments helped them materially in that direction; but before I came they were all suffering more or less from the want of sufficient income.

7200. You think it is absolutely impossible for a man to keep himself and his family in decency and comfort on 14*s.* a week?—Decency and comfort are relative terms. I had better put it in this way: admitting my estimate of the items to be a fair one, the result shows a minimum of 21*s.*

7201. I am asking as to practical experience now, not as to estimates. Have you not experience of married men with families living respectably and comfortably on 14*s.* a week?—Not comfortably.

7202. Where does the discomfort come in?—In stinting of every description, stinting of food, and ragged clothing and various items.

7203. Have you not experience of a man making 14*s.* a week whose children and himself are decently clothed?—Fairly clothed, undoubtedly.

7204. With sufficient warmth?—Tolerably.

7205. You will not go further than that?—No.

7206. Does not it very largely depend upon whether the wife is a good manager or not?—And whether the man drinks, of course all those things enter into it.

7207. Of course, if the man drinks, 24*s.* a week might be too little?—Decency and comfort being such very variable quantities, I have rather preferred to put the figures of the "weekly budget," and to say that all that falls below that total is insufficient; if people accept that as a fair budget, then my case is proved.

7208. You would say that a man can live very well for 21*s.* a week?—Yes.

7209. Is it not the fact that a very great number of our decent and self-respecting labourers who are held in proper respect by their neighbours do live decently and comfortably on 14*s.* a week?—If "very well" is applied to 21*s.* a week, I could not use the term for 14*s.* a week.

7210. I do not use the term "very well" in the sense of the family having hot suppers and that sort of thing, but I ask whether they do not satisfactorily lead decent and respectable lives on 14*s.* a week?—Not to my satisfaction, and I should think not to their own.

7211. May I take it that that refers to Lincolnshire alone?—No, to England generally; we have made Mr. Heneage a present of Lincolnshire.

7212. Will you make me a present of my own county, Sussex?—I know very little of Sussex; only the north of the county.

7213. At any rate, I put it to you, is it not your experience that men do live respectably and comfortably on 14*s.* a week?—No.

7214. Do you give it as your deliberate answer, that you have no experience of a man living decently and comfortably on 14*s.* a week?—Not what I call decently and comfortably. I can only give my view; it is the subjective aspect of the case.

7215. You have no experience of that being done in your own parish?—No.

7216. In this parish, where you have been for 14 months, how many of your labourers have left the country for the town during the 14 months?—I do not think there has been one instance in the last 14 months. The labourers are, as Mr. Heneage called them, confined labourers; they would only leave at the expiration of their terms. My parish is peculiarly situated; it is broken up into small farms of 50 acres, and there is not likely to be that same decay of rural labour.

7217. What you have told us as to the rural exodus is based more on the figures of other people?—I gave the figures.

7218. And not upon personal knowledge?—It is based very largely on my personal knowledge. I have been a sort of missionary for many years, visiting the villages in every part of England, and viewing farms and the labourers, seeing their homes, and learning their histories, and my information is derived from that experience.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

7219. I gather that you cannot give the experience from your own knowledge of labourers going from the country to the town, can you?—Yes, I can.

7220. Can you give me concrete instances; will you take any instance, and say how many labourers have gone in the 12 months?—I could not tell in 12 months, but taking 10 years I could easily tell.

7221. Taking 10 years, will you tell me what the number is?—I could not at a moment's notice. I should have to go to my parish and see how many had moved into the towns.

7222. Will you give me figures for one year?—I could not at a moment's notice.

7223. You cannot tell me where they went?—Yes, I think I could tell you where my men in Stockton went to; they went to Birmingham.

7224. Had they any employment in view?—I fancy not.

7225. How many went?—I cannot without looking at the figures say.

7226. Was it 3 or 5 or 15?—A great many more than that in the 10 years.

7227. You cannot give me the figures?—No.

7228. You cannot give me any actual facts that I can test; beyond this figure you have given, which is derived from others?—No.

7229. I gather that they went in spite of your experiment with the allotments?—They went before my experiment began. We lost very few after it began.

7230. I understood you to say that for two years you gave them allotments with no rent at all?—Yes, on condition that the land should be cleared.

7231. What did they do in the two years?—They dug, and cleaned, and burnt the twitch, and in the meantime they grew potatoes.

7232. And manured it pretty heavily, I suppose?—Yes.

7233. For two years they got a present of the land?—Yes.

7234. After that it was let at 1*l.* per acre?—Yes.

7235. Did that include rates?—No, they paid their own rates and taxes.

7236. Did you make any road?—No.

7237. Did you put up fencing?—Yes.

7238. What did the expense of fencing per acre come to?—A trifle; taking the whole 100 acres, I should not think more than 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre.

7239. So that your net rent would be 17*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

7240. In fact, it would be less than that. What had been the last rent of this allotment ground of 100 acres?—When I went to Warwickshire it was letting at 33*s.* 6*d.* an acre, but it fell out of cultivation for a time. Then I let it at 1 *l.* an acre, or about that, and it was given over into my hands at the beginning of 1886, when I let it to these men.

7241. So that you practically let it at the same rent which had been received previously?—Very much so, after the first two years.

7242. That is to say, the market rent?—The agricultural rent of the district.

7243. You took upon yourself none of the expenses which the local authority has to take upon itself in breaking up land for allotments?—No; I was at the cost of measuring and pegging, and I gave them the use of a large barn. That, I think, was the extent of my benefaction.

7244. Of course your experience would lead you to say that where allotments can be provided by voluntary effort it is much better and cheaper than to resort to legislative machinery?—No doubt under present circumstances that is so, because then there is no limit to the extent they can have. I have just let land to some of my labourers at Waltham by private arrangement with the parish council, but I have not been able to let it on terms I desiderate, that is to say, as much as they require, at an agricultural rent with fixity of tenure.

7245. May I ask as to my own county of Sussex, do you know a single instance where men have applied for allotments and have not been able to obtain them?—I have no knowledge one way or the other.

7246. Have you any knowledge of the working of the Small Holdings Act?—No, I have not been able to put my knowledge in a shape that I care to produce.

7247. Would you be surprised to learn that in the county of Sussex we have got it into operation, and have found no difficulty in obtaining land, which the men have been ready and perfectly willing to take?—I am very glad indeed to hear it.

7248. You said that one of the reasons which drove men from the country to the towns was the thraldom, to use your expression; and one instance of that thraldom was that they held their work subject to a week's notice, and their cottages also?—Yes.

7249. What notice do they receive in town as regards work?—I do not know.

7250. Would you be surprised to learn that a man's work may come to an end at any hour of the day?—That makes it much worse for him, poor fellow, but no better for my labourers.

7251. If that is so, would not the thraldom be just as great in the town as it is in the country?—I cannot speak from personal experience of urban artizans, but the general impression is that they are far more independent than the agricultural labourer.

7252. One of the instances you gave of the thraldom was that their work and lodging were subject to a week's notice. I ask, as a matter of fact, does the labourer escape from that thraldom by going to the town?—I supplemented that answer by saying that the employer in many cases used his power mercilessly. You must not cut the statement in two.

7253. I must take it bit by bit; but I think we may discard the idea, may we not, of any thraldom on account of the week's notice; then we will come to the pressure which I understood you to say was put on at election times?—At all times, I say.

7254. You instanced especially a common saying in your district; is that where you are now?—No, that is in my old district, in Warwickshire.

7255. You said, "It is a common saying in my district;

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

district: "Now, mind, John, if Mr. So-and-so is elected it will be the worse for you." Have you heard that yourself?—Repeatedly.

7256. Often?—Hundreds of times; the men have repeated it to me.

7257. Have you heard it said to the men?—No; they would not say it in my presence, but I have heard it repeated.

7258. The labourer has told you that that has been said to him?—Yes.

7259. At election times?—Yes.

7260. Has it come to your knowledge at election times?—Yes.

7261. It has been said to the labourer by an employer of labour?—Yes.

7262. What steps have you taken?—I have done nothing, for it would be no use. The man would not dare to say in public what he had told me in private.

7263. How many have told you that?—It is a common thing.

7264. Would you say as many as fifty had come at one election, and told you that?—No.

7265. Twenty?—I cannot say how many. I could only say it has been a common thing, and I have shrugged my shoulders and passed on unhappy.

7266. Have you taken any steps to test it?—The only step I could take would be to grapple with the man, and if the man knew that his tenant had told me he would suffer.

7267. Have you ever taken any part in politics yourself?—Occasionally.

7268. Have you ever brought these facts to the knowledge of an election agent?—No, I have nothing to do with election agents.

7269. Have you brought them to the knowledge of a defeated candidate?—Certainly not.

7270. Either at an election to Parliament, County Council, District Council, or anything else?—I brought it to the notice of a winning candidate, but never to the notice of a defeated candidate, that I am aware of.

7271. Are you aware that you might have upset an election by an instance of that sort?—That is possible; but my mission has hardly been to upset elections so much as to promulgate what I look upon as truth.

7272. Do you think it is more desirable for the promulgation of truth that these statements should be tested in a court of law, or that they should be made, I do not doubt, in perfect good faith, but without an opportunity of testing their accuracy?—It would be all important if they could be tested in a court of law; but my point is that I know it to be hopeless.

7273. You said that land nationalisation was a subject that always excited enthusiasm amongst rural labourers?—I should say among the working classes generally.

7274. Your solution of the question is to give the landlords something like 40 years' terminable annuities?—Yes.

7275. Supposing that done, do you not think that in 10 years time enthusiasm might be equally stirred by some person who came to the labourers and said that this 40 years' annuity was another form of robbery, and that they had better get rid of it altogether. Is it not possible always to find the subject of enthusiasm, if you propose to transfer the property of one man into the hands of other people?—That is possible; but I cannot forego the present enthusiasm, which I consider is righteously directed, for fear that the enthusiasm of 10 years hence should be wrongly directed.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

7276. The enthusiasm exists, because it is suggested that what is now the property of one person should be conferred upon the community?—I should not put it in that way. I should say that the enthusiasm exists because a method is proposed of dealing effectively with the raw material of the world on which ultimately all prosperity depends.

Mr. *Bolton.*

7277. You advocate small holdings, because you think they will attract a larger number of people to the country to remain in the country, and so give more employment, and deal with a certain portion of the question we have under consideration?—Yes.

7278. You approve of small holdings such as have been established on Lord Tollemache's property?—Merely as an initial step; they are not by any means final. I do not think they themselves will attract back from the towns a sufficient number to meet the case.

7279. But if there is such a condition of comfort, such as you have described, that would afford an attraction, surely, for people to remain rather than to crowd into the towns?—They would remain; whether they would be sufficiently attractive to draw them back is a question.

7280. Do you think that any system of small holdings would be possible under your proposals of land nationalisation?—I see no difficulty.

7281. You say there must be fixity of tenure?—Yes.

7282. And you say there must be fair rent?—Yes.

7283. You must have combined with fixity of tenure and fair rent freedom to the man to dispose of his holding, must you not?—Not necessarily.

7284. If he cannot dispose of his holding, what inducement is there for a man to work on it and improve it?—Its improvement will be to his own advantage. His object is to make it pay. If it does not pay he can surrender it.

7285. Is he to adjust his labour so that it barely pays him, and not to make improvements that increase the fertility of the land and produce improvement?—On the contrary.

7286. If he is to improve his holding, to build on the land and to lay out money, he must be encouraged by having liberty and freedom to sell his improvement, must he not?—He must either recover the cost of his improvement from the landlord or from the in-coming tenant.

7287. Does not that amount to free sale?—If you like to call it so I have no objection.

7288. Then your proposal is that there should be State ownership of the land, with fixity of tenure, fair rent, and free sale?—Yes.

7289. Now, when a man in possession wishes to relinquish his holding, or if a man who has a holding dies and his executors want to realise his property in it, it must be put in the market for sale,

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

sale, must it not?—Subject, of course, to the decision of the owners, that is, of the community.

7290. That is a limitation of free sale?—I think I limited my free sale by giving the community a check. I think that parting with the land must be subject to the community. The community can refuse to receive another tenant if it pleases.

7291. On what grounds?—The ground of unfitness and incapacity; the grounds on which a private landlord would refuse the tenant.

7292. Can a community exercise the same discretion that a private landlord can?—A local community.

7293. Would not that lead to favouritism if it were exercised on other than economical grounds?—Hardly, I should think, because the local community is dependent on the public of the place.

7294. What right has one man more than another to have the use of this land on these favourable terms?—I suppose you must leave it to the community to decide.

7295. But the community must be governed by some principles of action in dealing with the man?—That they would lay down.

7296. Would you leave the community to lay down the principle of action?—Absolutely.

7297. So that you would have one system of letting this common land in one district, and another system in another?—I think so. I see no objection. I think these are details that would easily be overcome in practice.

7298. Do you not see that if you establish this fixity of tenure and fair rent, and free sale, you set up tenant-right in the occupiers!—Free sale you inject into my proposals; it was not part of my proposal.

7299. Even with a limited sale do you not set up tenant-right in the occupier?—

Chairman.

7300. Fixity of tenure involves tenant-right?—Yes; I quite understood that.

Mr. *Bolton.*

7301. Is not that a saleable property?—Yes; I suppose it is.

7302. If that were sold in the market that would involve competition, would it not?—Yes.

7303. And if the people competed for it, whether there were many or few, or whether they were limited to people in the locality or not, there would be still competition?—Yes.

7304. Therefore a man wishing to occupy land would have to pay a competition price?—That is what I want to avoid.

7305. How will you avoid it?—By placing absolute power in the hands of the community, in the hands of the municipal body.

7306. Would not that lead either on the one hand to competition such as I have mentioned, or jobbery and favouritism on the other?—I should prevent the competition at any cost, because I think the land should be let at an economic and not at a competitive rent; and as to the jobbery and the favouritism, one must take one's chance I am afraid.

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

7307. How do you distinguish a competitive rent from an economic rent?—An economic rent is what the land can carry in the opinion of experts, and the competitive rent is what people are foolish enough to give apart from what it will pay.

7308. Does not competition govern the economy of the situation?—It has done so in the past.

7309. Must it not necessarily govern it?—I should have thought not.

7310. Why not?—You see the initial step is to value the land. Then the land, being valued, is handed over to the local body, and the local body lets the property, and it lets it on a recognised system of rental, and if the State thought right it might be revised from time to time; but subject to such revision I should keep down the rental to the original sum that was supplied to the letting body.

7311. Then the tenant is to sit not at a competitive rent, not what any other tenant would give, but he is to sit at a favoured rent, a low rent?—He is to sit at an economic rent, a rent that is justified by experience as what the land will carry.

7312. Without regard to competition?—Without regard to competition.

7313. Then he is to be a favoured individual?—If all are equally favoured you can hardly use the word favoured.

7314. How can all be equally favoured under your system?—Because the rent is uniform for all tenants.

7315. Can you suggest a uniform rent of all parcels of land held by the municipality?—The beginning of my process is a valuation of the land that stands as a State document.

7316. Would you kindly answer my question; forgive me for saying you are not doing so?—Does not my answer answer your question?

7317. No, you go back again to repeat what you have said before twice?—We have a recognised statutable valuation of the land, to which the letting authority, the parish council, or whatever it may be, the municipality, assent.

7318. Then when the man cultivates the land he either keeps it exactly in its present position, or he deteriorates it, or he improves it?—Yes.

7319. It must be one of those three things?—Yes.

7320. A good tenant improves it?—Yes.

7321. He puts more into it?—Yes.

7322. He puts more work into it; hoes it so many times; six times, as you suggest?—Yes.

7323. He makes the land more fertile. Is he to sit at the lighter rents, or is he to ask for a re-valuation, or are the community to ask for a re-valuation against him?—I should say if the good tenant has improved the land he will not want to go out of it, and if the bad tenant has deteriorated the land he ought to be turned out of it.

7324. If he would not want to go out, he does not want to go out because he has created a property in the land which is tenant-right?—You mean so far as fixity of tenure involves tenant-right?

7325. Yes?—Certainly.

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

7326. To realise that property he must have the right of sale?—Of sale under certain conditions.

7327. That involves the payment, by a man entering into it to cultivate, of a sum of money, does it not?—You mean for improvements in the land.

7328. For tenant right?—That comes to very much the same thing, does it not?

7329. Yes. Does not that mean rent?—Hardly. I should say that if I succeed to a property and it involves a kitchen garden, and it is full of valuable shrubs, gooseberry bushes, and so forth, for which I have to pay, I should not treat that as a rent; I should treat that as merely putting improvements in the place of the man who is to go out.

7330. Is not the interest of the money he sinks in it equivalent to rent?—The interest of all money you sink is equivalent to rent.

7331. Therefore he must pay a rent?—If you like to call it so.

7332. Under this system of yours, if he has to pay rent, how much better off is he under the State than under a landlord?—Because the rent in the case of the landlord is an abiding and permanent, and, to my mind, excessive charge; whereas the rent in the case of the other would merely be the very small interest on the goods which he would take over on going into the land.

7333. In the first instance, you are going to pay the present landlords for 40 years the rents they at present receive; therefore, the community must charge those rents over against the tenant?—Clearly.

7334. And you are going to create in the tenants a tenant right which is saleable, I put it to you. Under those circumstances, how much better off would a tenant under this system of yours be than he is under the landlord?—Because the payment of rent to the community instead of to the landlord enables the community to dispense with rates and taxes. The man who now pays 100*l.* a year in rent, and 30*l.* in rates and taxes, would pay his rent to the community, and he would pay no rates and taxes at all, because the rent would more than cover the rates and taxes.

7335. He would have to pay to the community the valued rent, and he would have to pay to his predecessor, from whom he took it, the capital value of the tenant right, which would be equivalent to an additional rent?—He would only pay, surely, the capital value of the land which he takes over.

7336. Certainly, the capital value, but the incoming man must pay the capital value of the tenant rights somehow or other?—I do not see the difference between the present system and the other as regards an excessive rent. I rent land now of a landlord; I give it up. I cease to have any obligations to the landlord, having paid my rent. I claim of my successors the value of certain improvements I left in the land. It would not occur to me to call that rent on the part of a man coming in.

7337. If a man has to sink a large sum of money in purchasing tenant rights, is it not equivalent to the tenant right being in the hands of the landlord and this man paying rent on that?—Certainly not; if a man had taken from the land, he would have to spend a larger sum in keeping land that he wants until he pays capital to the outgoing for the stock already there.

7338. I am afraid we are arguing in a circle?—I think we are. I do not see the point.

7339. Do you think that under any system of nationalisation or communal ownership, small holdings, such as you have mentioned as existing in France, and such as you say were established by Lord Tollemache, would be possible?—I should hope not. I should hope much larger holdings than those established by Lord Tollemache would be possible. My whole object is to make the allotment which is possible at present, or would be possible, with slightly improved legislation, grow into the small holding.

7340. This is the question of expense. The local community will want to be paid interest on the capital sunk, will it not, in making these small holdings?—Do you mean for fencing, and so forth?

7341. Have you ever considered what it would cost to convert a farm of 200 acres into 10 holdings of 20 acres each?—To convert a farm of 100 acres into 80 holdings, of about an acre and a-quarter each, cost me certainly not more than half-a-crown an acre.

7342. I am speaking of small holdings, not allotments?—The men would put up their own buildings. Nobody has dreamed of the municipality putting up particular buildings.

7343. To whom do they belong?—To the men, undoubtedly.

7344. That is a greater reason why they should be able to sell their holdings in the open market?—Precisely, only they take the same ground as gooseberry bushes would in a garden in the present day.

7345. Have you ever considered what it would cost to convert an ordinary farm of 220 acres with farmhouse and ordinary farm buildings into ten holdings of 20 acres each?—What it would cost the tenant?

7346. No, what it would cost the community?—Where would the cost to the community come in?

7347. Or to anyone to put up ten cottages suitable for men to live in?—My point is that the men themselves put up the cottages. We are not trying it like Lord Tollemache.

7348. You practically suggest that the agricultural labourer, as we know him, can go into 20 acres of land and put up a cottage with buildings, and fence the land, and make the alterations in drainage, and dig a well, which in itself may be a very expensive thing, make roads and drains, and then in addition to that find the stock to stock it, and the capital to live upon for the time until the land is productive. Is it a practicable suggestion at the present time to suggest such a thing?—It is done in France every day, and what is being done in France might be done here in England.

7349. What is done in France has been done for generations?—Yes, but I want to begin; and

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

if 40 years is given to nationalise the land, that must involve improvement.

7350. Do you think 40 years is enough to carry out, by this process which you have described, a vast revolution such as you have suggested?—If any one will show me a shorter one I will gladly adopt it.

7351. How is this to remedy the present distress from want of employment, which is what we are considering?—Because my point has been that the immediate establishment of equitable allotments on a small scale would begin to reverse the migration; and in proportion as these small holdings were increased, as they might be under certain legislation, the reversal would continue.

7352. All you suggest is to inaugurate a policy which is to extend over many generations, the effect of which will be to encourage small holdings throughout England, which you believe will keep more people employed?—Just as you have suggested, I agree with you.

7353. How is it possible to do this in years?—I think it is very possible.

7354. Where is the money to come from?—I am afraid I come back to the old statement. I do not think you realize the fact that I name, not that the community is making a vast outlay for this purpose, but each man is doing it for himself. I could point out to you no end of labourers who, had they had the opportunity in Stockton, would have climbed from their acre or two-acre allotments to six or eight acres, who would then as they call it have "chucked up" work and become small farmers, and with the help of a building society built cottages on the land, if only it had not been glebe land, and I had an opportunity of making the tenure firmer.

7355. This tenure involves the three considerations I have mentioned: it involves fixity of tenure, fair rent, and it involves free sale; and when you have done that, how much further are you towards the limitation of rent, and the very favourable conditions of agricultural life which you suggest?—It is obvious that the rent which used to go to the individual would go to the community. Take Giffen's figures, and say that the rent of England amounts to 100,000,000*l.* a year, then, roughly, the taxation of England, amounts to 80,000,000*l.* a year; if the rent is paid to the community instead of to the individual all rates and taxes would be paid thereby, and a considerable surplus would be in the hands of the State if you like, or of municipal parishes, if you like, for the purpose of improving the condition of the community.

7356. If you rob the owners and take their property, you can distribute the proceeds?—I have avoided the word "rob." I am under the impression that a community cannot rob itself. If it is wrong to call robbery what an Act of Parliament has done, it would be wrong to call robbery what an Act of Parliament undoes.

7357. If I have laid out 1,000*l.* in buying some land, which the State has recognised, and that land is taken away from me without fair compensation, is not that robbery?—Now we come to the ethics of the question. Forty years ago I was

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

a Fellow of a certain college at Oxford, and I had an income fixed as absolutely as any income could be. It was considered by the community that a portion of this money should be taken away and spent on professorships, and a hundred a year was taken away from me, and I did not grumble, for I said the community has allowed me to have this money in trust for the community; the community is of opinion that the money is not being used for the good of the community, and re-distributes it. I apply the same principle to the parson; I apply the same principle to the landlord. *Suprema lex salus populi.*

7358. You did not buy with your hard-earned money the right to receive the rents from this particular property or this income?—I earned it by intellectual exertion and competition, which is as good a price to pay for it as money.

7359. You had no freehold estate in it?—A freehold estate is surely only a particular form of tenure which the community says is desirable, and whoever holds freehold, or copyhold, or any hold, holds what the community has given, the condition being that it is for the good of the community that he should hold it. I am referring to what you have raised, the ethical point. If it is thought undesirable for the community that this should continue to be held on those terms, I argue that the community may resume it with fair treatment to the individual.

7360. What is to be fair treatment?—I look upon 40 years as an exceedingly fair treatment.

7361. You think that payment of the full present rental for 40 years would be compensation for the freeholder?—Looking to the historical account of the acquisition of land by the landowners of England I think they may think themselves overpaid with 40 years' fair rent.

7362. Then it is to be a State annuity for 40 years?—Right; you may call it that. It comes to that.

7363. Equal to that amount?—Yes.

7364. Do you think that the rent, or interest, which the tenant would have to pay upon that capital value, coupled with the tenant right, and all those other things, would be much less than the rent which now, under present conditions, he pays?—I cannot quite seize the point.

7365. If the owner is to have for 40 years a guaranteed income equal to the income he now receives——?— To the valued income.

7366. A guaranteed income equal to the valued income, that is a charge on the State, is it not?—Yes.

7367. That will carry the necessity for the tenant cultivating the land to pay a certain rent?—To pay the same rent he would have paid the landlord, probably less.

7368. How much better off is he?—Because at the end of the 40 years the land will be out of possession of the landlord.

Chairman.

7369. I think you mean that this system would come into play at the end of the time during which the landlord was to get this; 30 or 40 years?—Yes.

7370. The

Chairman—continued.

7370. The benefits would be in suspense?—Yes.

Mr. *Bolton.*

7371. It is practically to be postponed for 40 years?—If he lives long enough. I gave it to him for 40 years; or to him and his son, the two lives, live as long or short as they may. It is repaying the landlord, which you must do: it is compensation to the landlord.

7372. It is to the man himself, who is in possession, and to any son of his?—That was the alternative I proposed; he and his son, or 40 years.

7373. Is he to have the choice of the 40 years?—Yes.

7374. Then, it is to be two lives, or 40 years, whichever he prefers?—No, he is to say at once which he likes.

7375. He is to have an option now to say which he will take?—Yes.

7376. Then, is he to be paid the capital value of that down?—No.

7377. He is to wait?—He is to have his rent secure for 40 years, as he was before.

7378. Is he to have a saleable interest?—No.

7379. Why not?—We secure him his rent, and there is an end of him.

7380. He is to have something?—Nothing whatever, but his secured rent for 40 years.

7381. He is to live himself?—No, he is wiped out of the place; the land becomes the property of the community on the 1st January next.

7382. He is surely to live on the community?—Nothing, except to have his rent.

7383. He is to have that?—He is to have that.

7384. To do what he likes with it?—Yes.

7385. Then he may sell?—Yes, for the time.

7386. What is the difference between that and providing that at the end of 40 years, or at the end of the term of two lives to be selected by the owner, all property in land should cease, and it should pass to the State?—That is what I propose.

7387. Is not that confiscation of the landlord's interest, other than the interest that you give to the man that you carve out of the property?—That is the ethical question I have treated.

7388. He has paid for the property with the money which he has earned by his brains, as you have. He has paid for that land his hard-earned money. Why should he have appropriated by the State a portion of that without compensation. To put it plainly, is not that taking away a man's property without paying him for it?—Have I not made the ethical part of the case, as far as I can, clear?

7389. Is not what you propose, taking away a man's property without paying him for it?—I think 40 years is a full receipt. Look into the history of the past.

7390. To the extent of the property remaining after you have given him this portion of his own property, is not that taking away his property without paying him for it?—You mean without paying him a sufficient price?

7391. Without paying him at all?—No; you

Mr. *Bolton*—continued.

give him 40 years' annuity; that is the price you give, and I think it is a sufficient price.

7392. I suppose you would let him commute this annuity, or life interest?—I should let him do anything which the life societies would allow him to do.

7393. Do you think that in such a land system there would be such encouragement to the cultivator as to induce him to work on the land?—That is my whole point; I think it would.

7394. Do you not think the reason why land is cultivated in France by peasant owners is because there is ownership, because the man gets the full benefit of his labour on the land?—From my experience they would be much better off if they paid a rent to the State, or community, instead of having laid it out on the land.

7395. Do you think, as we are here as practical men to deal with a practical question, distress arising from want of employment at the present time, not in 40 years, that this proposal of yours will, in any way, assist us to make a practical report?—I think if my proposals were taken *en bloc* they would begin to reverse the migration to-morrow.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7396. I wish to ask you just a question about this 40 years. Is it not a fact that very little land is worth 40 years' purchase? Is any land worth 40 years' purchase?—I know of no rural land that is worth 40 years' purchase.

7397. Then, practically speaking, your theory is, as I understand it, that the whole cost of the land is to be paid to the landlord?—I propose that the land should be revalued, and that the revalued rent should be paid to him only. That was the condition of my plan.

7398. Not the present rent?—No; which is avowedly, by the landlords themselves, very often an inequitable rent, because they give back very large quantities every year.

7399. Your theory is that you are going to pay the landlord the present real value of the land, and, somehow or other, the new tenants will have to pay that?—Yes.

7400. Is not that the same thing as giving ultimately to all the present amount of taxation?—No; I have tried to explain that the rent will wipe out the taxation.

7401. You said that where you let these 100 acres you could not give them any fixity of tenure because you were only the rector, and that therefore you had to give it up. Was there not any land in the district to let?—None available; none that they could use; none that could be got.

7402. Do you mean to say there was no land to be let at all within a reasonable distance of that village?—No land within ten miles that was available for any practical purpose; no land within a mile that could have been held in allotments, and the allotted land must be as near the home as possible. The advantage of my land was that it was close to the homes.

7403. I understood your proposal was that they were ultimately to build their own cottages?—It was my wish, but it was hopeless.

7404. Not if you could have got other land near?—I would much rather they would have

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

put up nice new houses on the land they had than the villainous old hovels with which the village was dotted before.

7405. Surely in the district there were farms to let, were there not?—Not to be cut up. Proprietors must cut them up into allotments.

7406. They would not allow them to be cut up?—That was ascertained before I made the offer; there was no other chance.

7407. Could you not get the land?—No.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

7408. You have told us what your proposals are as to pointing out that the landlord is to get for 40 years a revalued rent. Will you tell us how that revaluation was to be arrived at?—I would have a special process for the entire land being valued.

7409. Over the whole country?—Over the whole country.

7410. Would you be prepared to apply the same principle that you proposed to apply to the landlords in respect of agricultural land to house property?—Yes.

7411. All over the United Kingdom?—Yes.

7412. And to factory property?—All property that stood upon land, which is virtually all property.

7413. So that you practically propose that everything which at present is individual property should become State property?—Yes, all land.

7414. Houses, factories, agricultural land?—Absolutely.

7415. May I ask you, in regard to the statement you have made as to the present portion of agricultural labourers, whether what you have said applies equally to all parts of the United Kingdom?—I mentioned, at the beginning of my evidence, that I had visited 500 or 600 villages in a great many counties, and my evidence represents the aggregate of the information I obtained from the lips of the men. I have closer and minuter evidence in some parts than, of course, others.

7416. Have you had any practical experience, or do you possess any knowledge which would allow you to apply the expression you have made use of in regard to the landlords to Scotland?—None whatever.

7417. So that you have no knowledge whatever of the position of the agricultural labourers, or their relations to the landlord in Scotland?—Absolutely none. I beg your pardon; when you said "United Kingdom," I should have confined myself to England. You said "United Kingdom" just now.

7418. In a previous question?—Yes. I took it as England.

7419. You limit it?—I limit it to England; I leave out Scotland and Ireland.

7420. You spoke about obsolete systems of farming being pursued, and I think you rather suggested to the Committee that you referred, as obsolete forms of cultivation, to farms which are occupied by single farmers to the extent of several hundreds of acres?—My objection to the obsolete method was to the growing of cereals throughout England, and to what is still known s the four-course system.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

7421. That is not bound up with it?—No, not necessarily; it is a two-course system in Warwickshire.

7422. Has it ever occurred to you to carry your investigations over the border, and, as you make a statement of this character in regard to the system of cultivation which you regard as obsolete in England, to find out whether it has been successfully carried out in any other part of the kingdom, or not?—No.

7423. Are you aware that, at the present time, the ordinary wage for a ploughman on these large Scotch farms is 20*s.* to 21*s.*, with a house and a certain provision of meal and other things in addition?—I can well believe it, because the Northumberland labourer's wage is 20*s.* a week.

Mr. *Stuart Wortley.*

7424. How long were you at Stockton?—I was there 18 years.

7425. How long were you there after 1886. You were there when this scheme of allotment was issued?—Yes.

7426. The Glebe Lands Act came into operation during that time?—Yes.

7427. Did you consider or make any attempt to put into operation the provisions of that Act?—No, the thing was working so well.

7428. Was it not represented to you that you could?—I had ascertained the effects. They did not appear to me sufficient.

7429. Was it brought to your mind that you could, under that Act, have given the very security, if the provisions had been carried through successfully, which you wanted to give your labourers, the fixity of tenure?—You raise a new point to me. I did not know that was possible.

7430. Have you considered whether, under your scheme for what you may call municipal ownership, for that is what it comes to, the tenants will practically be a privileged class in the whole community?—How so, more than the farmers in the present day.

7431. They are to be at less than the competitive rent to begin with. Is it your belief that if they sell their interest there is nothing to sell except the improvements and the growing crops?—That is my impression.

7432. It is in that belief that you have constructed this system?—Yes.

7433. Have you considered the question of how these holdings should be taxed, either for Imperial or for local purposes; upon what basis of value?—Do you mean as apart from the revised rental?

7434. Yes?—No; the revised rental seemed to me an obvious standard.

7435. That is, by this scheme, less than the full marketable rent?—It may be. I cannot tell. In some cases it would be.

7436. Practically, it is granting aid out of the taxes of the rest of the country?—It may be, I do not know.

Mr. *Mather.*

7437. I understand you have passed almost the whole of your life in the agricultural districts?—Many years, the last 20 or 30 years.

7438. Therefore you are quite familiar with agricultural life?—Yes.

7439. In

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

7439. In the small villages where you were?—Yes.

7440. Especially in the Midlands of England?—Yes. In the Midlands and in the south-western peninsula.

7441. Are your views based chiefly upon the results of the experiment you made yourself with the hundred acres of glebe land as to what the land would produce and how far it may be remunerative to farm labourers?—Chiefly.

7442. You spoke of the success of that experiment as to a certain extent proving, as I understood it, the obsolete nature of the system at present in work in the large farms in the country?—Not exactly, did I? I distinguished consumption from sale, nothing more than that; but you see consumption is inevitable in a small holding, and I went on to say the sale might be profitable if the proper things were grown.

7443. You do not desire it to be inferred from any statement, as the result of your experiment, that large farms are necessarily obsolete as a method of farming the land of this country?—Well, I think that almost follows from my evidence. I have pointed out that the profitable farming is the farming of certain crops which, in fact, are not cereals. I doubt very much if large farmers could profitably raise these fancy crops, as I call them, without a labour expenditure which would make their farms not pay.

7444. Do you admit that in England now, farmed upon large areas of land, possessed by one man and farmed by one man with sufficient capital, a sufficient number of crops may be still grown in this country, notwithstanding the amount of agricultural produce that we import from other parts of the world?—Do you mean cereals?

7445. Yes?—No, I do not see that you could.

7446. You would divide the whole surface of the farming land in this country into small holdings?—Yes.

Chairman.

7447. I think you stated that cereals can be grown, but they cannot be grown to compete in price?—Quite so, and they may be grown for consumption and straw, but they cannot be grown for price.

Mr. *Mather.*

7448. Those products must be imported from other places, therefore you divide the whole country into, first of all, allotments?—Into the allotments as a preliminary to the small holding.

7449. Then you would divide it into a small holding, so as to create a farming class in the country on the land, who would wholly devote their own hands and their own skill and daily labour to the cultivation and tillage of these small holdings?—Yes.

7450. Therefore, you would expect by that means to get rid of the intermediate labouring class now applying to be paid for hire?—I think a man who started in life would always do a certain amount of labouring work until he had acquired sufficient to start himself in them, but the man at a certain time of life would be a farmer and not a labourer.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

7451. You would allow these small holdings to be multiplied under one farmer. Supposing a man first had an allotment in your parish, and then by saving and by working 16 hours a day, and so on, he could obtain sufficient means to put money into a small holding, and to obtain a small holding with fixity of tenure, would you allow him after he had cultivated that, and saved more money, to take another small holding of equal amount?—I think so.

7452. You would gradually allow that individual to become, probably at the end of 20 or 30 years, a large holder?—Yes.

7453. So that you would allow a man to acquire allotment after allotment, or small holding after small holding, until he became really a large farmer?—I would. I would leave it to the community, which would judge of the necessities.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7454. Arising out of that question, may I ask whether you mean that these large farms are to be occupied by one man, and the man is not to occupy more than he can work?—Sub-letting I should prevent most rigidly.

Mr. *Mather.*

7455. I understand the whole scheme to depend on the individual work of the men occupying the land?—Not altogether, but in a great measure. In France, out of the seven millions four millions are worked only by the owners, the other three millions involve a certain amount of labour, certainly, and I should not prevent that.

7456. About the nationalisation of land, it appears to me that some misconception has obtained in the minds of the Committee as to the meaning of the nationalisation, at least I gather so from the view of some of my colleagues, that they look upon your scheme as only being possible on the whole of the United Kingdom, or say England, if taken up at once by the nation, that is to say, by the State. I use the word State as covering municipalities. Do you consider it is necessary for the realisation of any of your schemes, which I take to be in the main contained in your first sentence, namely to bring back to the land the millions of people who have in the last 30 or 40 years left it; is it necessary to the realisation of your scheme in any degree that the whole land of this country should be nationalised, that is to say, should become the possession of the community or the State?—My experience leads me to say that the extinction of landlordism is an initial necessity.

7457. Short of extinguishing landlords as a whole, suppose the State did nationalise, say, 5,000 acres anywhere, or 1,000, it would nationalise it simply by buying it. It is all the same, I presume, to you whether the State guarantees the rental for 40 years, which is the income of the landlord for 40 years, during which period of course the land becomes the property of the State; but I will assume that by any means the State acquires the land, and

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

makes it national, because all that the State possesses is national property. Is it necessary for your scheme that the State should acquire the whole of the land of the country on that basis, either by guaranteeing the rental for 40 years or buying it outright, for your peasant ownership to be established?—I look upon rent and royalties and ground rents as burdens to be extinguished as soon as possible, and therefore I want to see the whole land nationalised.

7458. That is, of course, a wide-embracing and far-reaching scheme. Another, if modest, rather points to a more practical idea than the ideas you have promulgated this morning, dealing with the question as a whole. You began with 100 acres; you were practically the State yourself, as far as your labour was concerned. You said, "I am the State; I take this land, it is mine; I give it to you, it is divided into 80 portions"; 80 men were put upon it. If the State assume towards any given area of the country the relation you hold towards those 80 men, would your scheme not, in that way, receive a very large impetus? Would not it begin immediately, and would not it grow from that, if the State found it useful to the community without any waste of the national money? Would you not find that a method of nationalising on your system?—It is very possible, and I remember that Aristotle says he is a fool who knows not how much the half is better than the whole; but, as a matter of perfection, I prefer my desire for the whole.

7459. You have come here to try and instruct and enlighten the Committee in their labour, which is arduous enough; to find some light and some leading on this question of dealing with national distress, and even permanent want of employment. Is it necessary that we should reject all your evidence to-day as being visionary, or perhaps I would rather put it as far too enthusiastic to be accepted largely by the House of Commons, or by the country, simply because of the demand that the whole of it shall be taken at once, instead of beginning step by step and proving how it progresses before you commit yourself to the whole?—Of course, I should be sorry indeed to refuse to take a part because I cannot take the whole. I do not think I can say more than that.

7460. Are we to understand that taking your 100-acres scheme (for that is really the practical fact we have got from you to-day, for it is a most important fact), if we were to multiply your 100-acres scheme a thousand-fold by some method that would enable the tenants on the land, divided up as you would divide it up in larger proportions; that is, instead of being an acre, suppose you give them six or seven acres per head, it would enable a family to live and to use the whole of their time on that land, if such land were, under certain conditions, bestowed upon those who were needy, who were out of employment and were distressed, and had an opportunity of getting into work of that kind, either temporarily or permanently, would not that be in accordance with the results of your own experience?—Quite so. I should die, if you were to do that, much happier than I am likely to do, and I should leave my successors to work for the rest.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

7461-2. Multiply by a thousand. I am only using figures simply in a representative sense?—If it is a question between accepting your limited proposal or of rejecting the whole as visionary, I, of course, take your alternative.

Mr. *Wilson* (Govan).

7463. The district you come from is entirely a rural district?—Except that there was a cement industry in the village.

7464. Have you had much distress during this last winter?—Very severe distress.

7465. How did you meet that?—We met it by special subscriptions spent in coal and food.

7466. By voluntary effort?—Voluntary effort.

7467. You state that the first migration of the labourers leaving the villages was from want of employment on account of the large farms being conducted on public methods?—And the consequent economy of labour.

7468. Do you think it is probable that these same labourers would come back to the land again?—I hope so.

7469. Would prefer the work?—I do not say that those who left in 1873 will come back now. They have worked out their life on new lines. I think the recent importations would.

7470. You said something about the houses of the labourers. Do they belong to the farmer or to the landlord?—The custom all over England in most cases is that they belong to the landlord.

7471. Do you think that if the labourers were to have an allotment to cultivate it, as you suggest, that they would build cottages for themselves upon it?—I think so.

7472. That is to say that, provided they could get fixity of tenures, they would have some good ground for considering that, if they built a house on land, it would not be taken away from them?—Yes.

7473. You think so?—Yes.

7474. Would that have the tendency to keep the families of these labourers in the country districts?—Undoubtedly.

7475. And if the labourer was a thrifty man and industrious, and suppose he worked during his own hours in cultivating his allotment, he might, in course of time, stretch out for something better in the way of getting a small holding?—Quite so.

7476. You think that, so far as the country labourers are concerned, this is the best way of getting over the difficulty and not crowding the towns with other labourers?—That has been the point of my evidence.

7477. There has been a good deal said about the nationalisation of the land, and your theory of 40 years rent, paying for both rent and profit. I understand that is your view?—Yes.

7478. Supposing that an estate was worth 20,000*l.*, and that a man had 20,000*l.* in money and he lent the money on interest; what would be the difference at the end of 40 years, between the man with 20,000*l.* and the proprietor of the estate

Mr. *Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

estate worth 20,000*l.*, who had got a rent for his 20,000*l.* instead of interest for the 20,000*l.* What would be the difference?—Is the estate worth 20,000*l*?

7479. Yes, the estate worth 20,000*l.*?—What will he get his rent at?

7480. And the interest on the money was paid in rent not higher than the interest on money going outside. At the end of 40 years the man who loaned the money would get his 20,000*l.* back, and have his interest all these years—Yes.

7481. In the case of the estate the man who owned the estate got his rent for 40 years, and the estate would then pass from him to the man who paid the rent?—Quite so.

Mr. *Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

7482. Do you think that would be fair?—I think the man would take it out of the land and put it into consols, and perhaps when we have done nationalising the land we may deal with the consols.

Mr. *Bolton.*

7483. You mean by nationalising, wiping them out of existence?—Yes, with 40 years in the same way.

Friday, 3rd May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. JOHN THEODORE DODD, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

7484. WOULD you say what position you hold, and what experience you have had, which enable you to speak with some degree of authority on this matter?—I have been for a great many years standing Counsel to the Allotments Association of Birmingham, and was formerly Chairman of the Poor Law Committee of the London Reform Union; I am at present Councillor for the West Ward in the City of Oxford; I have also written several works connected with Local Government and Parish Law, and have given some time and study to the subject.

7485. The Allotments Association to which you refer is a voluntary body, I believe, for promoting the use of small holdings and allotments?—Yes; it was founded originally mainly by the efforts of Mr. Jesse Collings, and I think Mr. Chamberlain also assisted; but now, I believe, Sir Walter Foster is one of the leading men; he has been on it for many years.

7486. All that has given you great knowledge of what has been done, and experience as to the best way of dealing with the subject?—I think it has given me some knowledge.

7487. What is your view as to the best way of meeting the difficulty that we are endeavouring to deal with?—I think it may be dealt with either by drastic changes in the social organisation or by means of a large number of small reforms and improvements; I propose the latter. Many of these reforms are attainable without any Act of Parliament; others are merely extensions of principles that have been already accepted by the Legislature.

7488. You think you see your way by these small changes, either legislative or administrative, to do at all events a great deal of good in the way of relieving the difficulty which now exists?—I think we can do a great deal of good.

7489. You first wish, I understand, to give us your opinions on the subject of the charitable endowments which exist and which might be used for this purpose?—Yes.

7490. Would you say what your view is on that point?—I think that property left for the employment of the unemployed ought not to be transferred to education. I will take an example or two to make my meaning clear. Under the scheme for Hunt's and Atwell's Charity (London), property, left for the employment of the unemployed, was used for education.

Chairman—continued.

7491. Was it left to the unemployed *eo nomine*; was it so described?—Yes; I can give you from memory the plan: it was that a stock of goods was to be purchased, and then employment was to be given, and then the profits of the employment were to be used for obtaining more stock. The following is briefly the account given in the large Report of Lord Brougham's Commission, No. 8, p. 375. The rents were to make a Stock to be employed so that poor people, especially such as were free of the Skinners' Company, might be set on work and yet the stock kept whole and increased yearly; but 20*l.* a-year out of the stock was to be yearly allowed for a dinner.

7492. What was the date of that charity?—It was in the time of Elizabeth.

7493. What was done in that case?—It went to a middle class school.

7494. Under what authority?—I cannot tell you. It is now employed for a middle class school under the authority of the Charity Commissioners, but I think it is quite possible that the alteration may have been made before the time of the Charity Commissioners.

7495. Do you know the date of the scheme of the Charity Commissioners?—It was somewhere about six years ago.

7496. But you are not sure whether this change, to some extent at least, may not have been effected earlier?—It is quite possible that it was.

7497. Did it involve a large sum of money?—I do not know what the amount was. The gift included land in the City of London, probably of large value. The scheme was for Hunt's and Atwell's Charities, but Atwell's was the one for the unemployed. The second example is a recent scheme for a Lincolnshire charity, where a similar misuse, as I should call it, took place. I think the name of the place was Donington. In this case, again, I do not know that change was effected by the Charity Commissioners; it may have been done, and very probably was done, by some earlier authority.

7498. Do you know the date of that scheme?—It would be about three years ago.

7499. Are you aware whether there are many charitable endowments devoted in this way to finding employment for the unemployed?—I cannot tell the number; but considering that I have come across a couple in the schemes of the

Charity

Chairman—continued.

Charity Commissioners, I think there must be a considerable number altogether.

7500. You accidentally found those two cases?—Yes; I was not searching particularly for them; and I know there are more.

7501. How far has the change which has been made been final; can it be recalled or cancelled?—The Commissioners say that when money has been taken for educational purposes they have no power to re-transfer it to charitable purposes; and I think that view of theirs is usually correct, although I believe there may be some exceptions to the statement.

7502. Do you mean that they have no power under their constitution, or do you merely mean that having once been done it would cause an insuperable amount of difficulty to undo it?—I mean that in most cases they have no power to undo it. In some cases probably they have; but not in very many.

7503. You think that once money goes into the jaws of education you cannot get it out again?—As a general rule you cannot, for this reason: The Endowed Schools Acts carefully provide that money given for doles, &c., may be transferred for education, and, naturally enough, they do not provide for the opposite function. Therefore, the only case in which the Charity Commissioners could transfer property now used for education back again to charity would be a case in which the *cy-près* doctrine was applicable. Supposing they found an educational endowment which was practically become obsolete, or which would not work, they might possibly transfer it back to the charity. But, of course, for a long series of years the tendency of the Court of Chancery has been distinctly in favour of education as against certain forms of charity; so that the Charity Commissioners, in re-transferring to charity money transferred to education, would have to go against the principles which the Court of Chancery has laid down for some considerable period, and they would also have to go against their own practice for a considerable period, so that it is not really at all likely they would effect such a restoration, though, technically speaking, they possibly may have the power in some cases.

7504. In the case of property left for apprenticeship, what is your view?—I think it should not be transferred to middle-class or secondary education. One of the causes of want of employment is the ignorance of any definite employment; no doubt that has been urged upon the Committee already.

7505. You would like to expand and reinstate the practice of apprenticeship?—Yes, or some other method of teaching a definite trade. I should like to mention that, since the time that powers of diversion were given to the Charity Commissioners, they have diverted from charity to education property giving an income of about 20,000*l.* a year. I think that where money has been ordered to be taken for education from charity, and not actually used, it should be restored. There are a number of cases in which there are schemes providing that money given for charity shall be used for education, which schemes have not been carried out, for some reason or other, as where, for instance, they are delayed for money to accumulate and the like; in any case of that sort I think the money might be restored.

Chairman—continued.

7506. You quoted a figure of 20,000*l.*; where did you get the figure from?—It is from a reply to a question in Parliament.

7507. Of course, the reason of this tendency in recent years has been the widely-spread belief that much of the money that was left for charitable purposes had come to be greatly abused; you are aware of the existence of that belief?—That is one reason, no doubt, and another reason was that 50 years ago it was practically impossible to get education for the poor. There were those two reasons.

7508. You think that the spread of national education has greatly altered the case?—I do. I also think people have found out that there are many ways of helping the poor that are extremely useful. As a precedent for restoring money that has not been actually used, I would quote the Poor Law Bill which was introduced by Mr. Alfred Thomas, and backed by Sir Walter Foster, which has a similar provision as to money left for almshouses, and transferred for education.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7509. That Bill was never passed, was it?—No.

Chairman.

7510. Was it read a second time?—I do not think so. It was called the Poor Law Reform Bill. It is Bill No. 121, of 1890.

7511. Have you anything to say as to the action of the Charity Commissioners in the matter of allotments?—Yes; one alleviation to the lot of the unemployed would be the provision of allotments. I think no charity lands should be sold. I hold the view that land, which is public property or semi-public property, should not be sold; and especially no charity land should be sold. From 1885 to the present time the Charity Commissioners have sanctioned the sale of land of the value of above two millions sterling.

7512. That is in 10 years?—Yes; and from 1853 to the present time they have sanctioned the sale of land of the value of eight millions sterling. My authority for that statement is the 42nd Report of the Charity Commissioners published in 1895, page 9.

7513. For what reason did they sell that land?—They give two grounds: the one is bad management by the trustees, and the other is the supposed policy of the law of mortmain. I can read you what they said about bad management by the trustees from a Report made many years ago by the Commissioners.

7514. Will you give the date of the Report?—It would be above 20 years ago. This is what they say in one of their ordinary Annual Reports (I find that it is the 20th Report, being the Report for 1872, published in 1873): "The management of these properties is in fact almost universally found to be attended with a more or less excessive amount of expenditure. Instances have come under our observation in which the cost of management has habitually amounted to one fourth, or even a larger proportion, of the gross rental, and this where the members of the governing body have been gentlemen of station and intelligence having undoubtedly the desire to discharge effectively in every particular

Chairman—continued.

their duty as trustees." I think with regard to bad management a partial remedy is provided now by the Parish Councils Act, which enables the parish councils in some cases to appoint some of the trustees; but I am afraid the Charity Commissioners will to some extent rather minimise that remedy, as the Charity Commissioners have shown a disposition to encourage co-optative trustees rather than representative trustees.

7515. There is some truth in the general allegation, is there not, that the management by a public body of any kind is seldom so keen as that of a private owner; I mean there is not quite the same incentive to close management? —I think there is certainly an incentive to treat the tenants well.

7516. But apart from treating the tenants well, as a general theory there may be not quite the same rigid management as when personal interests come in?—It may be so. As regards management by trustees, I may add that I think it has been unfortunate that the trustees, to a large extent, have not sent in their accounts as required by law. The trustees of charities are bound to send in their accounts to the Charity Commissioners, but many thousands of them omitted to do so, and until recently the Charity Commissioners do not seem to have compelled them to do so.

7517. They are doing it more now?—Yes. I think the first ground put forward by the Charity Commissioners, viz., bad management, is not now a solid ground. Then their second ground is the supposed policy of the law of mortmain. The Charity Commissioners took the view which was very commonly held 50 years ago, that it was against public policy for a public body to hold land, and consequently the Charity Commissioners rather encouraged the sale, and discouraged any re-purchases, of land. I submit that that ground has also gone. Lord Herschell's Act enabling charities to be the recipients of land shows the disposition of the Legislature to take the opposite view. Of course, I am aware Lord Herschell's Act provides that the land that the charity receives by way of gift shall be sold within a limited time, unless sanction is obtained for its retention; but still it is a very great inroad on the old law of mortmain that now a man may leave a piece of land to a charity while before he could not unless the charity was one that was exceptionally favoured by law.

7518. Will you give us the short title and date of what you refer to as Lord Herschell's Act?—It is 54 and 55 of the Queen, Chapter 73; it is called the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891.

7519. What has been the attitude of the Charity Commissioners, would you say, with regard to allotments?—It has generally been rather opposed to allotments. When the Allotments Act of 1882 was passed, they could give certificates exempting land from coming under that Act, and they did give those certificates in large numbers.

7520. That power of exemption was provided for in the Act?—Yes. Also in nine or ten cases they omitted to obey the law, and omitted to insert provision for allotments in schemes made under the Charitable Trusts Acts. Their excuse was that the Act was recent, that they had overlooked the thing. Even now they usually omit to insert such provisions in schemes made under the Endowed Schools Act, though they insert them in those made under the Charitable Trusts Acts.

Chairman—continued.

7521. When you say that that was their excuse, what reason have you for saying that? —Because, when a question was asked in the House, they laid a paper before Parliament showing the cases in which they had omitted to obey the law, and I think the excuse put forward was that the Act was recent.

7522. Can you give the reference as to that? —No. [I find ("Hansard," p. 1045), that on 4th August 1885, in a reply made on behalf of the Charity Commissioners in the House of Commons, it is stated that the allotment provisions had in some cases been omitted, "partly from inadvertence (chiefly in the case of schemes drafted previously to and established shortly after the passing of the Allotments Act 1882)," and partly on account of a doubt as to whether these provisions should only be inserted in schemes providing for the management of the lands of the charity.]

7523. Was it in a present session?—No; it would be years ago. [I find that the Return is dated 5th April 1886. It was ordered to be printed on 11th July 1887, and it is numbered 218. The explanation given at the foot of the Return is that in some cases "the Schemes were in type before the passing of the Allotments Act 1882"; that in one case the Scheme provided for field gardens, and that "in the remaining cases the omission is due to the use of a form of Draft Scheme printed before the passing of the Act."] They still usually omit to insert this power to let allotments in schemes under the Endowed Schools Act. Whether they have the right to make this omission or not is questionable; but my opinion is that it is very unwise to omit those provisions. All they need do is simply to put in the scheme the power enabling trustees, if the trustees think fit (not otherwise), to let the land in allotments.

7524. Have you any main recommendation to make with regard to the Charity Commissioners, in order to ensure their adopting that view of their duties?—I think they should be brought under Parliamentary control, and that more publicity should be given to their proposed schemes. But the point of Parliamentary control is of course the chief one. Then I think that the result of the public inquiries under the Endowed Schools Act should depend more upon the evidence. When I was counsel in a case at Gelligaer all the evidence appeared to me to be to the effect that the scheme was unsatisfactory. I may say I was counsel against the scheme.

7525. They decided against you?—Yes; they decided the other way.

7526. I understand you to quote that case not because you complain of having been overruled, but as, in your opinion, giving one proof of the necessity for greater publicity in their action?— I think they should give more weight to the evidence they receive, if such inquiries are to be a reality.

7527. You cannot pass an Act compelling a man to take a certain view of the evidence he receives?—Of course the Committee will understand

Chairman—continued.

stand that I am not making any complaint. The Commissioners were perfectly courteous to me. Then my next suggestion would be that no charity lands should be sold; that all draft schemes should be sent to the Library of the House of Commons as soon as they are published; that all draft schemes and completed schemes should contain on the face of them a short *précis* of the original trusts of the charity.

7528. So as to be intelligible?—Yes. I think some of these schemes would hardly have passed if people had seen on the face of them what were the original objects of the charity. I think what I have suggested would be a great protection. Then I think one of the Charity Commissioners should always be a Parliamentary Commissioner, who should be chairman of the Commission.

7529. You will understand we are not sitting here in judgment on the Charity Commissioners, nor is it any part of our duty to make a definite recommendation with regard to them, but I understand you say that in your view the action of the Charity Commissioners has been hurtful to the position of the working classes in two or three ways?—Yes.

7530. In the first place, in transferring to other objects funds that had been devoted to employment; in the second place, interfering with apprenticeship; and, in the third place, not giving sufficient facilities for allotments; that is what you wish to convey, is it not?—Yes; except that I would say with regard to the first point you put, I do not know that they have ever transferred properties left for employment; all I say is the property has been transferred by some authority; but, as I stated, the alteration may have been made before the time of the Charity Commissioners.

7531. Leaving there the question of administrative and any other changes that might be introduced through the channel of the Charity Commissioners, is that all you would say about that point?—Yes.

7532. What have you to say as to the duties and action of boards of guardians?—Useful employment is the principle of the Poor Law. One of the first principles of the Poor Law Act of 1603 (43 Elizabeth, chapter 2) is useful work for the able-bodied. If I may quote the Statute, it says the overseers were to set on work all persons "having no means to maintain them, and use no ordinary and daily trade to get their living by"; that is, as I should say, people with neither private means nor regular employment. Then the parish officers were to raise a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, iron, &c., to set the poor on work. Then they were to raise money for the necessary relief of the impotent, and for putting out children to be apprentices. The three main principles of the Act are, (1) employment of the able-bodied; (2) necessary relief for the old and sick; and (3) industrial education for the children. So that it seems to me to be an error to suppose that the guardians have nothing to do with giving employment. I also think it is a mistake to say that the guardians have only to do with the relief of the "destitute," not of the "poor." The Poor Law Act directs provision for the poor who cannot maintain themselves; it does not use the word

Chairman—continued.

"destitute"; it speaks of the sick and aged poor, and of able-bodied people who have insufficient to keep them; and, practically, it is important to notice that the Act does not require that a person should be bereft of every stick of furniture, and have spent his last halfpenny, before he comes for relief. Now, going back to the question of employment, may I mention what Mr. Justice Blackstone says on the subject. He says, in volume 4 of his Commentaries, at page 432, "The number of indigent persons being also greatly increased by withdrawing the alms of the monasteries, a plan was formed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth more humane and beneficial than even feeding and clothing of millions, by affording them the means (with proper industry) to feed and to clothe themselves. And the further any subsequent plans for maintaining the poor have departed from this institution the more impracticable and even pernicious their visionary attempts have proved."

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7533. What is the date of Blackstone's Commentaries?— More than a hundred years ago. The first edition was printed at Oxford in 1765; I quoted the 12th edition "with the last corrections of the author," published in 1795.

Chairman.

7534. As the question of date is raised, can you quote a more recent authority?—Yes; the Poor Law Commission of 1834 very strongly advise useful employment for the unemployed.

7535. Can you give us the reference?—The reference is page 324 of the original edition of the Report of the Commissioners. They strongly advise that useful employment, such as road-making, drainage, &c., should be given to the able-bodied. The Commissioners lay great stress on useful employment, and speak with disgust of useless labour, such as fictitious errands with baskets full of stones, as "pernicious," and state that they ought to be prevented. The Local Government Board, on the other hand, approves of test labour, with useless picking of oakum, and equally profitless breakage of stones. Now, I will read the words of the Commissioners: "The association of the utility of labour to both parties, the employer as well as the employed, is one which we consider it most important to preserve and strengthen; and we deem everything mischievous which unnecessarily gives to it a repulsive aspect. At the same time we believe that in extended districts the requisite sources of employment will be easily found. The supply of the articles consumed in workhouses and prisons would afford a large outlet for the manufactures carried on in the house; and with respect to outdoor employment it is probable that there are few districts to which such evidence as that contained in the following extracts would not have been applicable." Then they give extracts from the evidence of the Overseer of St. Mary's, Reading, and from that of the Rev. James Randall, Rector of Binfield, Berks. To quote another authority, the Court, in Reg. *v.* Collett (2 Barnewall and Creswell, p. 329), declared that it was "the primary duty of the parish officers to employ the poor if possible." "And,"

Chairman—continued.

continues Chief Justice Abbott, "I express the opinion now for the sake of the poor themselves, to whom no greater kindness can be done than by enabling them to earn their own living by labour, instead of suffering them to eat the bread of idleness, by which their habits and morals must soon be corrupted." Then it will be observed that the 43rd of Elizabeth, chap. 2, empowers the boards of guardians to be both manufacturers and merchants; they have power to make goods and to dispose of them.

Mr. *Logan.*

7536. Is that Act still in existence or has it been repealed; is it still the law that the guardians have that power?—The Act is still the law of the land; but the administrators are different. The parish officers have nothing to do now with giving relief; the guardians are the people who have these powers in their hands, subject to the Local Government Board.

Chairman.

7537. That being your view of the original intention, and the high authoritative decisions in the matter, what recommendations would you suggest?—I would recommend that the guardians should be allowed to try to give useful employment where they think fit, and also that they should be allowed to take land for that purpose when they deem it necessary. No power is given by the 43rd of Elizabeth to take land, and I submit that the probable reason is that at that time the parish would be able to employ the waste. But in the present century Acts of Parliament were passed enabling the parish officers to obtain land for employment; and first of all I would quote the Act passed in 1819, the 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 12. This Act gives power to the parish to buy or hire 20 acres of land to set the poor on work. They were to have "reasonable wages for their work, and the poor persons so employed" were to have "the like remedies for the recovery of their wages," and to be "subject to the like punishment for misbehaviour in their employment as other labourers in husbandry are by law entitled and subject to." The point is that they were to have reasonable wages, not merely a pauper's pittance, and also that they were to be treated like other labourers in husbandry. I should submit (but this is quite a moot point) that such employment would not disfranchise them.

7538. You mean that, it being employment of an ordinary kind, and rewarded in the ordinary way, there was nothing in it of a degrading or charitable nature, and that therefore it should not disfranchise?—That would be matter rather of opinion; but I am inclined to think as a matter of law it probably would not disfranchise; though, as I say, it is a moot point.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

7539. You read only the latter part of Section 12; will you read the former part of the same provision?—It provides that the parish officers, with the consent of the vestry, may "employ and set to work in the cultivation of such land on account of the parish any such persons as by law they are directed to set to work" (that must mean poor persons unable to maintain themselves) "and to pay to such of the poor persons so employed as shall not be supported by the parish reasonable wages for their work." Those words strengthen my argument.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

Chairman.

7540. It distinguishes between the two classes, the paupers and the able-bodied working poor?—Yes, that is so. After an experience of more than two centuries the Legislature affirmed and extended the provisions of the Elizabethan Poor Law ordering that useful employment should be given to the poor. Those sections are still in force, and will be found printed in Volume IV. of the second edition of the Revised Statutes published in 1891, pages 215 and 216, although, of course, the powers therein described are no longer in the hands of parish officers.

7541. Has that provision been adopted under the new Poor Law?—I believe it has never been put in active operation, though still law.

7542. In 1835 was it not enacted that this power should be exercised by the guardians?—Yes, this power is now exercisable by the guardians, subject to the rules and under the control of the Local Government Board. But perhaps I may be allowed to go through the Acts in their historical sequence. We had come down to the year 1819. Then in 1831 the Allotments Act of that date (1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 42) declares that the limitation to 20 acres had "been found inconvenient in many parishes," and extends the power of hiring from 20 acres to 50 acres. This Act is in the Revised Statutes, 2nd edit. Vol. 5, p. 101. This statute also gives some further powers for obtaining land which it is only necessary for me to mention here as indicating the thorough conviction of Parliament that useful employment upon the land was the best remedy for the destitution of able-bodied persons. In fact the Legislature was so pleased with the idea that it calls the purposes of this its own Act "salutary" and "benevolent." In the same year an Act (1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 59) was passed empowering the parish officers, with the consent of the Treasury, to enclose forest and waste lands, not exceeding 50 acres, for the purpose of cultivating and improving the same for the use or benefit of such parish and the poor persons within the same. That is further evidence that the Legislature considered the plan a useful one.

7543. Is that Act also still in force?—Yes. It is printed at Vol. 5, page 138 of the Revised Statutes. In the next place it is necessary to show how these powers were transferred from the parish officers to the guardians. That was done by the Union and Parish Property Act of 1835, (5 & 6 Will. 4. c. 69), which followed close upon the Poor Law Act, 1834. Now, Section 4 of this Act of 1835 enacts that all the powers and authorities in and by 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, given to the churchwardens, parish officers, and overseers of the poor for taking land or ground into their hands, and for purchasing, hiring, and taking on lease any land; and all the powers and authorities contained in 1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 42, and in 1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 59, and in 2 & 3 Will. 4 .c. 42, shall in future be exercised (under the control, and subject to the rules, orders, and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners) by the guardians (Revised Statutes 2nd edit. Vol. 5, p. 778).

Chairman—continued.

p. 778). The present law, therefore, is that, subject to the rules of the Local Government Board, every board of guardians may buy or hire 50 acres of land for each parish, and may stock it, and dispose of the produce; in other words, subject to certain rules and control, they can establish labour colonies. Now, so far, I have been speaking of land which the guardians may take for the purpose of employing people. But the guardians also, by virtue of the statutes of the early part of this century, have the power to acquire land, and let it out in allotments, subject to the rules and control of the Local Government Board. This power is given by 59 Geo. 3, c. 12 and 13.

7544. That is the same Act to which you referred before?—Yes, it is the same Act, but a different section—as amended by the Union and Parish Property Act, 1835. This Act is in several respects more liberal to the labourer than the modern Act of 1887. For instance, the rent under these old statutes is to be "reasonable"; the size of the allotment is not limited; and there are also some minor details which I need not trouble you with. All these powers depend upon the rules of the Local Government Board; but the Local Government Board have issued no rules, although they have been urged very considerably to do so. The whole subject was brought before Mr. Fowler in Parliament in 1893; and the President of the Local Government Board, in the first instance, expressed his ignorance as to whether the Acts were in force or not. On being pressed by Mr. Archibald Grove and Mr. Keir-Hardie, he said he would refer the question of whether these Acts empowering the acquisition of land were in force to the law officers of the Crown. On 12th September he gave the answer that the law officers of the Crown advised that these Acts were in force, and that the law officers also said, with reference to wages paid for employment, that "wages so paid would be parochial relief, and would involve the same disfranchisement as other relief under the Poor Law."

7545. They did not, apparently, attach the importance you do to the difference established in the passage you quoted from one of the old Acts?—That is so. It does not follow that the case was fully put before them, and, of course, it was not argued.

7546. At any rate, it is an arguable question?—Yes, I do not put it higher than that, because one knows what high authority the law officers have. Then Mr. Fowler said that, although these powers remained in the Statute Book, there could be no doubt that during a long period of years they had been regarded as obsolete, and he concluded his reply in the following words: "The principle by which the boards of guardians have been governed in the administration of out-relief to destitute able-bodied persons has been that in each case such relief should be given by them as the necessities of the case require, work being provided merely as a test of destitution." I rather demur to the word "destitute," to start with; that is not the word of the Act, and it gives an idea of deeper necessity than I think the Act warrants. Then, also, as regards the work being supplied merely as a test of destitution, that is certainly not the view taken either by the

Chairman—continued.

Statute of Elizabeth, by Mr. Justice Blackstone in discussing it, or by the Court in discussing it, or even by the Commissioners of 1834. Mr. Fowler continues: "The adoption of schemes for the provision by boards of guardians of work at wages would involve an abandonment of what has hitherto been regarded as the principle of the new Poor Law upon which the orders as to out-relief, which have been in force during the last half-century, have been based. Whether so grave a change in the policy and administration of the Poor Law is desirable, and, if so, whether it should be made without legislative authority, are questions on which I could not express an opinion without the sanction of my colleagues. In the meantime the fullest and most careful consideration of the Local Government Board shall be given to the whole subject." Then again on 10th July he says: "The law does not empower the guardians to provide employment for assisting those who are out of work. Their duty is to relieve destitution, and in connection with this relief they may impose a task of work as a test of destitution." Upon that I submit first of all that the Local Government Board should be fully acquainted with the Statutes which it has to administer, and should know which are in force and which are not. Then also I think it would be very convenient if the Poor Law were codified, so that it would be easier to see the effect of these Statutes. I think also the Local Government Board should have issued rules when they were urgently called for, for the purpose of enabling the guardians, if they thought fit, to give this useful employment. A petition was laid before the Local Government Board asking them to issue rules; and resolutions by various bodies were passed asking them to issue rules. Also some applications were made to them by the unemployed themselves. If the "Times" has correctly reported the evidence of Sir Hugh Owen before this Committee it would seem as if the Local Government Board were not yet quite certain upon the point; because Sir Hugh Owen is reported, in the "Times" of 22nd February 1895, to have said in his evidence before this Committee: "These powers, although absolutely obsolete from the point of practice, had never actually been repealed. They had not been exercised certainly since the Act of 1834 was passed; and if legally the boards of guardians possessed those powers, it was a question whether it would be right to make such a material departure from the accepted practice of many years without the sanction of Parliament." You will observe he is reported as saying "if legally"; as if he had still some doubt as to whether those powers were legally in force.

7547. You are quoting from a newspaper report of what Sir Hugh Owen said in his evidence, which was condensed no doubt, and may not have been entirely representative of his real evidence?—No doubt.

7548. I presume you have not seen the Blue Book containing his evidence?—No.

7549. Let me read this passage from Sir Hugh Owen's evidence of the 21st of February. He says, "The powers of the overseers as regards relief by the Act of 1834 were transferred to th

Chairman—continued.

guardians; and in consequence of questions which were raised the opinion of the law officers was obtained as to whether these provisions were still operative. They were absolutely obsolete, so far as giving effect to them was concerned; but there was the fact that they had not actually been repealed, and were therefore still on the Statute Book. The law officers advised that the effect of the Act of 1834 was to transfer to the guardians the powers of the overseers under the Act of Elizabeth; that although the powers in question are no doubt obsolete, in the sense that they have not for a considerable period been used, they are effective existing powers, available for use if required; that these powers are exercisable subject to the control of the Local Government Board; and that, as employment is a form of relief, the provisions of the Act of 1834 and the other statutes as to poor relief extend to the relief which is given in this way. With regard to setting the poor to work at wages on land acquired under 59 George 3., cap. 12, Section 12, and 1 & 2 Will. 4, cap. 42, the law officers were of opinion that the powers of the overseers had passed to the guardians, and that the guardians can exercise those powers to the extent limited by the Acts in respect of each parish in the union, such exercise being subject to the general control of the Local Government Board in the direction of reducing, not increasing, the average to be taken for each parish." That is not very different from the summary you read; it really emphasises what you said, does it not?—Yes.

7550. Sir Hugh Owen goes on to say, among other things, that the change would be so important a one that it might be a question whether Parliamentary sanction should not be obtained before these powers were exercised?—Yes; he expresses a doubt, in fact, and it appears to me that the law is perfectly clear; of course it is a question of policy, but it appears to me that the Government should take upon itself the responsibility of acting, without consulting Parliament in a case of this sort.

7551. There is nothing in what has been quoted by Sir Hugh Owen which conflicts with your view of the law in the case?—No.

7552. You think that regulations might have been issued with regard to these provisions for useful employment?—I think they ought to have been issued.

7553. And also for obtaining land for other purposes; for allotments, and so forth?—Yes.

7554. You recommend a codification of the Poor Law, including these statutes?—Yes; but it is essential in the codification that no attempt should be made to take away these ancient powers. I think also that general rules should be issued, and I would point out that the Legislature has really put it on the Poor Law Commissioners and the Local Government Board to issue rules by putting these powers in their hands.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

7555. You referred to a petition laid before the Local Government Board: will you tell us what that petition is?—I can hand in a copy of the petition with the statement which accompanied it. It was a petition presented by various delegates, secretaries of labour unions, labourers

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

and others, and sent in to Mr. Fowler. The date appears to be the 7th November 1893. It was a petition to put these Acts in force.

Chairman.

7556. Is there much authority or value to be derived from that petition?—It is important in this way: that applications have been made to the Local Government Board to do this work, and the Local Government Board has not done it.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7557. What district does that petition apply to?—The petition was sent by or on behalf of the Berkshire Agricultural and General Workers' Union, Norfolk and Norwich Amalgamated Labour Union, London and Counties Labour League, Warwickshire Agricultural and General Workers' Union, and, I think, of the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Land and Labour League, and the Wiltshire Agricultural and General Workers' Union. It was followed by some petitions or requisitions signed by *bonâ fide* unemployed labourers in certain villages of Berkshire, Norfolk, and Warwickshire, which were forwarded to the President of the Local Government Board. The statement accompanying the petition was sent by Mr. F. Verinder. A full account is given in the "Church Reformer" of December 1893. The petition asked for issue of the rules enabling boards of guardians to hire land for unemployed and for allotments. Some of the petitions were sent in duplicate to Mr. Fowler personally and to the Board.

Chairman.

7558. I think we may take it for granted, from the questions asked in Parliament, there is quite sufficient indication in certain quarters that these powers should be exercised, without referring to this petition, unless it raises any further point?—Perhaps I may point out that there is this difference. A question in Parliament is one thing, but a distinct application to a public body to put their powers in force is another thing; and it is laid down by Maxwell on Statutes, that "when a statute confers an authority to do a judicial or, indeed, any other act which the public interest or even individual right may demand, it is imperative on those so authorised to exercise the authority when the case arises, and its exercise is duly applied for by a party interested and having a right to make the application." I do not mean to say a mandamus would necessarily lie to the Local Government Board to issue these rules, but it should undoubtedly weigh with a public authority that they were asked to issue these rules by some people interested in the matter.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

7559. Who presented the petition?—It was sent to Mr. Fowler.

7560. Who signed it?—The secretaries and other delegates connected with agricultural unions, and labourers. Then a request was sent, about 30th June 1893, from the general committee of the London Liberal and Radical Union, asking the Local Government Board to "issue regulations enabling guardians to provide land for setting the poor to work, and for letting land to industrious cottagers." Some more resolutions have been sent to the Local Government Board, which

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

which I can put in if the Committee think it necessary.

Chairman.

7561. It is sufficient to have the fact that some applications were made. Would you tell us what your recommendations are upon this part of the case?—I recommend, first, the issue of regulations for the useful employment under the 43rd Elizabeth and disposal of produce.

7562. As to the disposal of produce, have you something definite to suggest?—I think it should be used as far as possible not to conflict with the outside market.

7563. Is not that the very difficulty that has to be met?—It is a difficulty. The Commissioners of 1834 suggested that they might supply articles consumed in workhouses and prisons.

7564. If they supply something which someone else would otherwise have supplied they interfere with the outside market, do they not?—To a certain limited extent that would be so; but I would also suggest that there should be allowances of boots and shoes and clothing, &c., to sick or aged persons in receipt of out-relief, in addition to, and not in substitution for, their "parish pay." This would materially add to their comfort and happiness, without in the least depriving private shopkeepers of any profitable custom. I also think that great help would be given to the recipients of out-relief if chopped wood were given to them in the winter, chopped by persons in the workhouse. Instead of oakum-picking and breaking stones, which is useless, let the inmates chop wood for the poor people outside. We have from the Report of the Commissioners on the Aged Poor full evidence that the out-relief generally given is inadequate. Such out-relief might, therefore, be supplemented by this means, at a very small cost to guardians and with great additional comfort given to the poor people. And work of this kind would be far better for the unemployed who are on the rates than oakum-picking or stone-breaking.

7565. Still you cannot dispose of the produce in any way, not even in that way, without practically interfering with other people, can you?—I think you can; because these people in receipt of out-relief have not got enough in the way of food or clothing, or chopped wood, or anything.

7566. If it is desirable to give the poor people more chopped wood, you may either get that chopped wood from a dealer in chopped wood or chop it yourself. If you chop it yourself you interfere with the man who would otherwise supply it?—Undoubtedly that is so, if you were getting it from someone else; but what I say is, that at present the guardians do not supply it all.

7567. You create a demand to fill up your own supply?—I would contend there is a demand; because the out-door poor need it at present.

7568. However, we quite appreciate what you say upon that point. What is your next suggestion?—Then sales for Her Majesty's prisons, and perhaps also for the Army and Navy, might be permitted, and probably it would not be needful to place any restriction upon the sale of the produce of the farm, the garden, or the poultry yard. I do not think the conflict of such produce with ordinary industry would matter. Then I may point out that the Local Government Board very wisely permits boards of guardians to subsidise the Church Army and the Salvation Army, or like voluntary organisations, to help men in times of great distress; and it appears to me that it should give the guardians power, by way of experiment, to found labour colonies or works of a similar character.

Chairman—continued.

7569. Of course there are initial expenses in starting work of that kind; should they get assistance in the matter, do you think, by way of loan?—I think they ought to have loans at a low rate, and at a reduced rate of interest. In London, certainly, I think the expense ought to be furnished partly, at all events, from the Common Poor Fund.

7570. Within London you think it should be chargeable upon the Common Poor Fund?—Yes, a part of it, I think, should be.

7571. With regard to the Local Government Board circulars as to the unemployed, what have you to say?—My belief is that Mr. Chamberlain's circular in March 1886 was very useful, and Mr. Fowler's in the autumn was still more useful as being issued before the winter; and I would suggest that, when next issued, different circulars should be issued for different authorities, clearly explaining their duties and powers. For instance, one uniform circular being sent round, it happened sometimes that when urban boards of guardians found in Mr. Fowler's circular suggestions that the local authorities should cleanse streets, lay out burial grounds, &c., they said it did not apply to them, for they had no power to do those things. On the other hand, some of the London vestries said they had nothing to do with relief of, or with supplying work for, the poor. The chairman of a London board of guardians said they had nothing to do with finding employment. I suggested to the Local Government Board to send out a circular explaining definitely to boards of guardians in rural districts how they could provide for the unemployed. They did not think fit to do it; so I got one printed myself and circulated it as far as I could. Of course it was not circulated to any great extent, but I will hand in a copy of the circular (*handing in the same*).

7572. Would you state briefly the effect of that circular?—I will state the heads of it shortly. The first one is "Finding useful employment," as I have suggested, by the old statutes. The next paragraph was addressed to "the board of guardians as Poor Law authority," and I suggested, in accordance with some of the resolutions of the London Reform Union, "That the boards of guardians be called upon to employ labour direct for supplying boots and clothing used in the rate-supported institutions under their charge, and that they be requested to carry out all painting, whitewashing, and cleansing in the said institutions without the intervention of contractors, and as far as possible during the winter months." Then the next paragraph was addressed to the boards of guardians in their capacity as sanitary authority, and I pointed out that very few country districts were properly supplied with hospitals, and that it is believed that the Local Government Board will

Chairman—continued.

do all in its power to assist the guardians in providing hospitals. I then called attention to the defective water supply, and pointed out that the board of guardians had certain powers with regard to that. Then I mentioned sewers. Then with regard to the town-like portions of rural districts, I mentioned scavenging and cleansing, and house-to-house inspection, and also a large number of sanitary powers. Then I mentioned the power of guardians as highway authorities.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7573. You have mentioned house-to-house inspection; under what statute are those powers given?—Under the Public Health Act, 1875. Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875, provides that it shall be the duty of every local authority to cause to be made from time to time inspection of their district, with a view to ascertain what nuisances exist. Of course the object of the circular was to call the attention of the guardians to all kinds of useful work which they might do, or induce others to do, and if all this kind of useful work were done there would be a great deal of useful employment. Of course I did not propose that they should invent work for this purpose, a course which would be both illegal and improper.

7574. What is the next point you have to bring forward?—I would suggest that the Local Government Board, outside the Poor Law, and the Public Works Loan Commissioners could do something more to encourage useful work by the local authorities.

7575. In what way?—First, by reducing the interest for loans.

7576. We do not want to go very closely into that?—I will take it shortly. The Public Works Loan Commissioners may lend money for a period not exceeding 50 years at 3½ per cent., or such other rate as may in the judgment of the Treasury be thought sufficient. Then the Local Government Board has to decide how long the loan may run. By the Report of the Local Government Board it appears that when the loan is repayable in 35 years the interest charged is 3½ per cent., in 40 years 3¾ per cent., and in 50 years 4½ per cent. The Commissioners only lend for works of primary importance. It will be observed that a lesser rate of interest is charged for a short loan. I suggest that the proper way would be to have one uniform rate of interest, as low as possible, so as to lighten the burden as far as practicable for the present ratepayer. Also I suggest that the Commissioners might charge a uniform rate of interest of, say, 3⅛ per cent. on their loans for permanent sanitary improvements, and, say, 4 per cent. on loans for other objects. All these loans, I ought to say, are from the Public Works Loan Commissioners.

7577. What is your next suggestion?—My next suggestion is, that the Local Government Board might extend the time for the repayment of loans.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

7578. How long would you extend the time for the repayment of the loan?—That must depend upon circumstances. Then I think they might allow the local authorities to carry out

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

their works more in their own way. I think more work would be done if there was a little more elasticity, and more liberty given to local authorities.

Chairman.

7579. You would still keep some control by the central authority?—I would; but I feel convinced that it ought to be much less now-a-days.

7580. Now that you have more fully constituted local authorities, you think greater confidence should be shown in them?—Yes, I think our town councils ought to be able to carry out their own affairs in their own way. I quite admit that there should be supervision as to loans.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7581. In fact you think they should be as unrestricted in their operations as private bodies are who get loans from the same Public Works Loan Commissioners?—I am not prepared to go quite as far as that. Then I would suggest that powers given to parish councils should be given to all urban councils who ask for them. Of course, as you are aware, the Local Government Act of 1894 does not give parish councils to towns. At the same time it gives certain powers to the parish councils which the town councils do not possess, and it empowers the Local Government Board to confer these parish council powers upon town councils.

Chairman.

7582. You think these powers should be given to all urban councils who desire to have them?—Yes. We applied for them at Oxford, and after a little correspondence we have got them in part; and we are still in correspondence to try and get more. We think in Oxford we ought at least to have the same powers as the villages around us, especially for these two things. In the first place we ought to have compulsory powers for the hire of allotments. At present the country districts have those compulsory powers on taking the proper steps, but the towns have not. I think the towns ought to have this power where they ask for it without any demur. Secondly, I think we ought to have the power of compulsory purchase under the Parish Councils Act for any purposes to which it applies. At present the villages have a much more simple method of compulsory purchase than the towns have.

7583. You will remember, of course, that we are dealing here with the unemployed; for what sort of purposes do you want the power?—The more power you give to the towns to do good work, the more employment we shall give. Our object is not merely to relieve distress when it is created by want of employment, but to provide useful employment if such can be usefully provided. I would mention that the hesitation of the Local Government Board with regard to the matter was condemned by a conference called by the London Trades Council some time ago.

7584. Of course there may very often be very good reason for great circumspection on the part of the central authority which is never to the taste of those who are applying for certain benefits

Chairman—continued.

fits from them?—It may be so sometimes. Then, coming to the next point, I would suggest certain statutory provisions.

7585. Passing from administration, you come now to some statutory provisions which you think would be desirable in order to encourage useful work?—Yes. I do not think I could adopt that phrase "passing from administration," because I am not quite certain that all the suggestions I have made up to this point can be obtained by administration alone. I now come to the statutory provisions necessary for encouraging useful work, and my first suggestion is that Parliament should provide a simple uniform method for compulsory purchase. There are about half-a-dozen methods of compulsory purchase of land for public purposes on the statute book. The simplest of all is that for widening highways, but it is not generally applicable, so that I will not recommend it. The simplest one that might be made of general application is that under the Parish Councils Act for a few specified purposes. As I have proposed that the Local Government Board should give these parish council powers to the towns for all the purposes for which they are available, so far as they ask for them, so now I propose that an Act of Parliament should be passed providing one simple method of compulsory purchase for all purposes whatever by local bodies. Such method should give the landowner his fair price and no more, or, to use the words of the Parish Councils Act, no extra price for compulsory purchase; and, also, the legal cost should be reduced to a minimum. Then, secondly, I think that the urban landowner (and I would lay stress on the word "urban") should bear a share of local burdens, either (1) by taxing ground values, or (2) by municipal death duty, or (3) by the method in Mr. (now Sir) Robert Reid's Bill, viz., taxation of landlords so much in the £ collected as income tax (he proposed a penny in the £). Persons of small means should be exempt, as in the case of the income tax. This extra tax was only to apply to urban landlords. The Bill was No. 127 of 1888, and No. 134 of 1889.

7586. That is to say, you suggest the taxation of urban landlords for public improvements and for public purposes?—Yes, in aid of local burdens.

7587. That you will admit, while it may be said to affect the question before us, is a very large and thorny question?—Yes.

7588. What is your next point?—I should like to say one word about Oxford. Before coming to give evidence here, I asked a number of the secretaries of trade unions to come and see me, and there were two points that they mentioned. The first one is with regard to the reply made by the Oxford Board of Guardians to the circular sent out on the appointment of this Committee. Without in any way contradicting what the Oxford Board of Guardians mentioned to the Local Government Board on the question of distress, they would say that the board found no additional pressure on the Poor Law, not because there was no extra distress, but because many men were supported by the

Chairman—continued.

trade unions of Oxford, and many by private charity; and one of the trade unionists added, "Many would die rather than apply to the guardians." I would mention this as showing that the fact that there is no extra pressure on the Poor Law does not prove that there is no exceptional distress.

7589. You said that the secretaries of the trades unions mentioned two points; what was the other point?—That the want of employment and the lowness of wages were largely due to influx from the rural districts, and that it was necessary to check this by dealing with the rural land so as to keep the agricultural labourers from flocking into the towns. The remedies which I propose are, (1) Allotments; use the Parish Councils Act fully and extend it as far as you can. (2) Small holdings; I do not think the present Small Holdings Act is likely to be of any use. (3) Proper cottages. You are aware, no doubt, that an Act was passed in 1890 for the housing of the working classes, which extended to rural labourers; the complication of it is so great that it simply will not house the rural labourer. I do not know whether I need go further into that.

7590. I think it is not necessary; we should all agree that any public action that could be judiciously taken in improving the accommodation and the comfort of the labouring population in the country districts would have a tendency to keep the population in those country districts?—The remedy I would suggest is, to enable the parish council, with, of course, the consent of the parish meeting and supervision, to provide labourers' cottages.

7591. Your general disposition is to place confidence in and responsibility upon the parish councils in these matters?—Certainly. Then, again, I think what I said about a simple mode of compulsory purchase comes in here also. Another difficulty has arisen about the Parish Councils Act, which should be dealt with either by administration or legislation, as may be found necessary. A strong wish for allotments, or I may say small holdings, is now expressed by people who are not exactly of the labouring class, and the opinion has been expressed that the Parish Councils Act does not authorise the parish council to take land and let land to people who are not of the labouring class. I doubt whether that opinion is correct, but if it is correct, I think the law ought to be altered. I cannot myself find in the Parish Councils Act any restriction, but if there is such restriction, I suggest that it should be removed by legislation.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

7592. As I understand your suggestion, you would make it possible for a landlord to avail himself of these powers to take the land of another landlord in order to give himself an allotment; do you think there is any limit upon the class who should have the benefit of this provision?—No; I would leave it to the parish council, subject to supervision. Then, something has been said before this Committee by a previous

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

witness about the Glebe Lands Act. I would point out that that Act does not enable the letting of allotments at all.

Chairman.

7593. Will you go on now to the question of the Poor Law relief for the temporarily unemployed?—The Poor Law for temporary employment may be divided into three heads: (1) Outdoor, (2) Indoor, and (3) Persons in search of work. With regard to the first head, the guardians should be empowered to give temporary out-relief if they have not already this power under the Prohibitory Order of 1844, Article I., Sub-section 1. I have here the collection of Poor Law Orders by Macmorran and Lushington, and at page 22 the so-called Prohibitory Order is described, and out-relief is prohibited in many cases. Among the exceptions is the case where the person applying shall require relief on account of sudden and urgent necessity. The Poor Law Commissioners in an instructional letter have interpreted these words as signifying "any case of destitution requiring instant relief." I should submit that this does authorise the guardians to give temporary out-relief to a man who was temporarily out of employment and unable to maintain himself. If I am right in that, I think the fact that the guardians have such powers should be communicated to the guardians, as I believe there are doubts upon the point. If, on the other hand, I am wrong, I think that the Poor Law Order should be modified enabling relief to be given for a limited period in such cases. This could be done by the Local Government Board. I think that such relief should not constitute disfranchisement; but to prevent it so doing an Act of Parliament would be necessary. I think in these cases in-door relief is objectionable because it means breaking up the home; also it involves sending the children to pauper schools where they may be improperly treated or not properly looked after. I think, moreover, that a suggestion made by the Local Government Board in a circular in 1871 should be rescinded. Their suggestion is this: "(1) That out-relief should not, except in special cases, be granted to any able-bodied widow with one child only; (2) that in the case of any able-bodied widow with more than one child it may be desirable to take one or more of the children into the workhouse in preference to giving out-door relief." I think it is a mistake to bring up children in the workhouse or in Poor Law schools if you can help it. I think that those suggestions in the circular should be rescinded; if not, there must be some more effective government inspection by women, as well as by men, of the pauper schools. If, moreover, you are to treat the temporarily unemployed by in-door relief I think there must be some more efficient inspection of workhouses, and the reports of the inspectors should be published in each locality in a separate form. Of course one can get the inspectors' reports by buying a 3*s.* 6*d.* Blue Book, but I think there should be supplied, at the price of a penny or a halfpenny, the report for the particular locality to which it refers. Publicity is the best alleviation for the evils of the workhouse.

Chairman—continued.

7594. I gather you distinctly prefer dealing with temporary employment by way of out-relief?—I would distinctly prefer giving the guardians the power to do so; the discretion should be left in their hands; I would not dictate to them. The third head is relief to unemployed persons in search of work.

7595. When they are on tramp in search of work?—Yes, as casual paupers who were formerly known as "destitute wayfarers." Last summer I found a man fallen down ill in the road near Skiddaw. He had walked 20 miles from Carlisle, and was going on to Cockermouth, seven miles further. There was no casual ward between those two towns. When a man does arrive at a casual ward after a long journey he ought to be treated decently. I should like, as an example of contrary treatment, to refer to a report of a meeting of guardians at Cockermouth which appears to me to show illegal treatment of paupers in 1894. This is what one of the guardians says, Mr. Jenner-Fust. "At the time of his last visit the men at the Keswick Vagrant Ward were being accommodated two in one bed. That was not a desirable arrangement, as under it a respectable wayfarer might be put in the same bed as a hopeless tramp. He was not sure that the plan of giving the women and children at this vagrant ward only dry bread had been altered or not." (The *Chairman.*) "It has not been altered." Mr. Jenner-Fust said "that something else, some gruel, or something of that kind, should be given to the women and children." The chairman said "that they got something else in the winter months, but in the summer the old system was reverted to." That, in my opinion, is simply illegal. A pauper is entitled either to gruel or broth, as appears in the Regulations of the 18th December 1882, quoted in Shaw's Poor Law Orders, page 723.

7596. Those are rather questions of direct Poor Law administration that can hardly come within our province. We are dealing with the relief of distress. No doubt it is true that the manner of relief of distressed wayfarers comes within our scope; but I think we have not to deal so much with the actual details of administration?—I will merely mention that the Poor Law Orders give, in my opinion, excessive work for casual paupers; for instance, they give nine hours' pumping or four pounds of oakum picking, while in prisons only three pounds of oakum are required. The Local Government Board have an explanation for that, and I have an answer to their explanation, but the Committee will not care perhaps to go into detail.

7597. I think not. Have you any general observations to make on the administration of the Local Government Board?—Yes; I think the Poor Law Commissioners, or the Local Government Board, have rather sharpened the Poor Law against the poor, and I will give two or three examples. The first I would mention is that they have substituted the word "destitute" for poor people unable to maintain themselves. But they have gone a step further in the Memorandum of 1878, which states that "The guardians need scarcely be

Chairman—continued.

be reminded of the broad and general principle of the English Poor Law, viz., that no person has a claim to relief from the rates except in the case of actual destitution." Now the word "actual" is an interpolation of the Local Government Board. Of course, if they had said "actual destitution" in an Order they perhaps might have been justified in saying that they had done so under their *quasi* legislative powers; but this circular had no legislative authority, and it appears to me that they had therefore no right to add the word "actual" to "destitution," which is already a word rather too pronounced. May I mention an illustration of the effect of the doctrine of the Local Government Board which occurred at Chester, where a poor old man who had treasured up five pounds to pay for his burial was turned out of the workhouse because, I suppose, he was not destitute, and promptly committed suicide. In the next place I would point out that by law (namely, the Order of 24th July 1847), the master of the workhouse is bound to admit to that establishment "every person applying for admission who may appear to him to require relief through any sudden or urgent necessity." (Art. 208, Shaw, p. 204.) But in 11 Official Circular 64, we read that the master is bound before refusing admission to satisfy himself that the person does not require relief through any "sudden and urgent necessity" (Shaw, p. 204, note). The "or" is changed into "and." Then, again, in 9 Official Circular 144 (Shaw, p. 97, note), it is stated that a person applying for admission after the workhouse is closed for the night must be admitted "in cases of sickness or of peculiar urgency." The word "peculiar" is, I think, a misstatement of law, and sharpens the law against the poor belated wayfarer, who may be out of employment. Then, again, the Local Government Board has in some cases sanctioned "bye-laws" purporting to restrict the guardians as to out-relief, and I believe even as to medical attendance. I think the legality of this is doubtful, and it appears to me that the Poor Law Circulars, many of which are very old, should be revised.

7598. Do you think they have encouraged in-relief to an excessive degree?—They have discouraged out-relief in an excessive degree.

7599. And thereby forced people into the workhouse?—To some extent that is so, and to some extent the poor have had to shift for themselves the best way they could. Then there are one or two practices in connection with the administration of the Poor Law which I really think discourage thrift, although of course unintentionally. One was that of reckoning against a man all the money he receives from a charitable source, but this is now mitigated by a recent statute, which allows the guardians, if they think fit, not to reckon against a man any sum that he receives from a friendly society. That amendment of the law was passed in 1894. But I think it will take years to undo the effect of the previous doctrine that the board of guardians should not give a man any advantage from the money he receives from a friendly society.

7600. Thus implying that if he saved money

Chairman—continued.

for himself that would only have the effect of preventing him getting the assistance he otherwise would have received?—According to the advice of the Local Government Board, if a man were to receive 3*s.* a week from a friendly society, and he would ordinarily have received for himself and family 5*s.* out-relief, he should only receive 2*s.* out-relief. That was the Local Government Board's strict doctrine. Many of the boards of guardians, of course, did not follow it, and I am glad it has been to a large extent superseded by the Legislature. In the next place, I think it has been a mistake to compel men to contribute to the rates for the support of relatives when they cannot support their own family properly; it prevents a man laying by, and it prevents him in some cases, I think, from having sufficient for the maintenance of his family. It appears to me that the Act of the 43rd of Elizabeth has been somewhat strained in the course of a couple of centuries. Section 7 of the 43rd of Elizabeth, c. 2 (reading it shortly), enacts that the children of poor persons unable to work "being of a sufficient ability shall at their own charges relieve and maintain every such poor person in that manner and according to the rate, as by the justices of peace of that county where such sufficient persons dwell, or the greater number of them, at their general quarter sessions shall be assessed: upon pain that every one of them shall forfeit twenty shillings for every month which they shall fail therein." Put in brief, it is this: it directs that the children of a poor person, where such children are of sufficient ability, shall maintain the poor person, and the penalty is a forfeiture of twenty shillings a month; that is the Statute of Elizabeth. Now please observe the words "of a sufficient ability," and also that the payment by way of forfeiture ordered was 1*l.* a month. It seems to me perfectly clear that the framers of the statute never expected that people of small means, poor people like agricultural labourers or unskilled labourers in towns, should under that Act have to maintain their parents, seeing that the Act uses the words "of a sufficient ability," and also that the payment ordered in case of default was 1*l.* a month. Obviously, having regard to the wages at the time of Elizabeth, people of that class could not pay a pound a month, or anything like it. Then it may be worth while to mention the cases on the subject. This is the dictum of the judges in one of the cases: "There being no temporal obligation to enforce the law of nature, it was found necessary to establish it by Act of Parliament, and that can be extended no further than the law of nature went before." (Pratt, C. J., in Rex *v.* Munden, 1 Stra. 190). In the next case the judge said, "If the grandfather be a rich man, and the father a poor man, they (the justices) may make an order on the former to maintain his grandchildren." In another case the justices made an order against a "very rich" Jew, and, in another, against a wool sorter. I submit the section was intended to apply to well-to-do people and not to poor people. Then the Local Government Board have accentuated the hardship a little by the circular of 1871,

Chairman—continued.

where they suggested "that the provisions with respect to the compulsory maintenance of paupers by relations legally liable to contribute to their support should be more generally acted upon." The Memorandum of 1878 repeats this recommendation, and emphasises it. Now, the Act of Elizabeth says nothing about "contributing." I am of opinion that in cases where people have less than 15*s.* a week, or in London 1*l.* a week, they should not be called upon to contribute.

7601. Of course those which you consider harsh methods of the Local Government Board, if they are harsh methods, have the effect of increasing the want of employment and distress?—I think they increase the difficulty to some extent. As a matter of fact, many of these cases never come before the magistrates, so that there is no publicity as to them.

7602. In fact, you would recommend a modification of the old circulars, and what you consider more humane circulars to take their place?—Yes.

7603. What is the next recommendation you would make?—The next remedy I suggest is the reduction of the hours of labour. It appears to me that the powers of the Board of Trade for that purpose might be extended to omnibus, tram lines, and mines.

7604. That is a large Parliamentary and political question. We have heard your suggestion, but I think we need not go into the details?—Then my next suggestion is that I would give more power to the municipalities.

7505. For what purposes?—In the first place to work trams. That would mean reasonable hours for the employés, and if you have reasonable hours for the employés more will be wanted. Secondly, give powers to the municipalities to hold land whenever they purchase it. Too frequently they have to buy at an extortionate price, and then they have to sell it again under some of the statutes.

Mr. *Mather.*

7606. When you speak of land do you mean land within the precincts of the town, or land in the country for a farm?—I was referring to their ordinary powers. I was not referring to a farm.

7607. Within their own area?—Or beyond it; I am speaking of the ordinary purposes of municipal life.

7608. A sewage farm, for instance?—Certainly.

7609. What do you mean by recommending that they should hold the land?—Under some Acts of Parliament after a town council has bought the land they have to sell it within a certain time, and I wish to remove that restriction.

Chairman.

7610. Then I understand you wish to free them more completely from the restrictions of the Local Government Board?—Yes; to let them manage their own affairs without so much control from the Local Government Board, except when they want to borrow.

7611. What is your next suggestion?—With regard to Crown lands I think that all land belonging to the Crown should be retained and none sold. Especially I think it is objectionable that the foreshore should be sold.

Chairman—continued.

7612. Those things you consider have a direct bearing upon the question of the unemployed?—Yes.

7613. Does that exhaust what you propose to say in what I may call your examination-in-chief?—Yes. I have some documents to hand in if you will allow me. The first is the petition of labourers, to which I have referred, for the issue of rules for acquiring land under the old statutes. In the next place I have some resolutions of the conference on the unemployed and other bodies on the subject (*handing in the same*).

Mr. *Mather.*

7614. I assume from your evidence in chief that the Committee may regard it as your opinion that the old Poor Laws of the country, dating from the time of Elizabeth, and taking the changes in them up to the present day, would amply justify the Local Government Board in authorising local authorities and boards of guardians to acquire land for the purpose of finding useful employment?—That is so.

7615. In your opinion no fresh legislation is needed, I understand, to restore these old laws to a state of active operation?—They could be restored to active operation as they stand, but I think further powers would be found very desirable, if not absolutely essential.

7616. In what respect; do you mean in connection with those laws, or rather to alter, improve, and adapt them to the present condition of things?—I suspect, though I am not sure, that borrowing powers would be required for purchasing land.

7617. All matters, therefore, relating to the finance of the acquisition of land, you think, might require some further legislative enactments, do you?—Not necessarily, because they could hire without borrowing.

7618. You mean they could rent land, do you?—Yes.

7619. Under the law as it now stands?—Yes.

7620. Without further powers?—Yes.

7621. But if they came to purchase, you think it would be necessary to go to Parliament for further powers, do you?—I believe the Local Government Board take the view that they have at present no powers of borrowing for this purpose, and, certainly, the sections in the Act of Will. 4, which empower borrowing, have been repealed.

7622. Are you of opinion that useful employment for those who follow casual occupations can best be found at times, and under certain circumstances, upon the land of the country?—I am not prepared to make quite such a wide statement.

7623. As I take it, you have devoted your attention, so far, to the question of finding employment from the land of the country, and not from occupations of a manufacturing kind?—Mainly so.

7624. You have not mentioned in your evidence in

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

in chief, have you, manufactures of any sort in connection with the finding of employment?—Yes; I think I mentioned the powers of manufacturing and disposal of produce given by the Act 43 Elizabeth.

7625. You said that in former times the disposal of the services of the labourer in search of employment might be used in several ways, that the product of his labour might be sold in the open market; but I understand you to advocate to-day that the employment given for those now unoccupied should take the form of employment upon the land?—I advocate that the boards of guardians should be empowered to do so, but each board of guardians must exercise its own discretion according to the circumstances by which it is surrounded.

7626. Do you think the present law would justify boards of guardians in establishing a manufactory or workshop?—Yes, if they had the sanction of the Local Government Board.

7627. Do not the old statutes you have referred to to-day apply almost exclusively to the occupation of the people on the land?—In the first Act, 43 Eliz., curiously enough, there is hardly mention of the land, the reason being, I believe, that, as I have said, probably the land could be procured without any difficulty. At an earlier period of our history land was available without any difficulty, and stock was the more expensive article to procure. The poor had land.

7628. In speaking of the action of the Charity Commissioners in having disposed of a great quantity of land, I think you said that land to the value of 2,000,000*l.* had been disposed of in about 10 years, and since 1853, 8,000.000*l.* sterling worth of land had been sold by the Charity Commissioners. Do you think that land ought to have been used exclusively for the purpose of employing those people on the land who are destitute or semi-destitute?—No, I did not say so, and I do not think so.

7629. I am simply asking your opinion?—No.

Chairman.

7630. But it afforded an opportunity, as far as it went, of doing so by way of allotments or otherwise, did it not?—That would be so. May I say the Charity Commissioners did not sell the land; they could only sanction the sale.

Mr. *Mather.*

7631. But they had the control of the land, had they not?—Yes; so that they could prevent sale.

7632. And therefore the land was diverted from what you maintain was its original destination and was not available for allotments or small holdings?—That would be so, but the original purpose, of course, was not necessarily allotments or small holdings.

7633. But you described that, did you not, as being the means in the hands of the Charity Commissioners of finding land sufficient for small holdings and allotments?—Yes; some of it would be useful for that purpose undoubtedly.

7634. May I gather from the general views you have expressed to-day that you look to the land as affording local authorities and boards of guardians the best means of producing employment for the unemployed?—I think you must look to the land in all sorts of ways, and to the local authorities in all sorts of ways, and that is why I have advocated these additional powers for local authorities.

7635. I think you said the land would enable the unemployed, the distressed artizan class, to be, at any rate, kept and sustained by the produce of their own labour on the land, and you advocated that as the primary object for placing the people on the land?—I did not go quite so far as that; I advocated that the boards of guardians should have powers to use land for this purpose, but I do not think that the labour colonies, if the guardians established them, would be self-supporting for a considerable period, if at all.

7636. Do you make any distinction between the useful employment of the distressed or unemployed and what may be done upon the land, or what might be afforded by way of employment in manufactories or workships in the towns; do you make no distinction between the two classes of employment; do you think one would be just as good as the other?—I think the guardians should have the power to do both, but it must be entirely in their discretion.

7637. Do you mean that you would permit guardians, irrespective of any interference with the ordinary trade of a town, to establish workshops to produce that which a town is distinguished for; do you think that is a desirable thing in preference to going back to the land?—No, I do not think it would be; the land would be better certainly. I advocate power on the part of the guardians to utilise the land.

7638. And that you think, do you, would be the means of utilising the labour which is now seeking employment?—I think they should have discretion; I want the matter to be really in the discretion of the local authority or the guardians.

7639. Do you know whether the Charity Commissioners have to-day a large amount of property under their control in the form of land which might be sold, as they have permitted it to be sold heretofore?—Certainly, a very large amount. They have jurisdiction over 60,000 charities.

7640. Would you advocate some measures being taken to prevent the Charity Commissioners from disposing of their present property, or sanctioning the disposal of it as they have hitherto done?—Certainly.

7641. In your investigations have you any idea as to the amount of land over which they have control in this way?—I think I can give you a little rough information. For all England and Wales, Mulholland, in his Dictionary of Statistics, at page 69, estimates the capital value of the real estate of English charitable endowments, in 1876, at 31,100,000*l.*, but my impression is that the Charity Commissioners' Reports will give more reliable statistics on the subject.

7642. Would you assume, from the knowledge you possess, that they have the sanctioning, or otherwise, of the sale of some million pounds' worth of land now?—Yes, over many millions' worth.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

7643. Now still under their control?—Yes; and they are still sanctioning sales, as far as I know.

7644. What would you advise to be done in reference to these powers of theirs; would you restrict the Charity Commissioners?—I think I should stop the sale of charity lands altogether.

7645. How would you dispose of those lands?—The local trustees would manage them as heretofore. I think that every opportunity should be taken of making the local trustees as representative as possible, minimising the co-optative element and minimising the *ex-officio* element.

7646. Is this the property you would first of all endeavour to utilise for the purpose of establishing useful employment on the land for the distressed population?—No, I should prefer that this land should be held by the charity trustees, and that they should be empowered to let land in allotments where they have not already express power, but I should not compel them to establish labour colonies by any means.

7647. Do you regard the land held under their control as a source of that form of useful employment of labour on the land which you have advocated?—I regard the method I advocate as being useful for the purpose and as giving some opportunity for useful employment, but I do not wish to divert the land from the charities to which it now belongs for the purpose of employment.

7648. Do you think a considerable portion of this land is available, or might be made available, for this purpose?—Yes; and further, there is a good deal of money, about 17 millions, in the hands of the Charity Commissioners, some of which, I think, might be usefully invested in land for allotments and similar purposes.

7649. You spoke of Crown lands and forest lands belonging to the Crown, did you not?—Yes.

7650. In your opinion, is it now possible, without further legislation, that the Crown could bestow these lands on public authorities for the purpose of providing employment?—I cannot answer that question off-hand.

7651. You spoke of those lands as being available, did you not?—I spoke of the Crown lands as being public lands, which it was unadvisable to sell. We ought to retain them, and I think it is a mistake to permit the Crown Land officials to sell certain foreshores and quit rents which I deem of importance. Speaking generally (I am not here advocating nationalisation of land), I do think that all land that belongs to the nation or public bodies of any kind should be carefully preserved.

7652. Has not that opinion some reference to the subject which you came here to discuss?—No doubt it has.

7653. I think you meant that these lands were a ready and available source for employment on the part of those with whom we have to deal, did you not?—Yes, in many cases they could be utilised for that purpose.

7654. May I take it that the only difference between your evidence and that of Sir Hugh Owen on the question of these old powers possessed by Poor Law authorities is, that while on the one hand the Poor Law authorities of to-day think there was great abuse in the use of the land in former times in the way of affording employment, you think there is no reason why the Poor Law authorities of to-day could not make their own rules and regulations to make the Poor Law guardians find land for useful employment?—I am not quite sure that there is any difference of opinion as to the state of the law between Sir Hugh Owen (as read to me from the evidence in the Blue Book) and me. There is a difference between the short condensed report in "The Times" as to the law.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

7655. Then, with the report you have heard read to-day by the Chairman of the evidence of Sir Hugh Owen you entirely agree, do you?—I could not say without reading it very carefully, but it appeared to me to indicate great reluctance on the part of the Local Government Board to do that which I think it ought to do.

7656. In speaking of the hardening of the Poor Law of the present day, as against the distressed and unemployed working people, do you mean that there has been a constant effort to prevent out-door relief being given, and relief of any kind being given, except under very destitute circumstances?—I think there has been a constant general pressure from the Local Government Board against out-door relief.

7657. Are you aware that from some of the evidence given before this Committee by Poor Law guardians and others, that somewhat lavish expenditure has been incurred with regard to out-door relief as applied to the labour test, and that large sums of money have been spent practically to no purpose?—It is quite possible, but I never did advocate indiscriminate out-relief, any more than I should advocate indiscriminate in-relief. It is a matter for discrimination by the guardians.

7658. In any change made under the present system would you very much rely on the wisdom of local authorities and Poor Law guardians for the administration of the law?—Yes; I think they ought to be thoroughly informed what is the law, and then they might carry it out. I think it would be very useful if there were some means of informing guardians what their powers are, because many of them are absolutely ignorant as to their powers.

7659. Do you think any distinction ought to be made in the treatment of the well-conducted working classes, the artisan class, and skilled men, and those who are merely casual labourers, those whose employment is fluctuating and whose habits of life are not exactly the same?—I think a casual labourer may be just as well-conducted as a skilled man. He has had the misfortune not to be taught a trade, but I think each case should be treated on its merits, and a difference made between the well-conducted and the ill-conducted. In advocating out-door relief for the temporarily unemployed I would suggest they should only have it for a short time.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

7660. I think you stated at the commencement of your examination that the Charity Commissioners

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

sioners had disposed of a great amount of property, did you not?—I think I said they had sanctioned the disposal of a considerable amount of property, but, of course, there is very much more left.

7661. And the reason was the mismanagement of the trustees?—Two reasons they gave: the mismanagement of the trustees, and the policy of the Mortmain Act; and then there was a third reason that, as a general rule, they secured by sale a greater present income to the charities than was being obtained from the land.

7662. Are you of opinion that none of the charity lands should be sold?—Yes.

7663. You stated your opinion to be that the only way to get out of the difficulty of the unemployed was to put them back upon the land, did you not?—I did not state it quite so broadly as that, but it appears to me that by giving local authorities more powers of dealing with land there would be more employment for the unemployed.

7664. You would scarcely expect that people who had been trained to city life and industrial pursuits should be put back upon the land; they would not be able, would they, to make a living for a long time?—Very probably not; it would be a question for the discretion of the guardians in each case as to whether a man was likely or not to make a living.

7665. Do you propose that the guardians should get up industrial employment for the industrial classes in towns and cities?—If they thought fit to do it by way of experiment I see no objection.

7666. But if it were to be a practicable thing?—I think they might, if they thought fit, but I should not dream of dictating to them one way or the other.

7667. In reference to employing those who may be out of employment and willing to work, what basis of remuneration would you be disposed to pay them?—I think that must be a matter for the guardians to decide; there have been two or three views taken with regard to it.

7668. Would you fall back on the principle of giving them the standard wages of the district?—If the guardians thought fit, or less wages if the guardians thought fit, or they might employ them only so many days a week, if they thought fit.

7669. You stated that the Small Holdings Act as it at present stands is of little use, did you not?—I think it is of very little use.

7670. Is that owing to the legal expenses necessary with regard to it?—There is no power of compulsory purchase, and it is in the hands of the county councils, many of whom are not much inclined to risk expenditure from the rates without a certain return.

7671. Do you think if people had a fixity of tenure in the land they would be disposed to settle down upon it?—I think the best plan of dealing with the matter would be to extend the power of the parish councils.

7672. Do you think the guardians should erect cottages for them?—I think that the parish councils should be empowered to erect cottages.

7673. Would you not be rather inclined to

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

allow those who have small holdings by their own thrift and industry to endeavour to earn such means as to be able to build cottages themselves?—I see no objection to that.

7674. Do you not think that would be an incentive to them to be thrifty?—It would be a good plan if you could insure sanitary cottages being built, that is the real difficulty in those cases.

7675. You stated, did you not, that in the case of a man out of employment taking benefits from the guardians in the way of dole he should not be disfranchised in consequence?—Under the present law taking relief from the guardians does disfranchise, but I think it would be desirable that it should not, in the case of mere temporary relief. The only point I expressed a doubt about the present law with regard to disfranchisement was the case of a man being employed at reasonable wages under the Statute of Will. 4, and coming within the provisions of that Act.

7676. Then you stated that you thought the guardians did not know or did not fully comprehend their powers of giving out-door relief?—I am sure they do not know their general powers as to out-door relief.

7677. While they give a man out-door relief, if he is a married man with a family, you say they would have to take that into consideration also?—They would.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

7678. The Statute of Will. 4, which you have quoted, under which the powers with regard to lands were given to guardians was passed, I believe, in the year 1835, was it not; it is 5 & 6 Will. 4, is it not?—Yes.

7679. That transferred the powers to the guardians, did it not?—Yes; that would be so.

7680. And the new Poor Law Act was passed in the previous year, was it not?—That is so.

7681. So that we may take it Parliament had fully before its eyes the policy of the new Poor Law Act when it deliberately transferred these powers to the guardians?—Certainly; but they were transferred subject to the rules and orders of the Local Government Board.

7682. Which you complain have never been made?—That is so.

7683. I do not think you stated, did you, in the course of your evidence, that according to the Statute the 50 acres as a maximum must be in or near the parish?—That is so.

7684. Would not that be a difficulty in the way of London guardians, for instance, acting under these old Acts?—I think "near" must depend very much on the circumstances, and I should say myself that the Poplar Board, or the Mile End Board, might take land in Essex if they liked.

7685. You would say, would you, that "near' must be construed as widely as that?—Certainly.

7686. And that if land could not, practically, be obtained within 20 miles, then the words would cover such a case?—I think they would.

7687. Are you aware that Sir Hugh Owen expressed an opinion that fresh legislation was desirable?—Yes.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

7688. And you concur with him, do you?—Yes, I think fresh legislation would be desirable.

7689. In order to make the policy of these Acts really effective?—I do not go quite so far as that.

7690. At all events, you would be glad to see, would you not, fresh legislation adapting these Acts to modern conditions?—That, probably, would be desirable, but still they are perfectly workable as they stand.

7691. Are you aware that some London boards of guardians have asked the Local Government Board to permit them to join in the scheme in taking land under these Acts?—I saw something about it in the newspapers, but I am not well acquainted with the details.

7692. Then I will not follow it up?—I think the Local Government Board said vaguely that their request was beyond the powers of the Local Government Board, but I think the Local Government Board did not point out in detail where they had not the powers.

7693. That is perfectly true, and, in your opinion, would it be possible for London guardians to join in the scheme?—I think probably the Local Government Board are right, but it appears to me they might as well have said where the difficulties lay, and then an amended scheme might have been put forward.

7694. Do you think that at least a part of the cost should be charged on the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund?—I think it should, and I think also that to do so would be but extending the principle laid down in the Statute of Elizabeth. The Act of 43 Elizabeth, Chapter 2, Section 2, provides for rates in aid. Where a parish is unable to levy sufficient sums of money for the relief of the poor then they can come upon another parish. They may apply to two justices, and the two justices may rate any rich parish within the hundred to help the poor parish under the circumstances mentioned, that is to say, supposing there was an East-end parish which was so rated that it could not pay the rate, then the justices would have power to rate Belgravia in assistance of such poor parish, both being in the same hundred.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7695. As is now done, practically?—It is done to some extent by the Common Poor Fund. There was a case before the court in which the Mayor of Worcester had been the rating authority. He had selected people in the rich parish to pay towards the expenses of the poor parish, and he had selected in one case a gentleman who lived in the rich parish but who was the owner of land in the poor parish, and the mayor made him pay towards the rates in the poor parish. The matter came before the court; the court upheld the decision, and said it was a very sensible one. The Common Poor Fund is perhaps a more modern way of dealing with a difficulty of that kind, and I quite agree there should be an extension of the Common Poor Fund.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

7696. I understand you only quote these as precedents, you do not mean to say they have

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

any special value at the present time, do you?—This question was asked in the House of Commons of the Law Officers of the Crown, and the Law Officers of the Crown said they could not tell whether this section as to votes in aid was operative or not. It is in the revised Statutes.

7697. About rating?—Yes; I can give you the reference; it is volume 1 of the second edition of the Revised Statutes, published by authority in 1888, page 547.

7698. You have told the Committee that in your opinion guardians have been too stringent in refusing out-door relief. Do you know anything about the administration of Poor Law in London?—I know something about it.

7699. And you know, do you, that the burden of out-door relief falls on the locality, and the burden of in-door relief is distributed over the metropolitan area?—Yes, and I have long thought that unjust.

7700. Do you think that that tends to make the guardians less disposed than otherwise they would be to give out-door relief?—I think that is the effect.

7701. And it prevents out-door relief being given in cases where out-door relief would be suitable, does it not?—I think that is so.

7702. One question with regard to the relief given to persons on tramp. I do not want to go at length into it, but you have suggested more generous treatment of the casual vagrant, have you not?—I think I rather suggested less cruel treatment.

7703. Do you not think that if the regulations of the Local Government Board were altered in the direction in which you suggest, it would be necessary to distinguish between the professional tramp and the *bonâ fide* workman, or would you give this more generous treatment indiscriminately to all?—I would let even the professional tramp have the law which involves the provision of gruel; I would give even the professional tramp what he is entitled to by law, and I would also reduce the amount of labour, which seems to me excessive for anybody. One can only hope that the guardians do not enforce the nine hours pumping.

7704. Then you do not contemplate any discriminative treatment of persons on tramp, do you?—I think discriminative treatment would be most desirable.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

7705. You have called attention to the powers given under the Act of the 43 Eliz. and other Statutes, and have given your view that those powers still exist, and that your view is that rules should be made enabling boards of guardians to exercise those powers. I gather that you think, also, legislation should be initiated with the object of conferring similar powers on local authorities?—No, excuse me; the powers that I desire for local authorities are simply that local authorities should be able to purchase land for their own purposes for widening streets, markets, and the like by a simple way without more expense than is necessary. I do not suggest that other local authorities should interfere with the Poor Law.

Mr *Bousfield*—continued.

7706. Of course you know that now-a-days the question of Poor Law relief is sharply separated from the question of the execution of local sanitary and other works, that is to say, in urban districts there are a different set of authorities, are there not?—There are a different set of authorities, but the Local Government Board has, if I may say so, very wisely recommended co-operation between the two, and when that co-operation can be obtained I think it is useful.

7707. What I want to point out to you is this, that the view has been expressed here that it is desirable that the local authorities should possess the power of providing work for the unemployed upon land as well as the boards of guardians. Do you differ from that view?—Do you mean simply to make the work.

7708. No. You yourself illustrated a number of works, sewage works, sanitary works, and other works of that kind which are within the province of the local authorities, and which are not within the province of boards of guardians; do you see what I mean?—Yes. I think the local authorities might have an eye to the unemployed and do them some good in the matter. I quite agree with that.

7709. Are you aware of the stock argument which is alleged against allowing boards of guardians to exercise these independent powers?—What argument do you refer to?

7710. The argument that this system was tried up to the year 1834, and found wanting; that it led to a vast amount of corruption and evils, that it had to be peremptorily stopped by the legislature, and therefore we should be reopening again an experiment which had been tried and had failed?—My answer to that is that the Commissioners of 1834, so far from condemning useful employment, rather advocated it. They said the breakdown was not from an observance, but from non-observance of the Statute of Elizabeth. They state: "It is now our painful duty to report that in the greater part of the districts which we have been able to examine, the fund which the 43rd of Elizabeth directed to be employed in setting to work children and persons capable of labour, but using no daily trade, and in the necessary relief of the impotent is applied to the purposes opposed to the letter, and still more to the spirit of that law, and destructive of the morals of the most numerous class, and to the welfare of all." They condemned non-observance of the Statute of Elizabeth. I think in some respects I may say the Report of this Commission, though very valuable, has been a little over-rated for various reasons which I could give.

7711. I want to ask your view upon one or two other points, which differentiate the view in 1834 and the view at present. In a great many of the parishes where those evils arose when these old Acts were in force, was it not due to the fact that the guardians made the conditions of employment more favourable than the conditions of private employment in the same neighbourhood, so that there was an inducement given to people to leave private employment and take parish employment?—You mean the overseers, do you not?

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

7712. Yes, the overseers?—It is said that such was the case, but it was before my time.

7713. But a large number of instances are given in the Report of the Poor Law Commission, and I thought you had gone through it?—I remember they do give that reason. I remember, curiously enough, that in one case the poor seemed to have claimed the eight hours day.

7714. As a matter of fact these powers were used, were they not, before 1834, for giving employment of a permanent character nearly all the year round?—Yes.

7715. Whereas you contemplate a resuscitation of these powers, not with the object of giving permanent employment, but with the object of giving temporary employment to the unemployed?—I think that the resuscitation of the powers would allow the guardians to give permanent employment.

7716. But that would lead, or might lead, to a good many of the old evils, might it not?—It might possibly be so, if not properly guarded.

7717. From our point of view the more important object is, is it not, the use of these powers for the temporary emergencies of the people who may be from time to time unemployed?—I have considered both temporary relief and the more permanent sources of remedy, and I think you should put the powers in the hands of the guardians for both purposes, and they must use them as they think fit.

7718. As a matter of fact, I think, you have already said these powers, before 1834, were very loosely used or abused, and there was an entire lack of system and supervision, was there not, in the way in which they were used before 1834?—Not that I am aware of as regards employment on the land; I think the lack of supervision and so forth, referred to the employment on roads and the like. I do not remember cases of employment on the land which turned out badly, though there may have been, and probably were such cases. It is very curious that the Legislature, just before the Poor Law Act of 1834, should have strengthened this Act enabling employment on the land, and talked about useful and salutary Acts, if they thought that form of employment was so bad. I think the evils you refer to existed more with regard to road making, and work of that kind; but of course at that time the local authorities were in a very bad state and they were supervised by the magistrates, who appear to have done more harm than good.

7719. Have you happened to refer to the Act of 30 & 31 Vict. c. 106, s. 13, which I see is one of those you enumerate in a paper you wrote on this subject; that is an Act passed so recently as the year 1867, enabling guardians, with the approval of the Local Government Board, to hire or take on lease temporarily or for a term of years not exceeding five, any land or buildings for the purpose of the relief or employment of the poor?—I believe that is acted upon. I did not refer to it, because of course everybody knows that Act.

7720. But apparently that somewhat shows that the old Act had been forgotten, does it not, in the year 1867, because it is a much more limited power?—It does, but I could not say.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

7721. For what purpose has the Act of 30 & 31 Vict. been acted upon?—I fancy it would be utilised in the case of taking a piece of land for a garden for a union. I remember my father told me that at Woodstock, where he was a guardian, the men used to be lying about and doing nothing, and he and others advocated that a piece of land should be taken. I suppose it would probably be a big garden, and you will generally find in every well-managed country workhouse there is a big garden, and very likely a field next to it, belonging to the workhouse.

7722. Where the able-bodied inmates would be set to work?—Yes; and a kind hearted master, instead of putting the casual paupers to pick oakum, puts them into the garden for so many hours, which is, in my opinion, much better.

7723. I was going to put that to you. Perhaps you know, for instance, that the guardians of Hackney for two or three years have been making repeated applications to the Local Government Board for leave to purchase 50 acres of land and employ it for this purpose?—I have been applying myself to the Local Government Board on the subject, but I did not know they had been applying for two years in Hackney. I am astonished at the action of the Local Government Board if that is so.

7724. Of course 50 acres of land for a parish like Hackney would be a very small amount, would it not?—It would be small, but the power is 50 acres to a parish.

7725. Then you conceive, do you, that that would allow 50 acres for each parish in the Union?—There is no doubt about it.

7726. Are you aware that in our Hackney Workhouse we have 200 or 300 able-bodied inmates?—I did not know that.

7727. At all events, quite apart from setting the unemployed to work, would you not regard it as a matter of importance that we should have land of this sort in order to be able to set able-bodied inmates to work?—I think you ought to be empowered to acquire it, certainly.

7728. You spoke about not wanting to make any cast-iron rule, but giving the guardians discretion in these matters?—Yes.

7729. As a matter of fact, if this discretion were given we might expect one board of guardians to work in one way and another in another way, might we not?—That is so.

7730. Then if this local freedom were given we should have an opportunity of seeing something like the survival of the fittest amongst the different experiments which might be made, should we not?—Certainly.

Mr. *Logan.*

7731. Are the Committee to understand from you that you think that the difficulty of finding work for unemployed people would be largely done away with if boards of guardians did exercise the powers which they have under existing Acts to find employment for the unemployed in doing necessary or desirable work in the various parishes?—I think they ought to be empowered to try. It would be much easier to say whether they would succeed or not after a trial, but I certainly think power should be given to them.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

7732. You say powers should be given them, but have not they powers under existing Acts?—Yes, except for the obstacle of the Local Government Board.

7733. Then would you recommend that the Local Government Board should advise the guardians to take full advantage of the powers which they already possess?—I would not suggest that the Local Government Board should advise; I only say that the guardians should be empowered; it must be for the guardians to decide.

7734. Do you suggest, in addition, that a means of providing the necessary funds for carrying out such work in urban districts would be by a tax on the ground landlords?—I think I would rather tax the ground landlords for the purpose of permanent works for the benefit of cities or towns.

7735. It comes to the same thing, does it not, if the local authorities employ the unemployed on permanent works?—That may be so, but I think it would be better to put it as a tax for permanent improvements.

7736. Would not you also allow all rural authorities acquiring the same powers power of taxing rural landlords for the purpose of doing permanent work for rural districts?—The present moment, I think, is not a judicious time to put any additional tax upon rural landlords.

7737. Why?—Because many of them are already much worse off than they were formerly.

7738. But are you aware that agricultural rents are to-day 2,000,000*l.* sterling higher than they were 50 years ago?—It may be so.

7739. Then that would not show that they were worse off than they used to be, would it?—But I am surprised to hear it.

7740. Then is it your idea shortly, that if guardians set to work all those who are out of work in the various parishes, it would, to a very great extent, do away with the unemployed question?—I do not go anything like so far as that; I merely suggest that they should be empowered to do these things. I have offered suggestions for many reforms, which are all wanted, and more.

7741. You would not think it unreasonable at all events, would you, for me to think that if guardians did set all the men who are out of work to work it would do away with the difficulty?—I am afraid my opinion would not be of any benefit on that.

Mr. *Acland.*

7742. You mentioned, did you not, the Donington Scheme of the Charity Commissioners about three years ago?—I think it is about six years ago.

7743. Are you well acquainted with the details of it?—I read the scheme at the time. The only thing I remember is that property of the unemployed was converted to something else. It is a scheme under the Endowed School Acts.

7744. Are you speaking of Donington in Lincolnshire?—I believe that is the one; I may have confused it with another scheme.

7745. There has been no scheme of the Charity Commissioners except one, which has just

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

just passed out of their hands, since 1876?—Then it must be another one; it cannot be Donington. I find that I am right in my reference to Donington in Lincolnshire. The surplus of the income of the property of the charity (after certain payments) was to be applied in setting poor people of Donington to work in woollen and linen manufacture (large Report of Lord Brougham's Commission, No. 32, Part IV., p. 24, published A.D. 1839). The scheme took some time in passing its various stages. May I suggest that we should have a return from the Charity Commissioners of the schemes which have passed through their hands and which show there has been diversion of property left for the unemployed to other purposes. May I make that recommendation?

Chairman.

7746. You have already advocated, in your evidence, more publicity?—But now I suggest they should be asked to make a return of the schemes which have passed through their hands, showing diversion from the purposes of giving employment to the unemployed to other purposes.

Mr. *Acland.*

7747. You spoke of Gelligaer also, did you not?—I spoke of Gelligaer.

7748. Do you know that that case has received a good deal more publicity by passing through a Committee than by any such means you suggest?—I do not think there was any want of publicity in that case. I did not think that sufficient weight had been given to the evidence, which was all on one side, against the scheme, while the Charity Commissioners confirmed the scheme.

7749. I thought you quoted it as an instance where there was want of publicity?—No. I was counsel in the case, so, of course, my opinion may be biased.

Mr. *John Burns.*

7750. Am I right in gathering from you that from the Act of 43 Elizabeth up to 1893 there are several Acts of Parliament which give power either to the old overseers, the old poor officers, or to the existing boards of guardians to employ poor people on the land at remunerative work at reasonable wages?—That is so.

7751. Without disenfranchisement, or the stigma of pauperism?—I said disenfranchisement was a doubtful point.

7752. But the spirit of those Acts did not tend to disenfranchisement in your opinion, did it?—That seems to me to be so.

7753. Do you think under those Acts, remunerative work for the unemployed at reasonable wages could be carried on under the supervision of the Local Government Board if the Board was so inclined?—I did not go so far as that. I cannot say whether they would be remunerative.

7754. I will say useful?—Yes, useful, but I do not suppose that if a board of guardians were to create a labour colony, and put their men on it, it would pay.

7755. I will leave out the word "remunerative," and substitute useful?—Certainly.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

7756. Subject to the supervision of the Local Government Board, you think there should be Acts or Regulations to sanction these works, do you?—Yes, I do.

7757. Did you see Sir Hugh Owen's evidence on page 46 of our First Report?—No; all I have seen has been the "Times" copy.

7758. He said there that "The Board may at the same time state that if the guardians of any union should determine on a scheme for providing land with a view to its being used so that work thereon may afford a test of the necessities of persons who applied to them on the ground of their being unemployed, and inform the Board fully of their proposals and of the details of the arrangements which they contemplate, the Board will give the matter their careful consideration." Do you consider that quotation as being practically a confirmation of your views?—It confirms my view that these Acts are in force, but also it appears to me that the Local Government Board are extremely unwilling to exercise these powers or allow them to be exercised, or to issue these rules.

7759. Then do I gather from you that there are ancient powers still legal and enforceable, either by Act or Rules of the Local Government Board, that would enable a sympathetic board of guardians to find the unemployed work?—Yes, that is so. There are powers which the guardians, with the consent of the Local Government Board, may put in force.

7760. Assuming that boards of guardians, with the approval of the Local Government Board, could give work to unemployed agricultural labourers on parish land, what form should that employment take?—I think that must be left to the guardians. I suppose it would be agricultural employment if on agricultural land.

7761. Ordinary agricultural work?—I suppose that would be so.

7762. The surplus products of which should be sold in the open market in competition with other goods?—As far as possible they should be used for the workhouse itself, but where they could not be used I do not think there would be any serious objections to their being sold in competition with other agricultural goods.

7763. But man does not live by bread alone, and as an agricultural labourer generally produces 10 times more than he himself consumes, there must be a surplus to go on the market, must there not?—But there are a large number of people in the workhouse who would consume it.

7764. I am not taking of the people in the workhouse, I am talking of the able-bodied agricultural labourer, who has no work to do on a farm, and who is an active producer of agricultural products. Am I to gather from you that he is to be employed on agricultural work, and that the products of his labour where not consumed by himself, should go to the nearest competitive market?—I think they would usually go to the workhouse, where there are a number of unproductive people, women, children, imbeciles, and the like, who would require food.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

7765. And would take the place of food that, prior to the labour colony, would have been produced by farmers and labourers under ordinary competitive conditions?—That would be so.

7766. How are the men to live while producing these agricultural products; are they to live in their ordinary homes?—I think that must depend entirely on the circumstances, and with the guardians.

7767. Would you prefer that they should live under the ordinary home associations, as if they were ordinarily at work?—If it were a rural district I should certainly say so.

7768. You would prefer that, would you?—I would prefer that if it could be so arranged.

7769. Do you think morally and physically, and from the point of view of the community, it would be better?—Yes.

7770. That they should live with their families under normal conditions?—Certainly.

7771. You do not contemplate, do you, any disciplinary or penal supervision or conditions of supervision?—If those were found to be necessary they would have to be provided by the Rules of the Local Government Board, I suppose, or, if the powers of the Board are not sufficient, sanctioned by the legislature.

7772. Have you visited Hadleigh Colony?—No.

7773. Have you visited any labour colony?—No.

7774. Have you ever seen the out-of-work labourer at agricultural work under public conditions?—I do not remember seeing any.

7775. Assuming that you had a public body starting a labour colony, or an agricultural colony at work on public land, would you classify the workers at that colony; would you separate them into different grades or not?—I believe some people think it desirable.

7776. Would you have the chronic casual working with the intermittent tramp, and both working with the unemployed agricultural labourer who had never been a pauper?—I think some people think classification desirable, but it must depend entirely upon circumstances and upon the guardians who have the management of affairs. I could not pretend to tell the guardians how they are to carry on their business.

7777. You would not suggest, would you, the unemployed (talking of single men) being housed in barracks, and living under the provisions which prevail down at Hadleigh Colony?—I have not seen Hadleigh Colony, and therefore could not properly express an opinion. I believe, from what I hear, that General Booth is carrying on a good work there.

7778. You spoke about Local Government Board Circulars, did you not?—Yes.

7779. You think in the main the six circulars which have been issued have done good, do you not?—Yes.

7780. Would you desire that those circulars be varied to suit the functions and responsibilities of different localities?—Certainly.

7781. For instance, instead of being sent only to rural sanitary authorities, they might be sent to conservators of rivers, town, and city councils, and so forth, might they not?—They are sent to city councils.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

7782. But you would have them sent to other bodies besides, would you?—I think they might.

7783. Say, for instance, to the Thames Conservancy?—Yes.

7784. Or the Woods and Forests?—I suppose it would be hardly etiquette, would it, for one Government Department to circularise another.

7785. The sooner it is the better, you would say, would you not?—That might be so.

7786. What have you to say with regard to the advantage or otherwise of public bodies so re-organising and re-distributing over the year the actual public work which they carry out as to adapt itself to the exigencies of the unemployed?—My own opinion is it would be a good thing, but curiously enough at a conference on the unemployed a strong opinion was expressed the other way by witnesses who had more knowledge of the workers than I had.

7787. What was the reason alleged?—A very curious one; it was that if you separate the work as you suggest, the best workmen would have employment all the year round, but in consequence of having the pressure at one time in the summer, then the second best man and the third best man get a chance; therefore, in the interest of the inferior workers, it was better to have a pressure of occupation at one time instead of spreading the work over the year.

7788. But would not that lead rather to the permanent degradation of handicrafts?—I do not advocate the pressure myself; the suggestion surprised me extremely.

7789. You said that money should be granted to local authorities at lower rates of interest than now prevail, did you not?—Yes.

7790. What would you put as the maximum rate of interest on loans from the central body to the local authority?—I should think 3 per cent.

7791. And the minimum 2 per cent. Do you think that 4½ per cent., as is now charged for loans for 50 years, is too much?—I think it is.

7792. You said that freedom should be given to local authorities in spending the money that they had secured by loan. Have you any instances of restrictions in that respect?—There is one case which come to my mind. I know of a case of eight cottages built under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. The Local Government Board insisted on these being so well built, and so carefully built, that the result is that they are too expensive to let to the labourers; none of the labourers are in them. One cannot of course in the least blame the Local Government Board for wanting the cottages to be thoroughly good, but that is a sort of case where I think perhaps local authorities might really have known what was best in the circumstances. These cottages have done good because other people are in them, and consequently there are so many more inferior cottages left unoccupied which the labourers go into.

7793. That only appears material from the point of view that we have been used to a standard of houses more in keeping with savages than civilised beings, is not that so. You would not surely ask that the Local Government Board should grant money under conditions of jerry building

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

building and cheap houses, would you?—No, I would not.

7794. Would you not rather ask that local authorities should have that latitude and discretionary power of building and spending their loan money than private individuals have from the Public Loans Commissioners under existing Acts?—I do not think I should give quite so great a liberty as that, because it is money of the future ratepayers; but I would give them more latitude.

7795. But I am talking about money granted to private individuals for private purposes from the Public Loans Commissioners Fund?—But that, of course, is money to be repaid by private individuals.

7796. But so is the loan to the local authority?—The loan to the local authority is repaid by future ratepayers.

7797. But it is a small matter, surely?—There is another point in which there is a little difficulty. Before I went on the city council at Oxford, the council wanted to reform its bye-laws. The Local Government Board, I am informed, insisted on their taking bye-laws, which I have no doubt were perfect, but they were so perfect that the result was the city council did not take to them at all, so that we are still under our old unreformed bye-laws.

7798. Do you share the complaint which was previously made to this Committee by witnesses that the Local Government Board are rather dilatory and long in their replies for requests for loans and so forth?—I do not know it of my own experience, but I have heard the complaint.

7799. Generally speaking, would you like the Local Government Board, representing the central authority, to be more elastic?—I think so, and sometimes a difficulty arises from the Local Government Board's great anxiety for perfection, for which it would be very hard to blame them, but at the same time one has to recognise that sometimes perfection cannot be obtained, and we have to get as near perfection as we can.

7800. What do you consider the main reason for lack of employment in agricultural districts?—I suppose really one thing is the low price of produce, and another thing is that the people cannot get the land. Those are the two reasons, I think.

7801. Do you consider that a great number of labourers are out of employment because there is an overwhelming mass of goods produced. Do you share the view that over-production is one of the causes of want of employment?—I should not have thought so.

7802. Do you not think that labour colonies, farm colonies, allotments, and all methods of adding to the existing over-production, rather accentuate than minimise the evil?—No, I do not think so.

7803. Do you not think that if the same amount of work that is now done was spread over a larger number of men, including the unemployed, much remedial help could be given?—Of course I should like to see overtime reduced, and the long hours of labour reduced certainly.

7804. Would you like to see the agricultural labourer work shorter hours?—Certainly; but with regard to over-production, my impression is the fault rather lies in the want of distribution. I mean, I do not think there are more boots and shoes produced than there are feet to wear them, but somehow or other they do not get to the right feet.

7805. But do you not think that a multiplication of your farm colonies and allotments would lead to an accentuation of the unemployed difficulty which you now, by farm colonies and allotments, wish to relieve?—With regard to farm colonies I only want them to be tried as an experiment; if they fail, drop them; if they succeed, proceed with them and improve them. Allotments are beyond the region of experiment; they do an immense amount of good. Take Oxford, for instance; the people have a very considerable number of allotments there and are delighted with them, even though the situation of the land is by no means suitable for allotments.

7806. Do you share the view raised in some quarters that the fact that a man has an allotment, and through that allotment can add temporarily to his weekly spending power, will ultimately tend, under competition, to reduce the wages of the whole class?—No, I do not think so; a man with an allotment is a little less dependent upon his employer, therefore he is more free to join a trade union and get his wages raised.

7807. Does it not often happen that the possession of an allotment makes him more at the mercy of the employer than otherwise?—I think it is quite the reverse.

7808. Does it not tie him to the place, like a house does a town artisan?—It may afford an additional reason for his remaining in his native village, and I should not be sorry for that.

7809. But you only want him to remain under human and decent conditions, I suppose?—Certainly.

7810. And if the permanent possession of an allotment would impose unpleasant conditions, would you ask that the whole system be changed?—Yes, but I do not think that would be so; the allotment would help him in my opinion.

7810*. Then you want your allotments less for finding work for the unemployed than for bringing the rush of unemployed labour to the towns, do you. I want them not only for reducing the rush to the towns, but also for helping the man when he is unemployed. I refer not only to allotments for labourers in the country, which I regard as of great importance, but also to allotments in towns, which are of equal importance.

Tuesday, 7th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Campbell-Bannermann.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. JAMES BELL, called in; and Examined:

Chairman.

7811. YOU are Lord Provost of Glasgow?—Yes.

7812. How long have you occupied that position?—Two and a-half years.

7813. The Lord Provost is elected for three years, is he not?—Yes.

7814. You have prepared a statement regarding relief works in Glasgow, which you have drawn up in the form of a letter addressed to the Committee; will you put in that statement?—Yes (*handing in the same*).

7815. That statement being before us I need, perhaps, only ask a few questions to bring out its more salient features. You and your predecessors on the Corporation of Glasgow have unfortunately had from decade to decade a good deal of experience of periods of distress?—We have had since 1848 about seven periods of distress. The first page of my statement gives you just a *résumé* of the circumstances, and the table on the second page shows the causes of distress, the relief worke opened, and the kind of work provided, and so on.

7816. With regard to the distress this last winter, taking it broadly (the facts being stated in more detail in this statement); was the amount of distress arising from want of employment excessive in Glasgow this last winter?—No. The cause of our opening the relief works was simply the extraordinary severity of the weather. We made inquiry from the 10th January on to the 28th, and we found no undue distress existing in Glasgow then at all.

7817. Trade and employment being up to the normal degree?—Yes, up to the normal condition. That was confirmed from every source. If you look at page 4 of the paper that I have handed in, the first paragraph gives you the answer on that point.

7818. I gather that the corporation expended, or at all events, the relief organisation directly under yourself expended, a large sum of money?

Chairman—continued.

—Yes. We divided the relief works into two entirely distinct systems: the first was the relief works under the corporation proper, in which we made a labour test part of the scheme. Then as the weather grew more intense we found we could not go further in the way of providing work with the labour test added to it under our corporation, and indeed we had no rating power for that purpose. But early in February the weather got so very severe that I wrote to the newspapers asking for assistance to enable us to give fuel, food, and clothing to those who were suffering terribly; and within eight days I had to restrain their generosity and stop people from sending more money. We received 9,586*l.* in cash, and 1,361*l.* 17*s.* worth of food, provisions, coals, and clothing.

7819. So that you got nearly 11,000*l.* in money and money's value?—Yes, but I may add that out of the second scheme, that is, the distress fund provided by the citizens, we have 5,000*l.* untouched. Under the first scheme, on the relief works promoted by the corporation, we expended 4,854*l.*, and the value of the material resulting from that labour was only 1,894*l.*

7820. But as regards the corporation relief works, the system of relief that you instituted was relief subject to a test?—Yes, for the corporation proper.

7821. That being so, I presume you did not expect that the labour would produce its full market value?—No. At the top of page 5 of my statement you will see rather an interesting table as to that point.

7822. Will you explain that table to us?—We do not on these relief works get the men to work with their usual diligence, and, besides that, for the first week in stone-breaking, their hands are soft and you cannot expect them, and we do not look for them to work very hard. We ask a reasonable amount of work from them; but we do not get anything like the ordinary conditions

Chairman—continued.

conditions of labour. Then, after the weather got a little milder, in the beginning of March, we introduced piecework. In the third column of that table you will see that the last day on which we paid a daily wage was the 2nd of March. We had 1,465 men on that day, and on the following working day, Monday the 4th, when we put them on piecework, the number dropped from 1,465 to 621 straight away.

7823. What sort of wages did you give them?—We gave them 1*s.* a day and three meals a day.

7824. Then there was no particular rate per hour?—No.

7825. You did not have regard to any particular standard wage?—No.

7826. It was a mere charitable assistance?—It was merely to prevent a calamity and to secure that these people, if they were out of employment, should not be in a position of starvation or not able to pay for their lodgings.

7827. In that case it was entirely in a nature of a test of sincerity and honesty?—Yes.

7828. You did not attempt any relief work on which you gave what at all professed to be a proportionate wage to the work done?—Not until the 4th of March.

7829. That is to say, when piecework was introduced?—Yes. Then we gave the usual rates paid for stone-working, by which a man could earn 7*s.* (which was the maximum we paid) in three or four days with ordinary diligence.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7830. Is that the ordinary trade arrangement for stone-work?—No, the ordinary trade arrangement for stone-breaking is that they go on and work the whole week, and whatever amount they have broken they get paid for proportionately at the rate of 2*s.* 4*d.* the cubic yard. But we made the maximum which a man could get at stone-breaking 7*s.* a week; so that when a man had earned 7*s.*, he would go and look for his customary employment.

Chairman.

7831. Looking at the fact that the whole thing was of a charitable nature, with a view, as you say, to prevent a calamity, you thought that as soon as a man had earned 7*s.* it was time you employed somebody else?—We thought it was time he went to look for other employment. I should add that, at the same time, all over the city, concurrently with these relief works, there were 11 soup kitchens scattered over the city, and every person who said he was hungry could go and get as much soup and bread as he could partake of without inquiry, by simply saying that he was in want of food; we asked nothing more.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7832. Not to take away, I suppose?—Yes; in many cases where we knew them we did allow them to take it away. But with regard to the men working in the stoneyards, every inquiry was made as to whether they were married or single, or what dependents they had, and you will find the particulars given on page 6 of my statement. Those men got orders for soup and bread proportionate to the number of the family, to take away from the soup kitchens. We analysed the 3,643 applicants into married, single, and widowers.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

Chairman.

7833. What was the nature of the inquiry made into the circumstances of those people in regard to thee genuineness of their necessity?—We accepted the genuineness of the necessity, owing to the tremendously severe weather at the time. If a man came and said he was desirous of working at a shilling a day and his food, we took him on at once. The weather was so severe, and the death-rate was so high, that we had no alternative in common humanity but to take him on in that way.

7834. You took his word about his being married and his having children?—Yes. We made inquiry afterwards at our leisure; but during the severe weather we could not wait to make inquiries before taking them on. The results of the inquiries are all shown in the analysis, towards the bottom of page 6. Above that you see the analyses of the various trades, which are rather interesting when you work them out.

7835. Have you any salient point that you would like to call our attention to?—I should like to remark that, with all the severe weather and the additional expense of living in such weather as we had, as you will see from pages 5 and 6, out of 231 trades, 151 trades out of 231 had only three men or under who applied for relief, and, after you deduct labourers, you find that the trades have only 4½ men per trade applying for relief; which verifies, I think, the statement that the general condition of trade, outside of labour which is employed daily and weekly and hourly, was fairly good. You cannot, in my opinion, devise any possible scheme that will cover the 231 trades.

7836. The experience in various places in England which we have had stated to us, has been that the distress was most acute, as it might be expected, among what are called the building trades; but I see from the table on page 5 of your paper, that there were only 57 masons, 147 builders' labourers, 20 joiners, 9 plasterers, 16 slaters, and 12 bricklayers, out of this large number of 3,643?—Yes.

7837. So that the members of the building trades do not appear to have been forced upon any public system of relief, at all events?—No. I think the masons and joiners in Scotland are very thrifty men and have made provision for a rainy day; for if ever there was a period when the building trades were absolutely stopped it was last winter.

7838. As a rule, those connected with the building trades appear not to bulk very largely in the list on page 5, at any rate not as largely as one would expect from the evidence we have been receiving from other parts of the country. That leads me to the belief that in Scotland members of these seasonal trades, which are liable every winter, or at other times of the year, to suffer from want of employment, made provision for that time out of their wages at other times of the year when they are employed?—We understand that the masons and those in the seasonal

Chairman—continued.

seasonal trades do make this provision. We never had them come to us in any wholesale way asking for relief.

7839. May I take it that the conclusion you come to from your experience is shown in the second paragraph on page 7 of your Statement, where you say: "Were I again on a relief committee, I should strongly urge that after the first week all the men engaged should be put on piecework, even if the ordinary trade rate paid to stonebreakers was exceeded, and the men's earnings limited to whatever sum might be fixed as the maximum by the committee?—Yes. During my term of office we have had two occasions on which we have had relief works, and the instant we applied piecework the men melted away like snow.

7840. For what reason, do you suppose?—I do not deduce any reason; but the fact remains. For instance, in March this year there were on Saturday the 2nd, 1,465 men at work at stonebreaking, and when we arranged that piecework was to take place on Monday morning, there were 621 men turned up. A number of those men commenced to talk and say that piecework was bad in principle, and that they should not be driven to work which they did not understand, like stonebreaking; and they induced the well-to-do men to strike work. You will find the details given in my paper. They induced them to come over and hold a meeting in George-square, opposite the municipal buildings, and then sent in a deputation to the committee in charge of the relief stations. One deputation said the money sent to me belonged to them for the general relief of distress in the city, and that we had no right to alter the conditions, and that we ought to pay a shilling a day and give them free meals. But I pointed out that we were not keeping open these works for any benefit to ourselves, but that they were kept open entirely for their benefit, and that if the conditions were too onerous we would be compelled to reluctantly close the works, but that we would not do so without giving them an opportunity of considering the question again. The members of the deputation went back to the square, intimated that they had been courteously received, and they took a show of hands upon the subject, and the majority carried it, and they went back to the works. That was the end of the unemployed strike which existed for a short time.

Mr. *Logan.*

7841. Was the arrangement to pay the men 2*s.* 4*d.* per cubic yard, the ordinary piece-work price for breaking stones, and three meals?—We gave two meals.

7842. You gave them two meals in addition to the ordinary piecework price?—Exactly.

Chairman.

7843. The meals you considered, in fact, to be the means of keeping the men from starving, and putting them in a position to earn the wages?—Yes; and where a man had children at home, it was giving him the one shilling clear to take home with him, in addition to the dinner of soup and bread which we provided at the various soup kitchens.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7844. I presume, of course, they took none of that food home?—It is very surprising how some of the men we knew took the bread and butter home to their children, not caring to eat it all themselves. One of them at a meeting of the committee, brought out some bread and butter from his pocket, and said he was very thankful he had an opportunity to take something home.

Chairman.

7845. Your Relief Fund and the Citizens' Relief Fund, as you call it, worked in co-operation with each other, did they not?—Yes, entirely in co-operation. But it will be understood that the Citizens' Relief Fund was for the relief of distress, without any labour test whatever. The severe weather put a stop to a great deal of work. The waterpipes in the houses got frozen up; washerwomen were thrown out of employment; and those doing little peddling trades could not go out, and they got behindhand. Then, firing was more than usually necessary, for we had a week with the thermometer far below zero, and the death-rate ran up tremendously. So that common humanity tempted the citizens of Glasgow to make an effort to meet the emergency. Our death-rate at that time went steadily up, from 24·6 in the first week in January, to 53·6 in the week ending the 2nd of March, and our medical officer of health in his Report says: "The health of the people in such circumstances passes beyond treatment by sanitary measures, and becomes only amenable to such benefactions as are now being so freely and judiciously distributed by the Lord Provost's Relief Organization. The only possible palliative is warmth, the warmth of food, fire, and clothing." We endeavoured, so far as private benevolence went, to the best of our power to distribute these benefactions round the city. And we did it in what I think was a novel way. We got the police force entirely to co-operate with us. We had so many contributions of coal and clothes and groceries that we were enabled, through the various police offices throughout the city, to give relief to the people whom the police knew to be in destitution. We publicly invited applications from every part of the city from people who were in distress and in want of relief. Those people went to the police office in their districts, and the particulars were taken down and handed to the policeman on the particular beat in which they resided; so that the whole city was within our grasp in two or three hours. The policeman on the beat could get tickets for relief such as you find referred to on the top of page 9 of my Statement. He would inquire into the case, and, if it was genuine, he left orders, which were cashed by any grocer for provisions or coal; and in that way we had the whole city under a network of relief every time the constables changed.

7846. You are not aware of any feeling against the use of the police for that purpose?—So far from that, I believe it has raised the feelings of the poorer citizens towards the police in a way we never dreamt of. We have allowed the police to look after the clothing distributed by the Charity Organization Society and the Glasgow Needlework Guild; the police go round every

Chairman—continued.

every week and see that the children are wearing the clothing.

7847. You think, in the first place, the employment of the police on that duty is not resented, and does not deter people from applying?—No.

7848. In the second place, you think it has actually increased the confidence and the liking of the community towards the police?—I think it has spread a feeling in the city that we never quite experienced before. I may say I do not think any letters appeared in the papers, or any adverse criticism, on the system of relief that was adopted last year; there was nothing of that sort, to my knowledge.

7849. You were, of course, fortunate in presiding over a city which is proverbial for the generosity of its citizens, a generosity which is proved by your obtaining so large a sum as nearly 12,000*l.* in about a week?—Yes; I had to stop them from sending me more money. But you will find in Table 1, on page 2, that the same thing has been done all through in times of distress, and that Glasgow has never failed, when a crisis of want of employment occurred, but that its citizens were always able to provide for the needs of their own people.

7850. Your impression is, I suppose, that, having been dealt with in this way, the distress last winter passed over with as little evil effect as possible in the way of hardship to the members of the community, and also with as little as possible of what I may call degrading effect upon the habits or tone of the community?—Yes, I think that is so. In a large city like Glasgow, of course, you have a great many people who will always be very glad to take food if you give it them for nothing; you must accept that as the condition of things.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

7851. People who would prefer charity to working?—Yes, you cannot disguise that there are a certain number of people who always will do that, and would take this as a very good opportunity to have a little more money to spend on their personal pleasure. But I think the respectable people, those who were really in want, did not regard this relief as lowering their humanity or hurting their feelings. In many cases which were brought under our notice from private sources, we did not send a policeman, but sent a man in plain clothes to make inquiry, and relieved the distress as gently as we could.

Chairman.

7852. Having told us what you did with such interesting details as you have furnished in this statement (for which we are much obliged), would you answer one or two questions with regard to what you did not do; you do not seem to have employed the men on ordinary municipal work, such as cleaning streets or any odd jobs that might be required?—We do not see why we should pay off our permanent servants to take on a man who may be out of employment temporarily from his own fault.

7853. At a time when there is snow in the streets, is there not occasion for using this casual service?—We could make very little of it in that way, and it was so temporary that we were

Chairman—continued.

quite able to overtake the snow of last year with the smallest possible assistance.

7854. I gather from your action that you do not see the necessity in any case such as you were dealing with last winter (or even, perhaps, in the most intense case, if it existed) for any large scheme of relief works, agricultural works, or anything of that sort, of a more ambitious kind?—No. I may say we have farms of our own for disposing of the City refuse.

7855. By the City refuse you mean the sweepings of the streets?—Yes. Whatever we do not sell to the farmers we utilise on our own farms, as far as possible.

7856. Is that of the nature of manure?—It has a certain manure value, and, of course, enriches the ground; and as we have it, it has either to be destroyed or put somewhere. We have two farms, one of about 540 and the other of about 100 acres; one on one system of railway and the other on another.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

7857. Besides the sweepings of the streets, the Corporation also empties all the ashpits, does it not?—Yes. That is mingled with the street sweepings, and has, of course, a manurial value.

Chairman.

7858. You have these two farms; do you find that is sufficient for the purpose?—Yes. We wish one more upon another railway, but we have these two farms just now. But to get at the number of men on these two farms, which have been quite sufficient on the Fullwood Yarm, which is 100 acres, we have nine permanent men; and on the other estate, which comprises altogether about 560 acres, but of which we have 450 acres in our own hands, we have 23 permanent men, and that includes the men who attend to the tipping of the waggons as well. Whatever more labour we put on that would fall upon the rates, and we have no authority and no right to raise our rates for any purpose whatever. We must carry out to the best of our ability, and in the most economical way possible, the duties that devolve upon each particular trust; and that is the way in which we carry out the cleansing and sweeping of the streets, and the disposal of the refuse.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

7859. Will you tell the Committee what sort of land that was before you emptied this refuse upon it?—On the Fullwood Farm it was entirely moss, which we got at a rental of 1*s.* per acre per annum. We have now reclaimed it, and at the end of 31 years it will go back to the proprietor. Our working expenses just now are something like 2*l.* per acre, and yet we make it pay. But, of course, that is not to be considered as the fair agricultural value, because our manure costs us nothing; we would have to pay to get rid of it if we did not put it there.

7860. If you did not put it there, what would you do with it?—We should have to pay for the ground to put it on, and put a tip and dispose of it.

Mr. *Mather.*

7861. What will the land be worth an acre when you have done with it?—I should imagine 1*l.* an acre.

Chairman.

7862. You have, in fact, made the moor or bog into arable land?—Yes, Fullwood Moss.

Mr. *Mather.*

7863. What is the rent you pay?—The rent is 1*s.*, gradually rising to 5*s.* an acre.

7864. What will it be worth at the end of the time?—I have no idea, but say a rental of 20*s.* We have tried that system once, but we do not propose to do it again. We are now buying all the property which we utilise.

Chairman.

7865. Have you done anything in the way of reclaiming riverside land?—The river is under a separate trust. The river belongs to the Clyde Trustees, and the whole reclamation of the river has been done by that trust body. At one time, a good many years ago, a good deal of land was improved by being raised and treated with the dredgings from the river. It was dredged by dredgers, put on the flats, and then wheeled on to the land, and the ground so improved. But it cost 8*d.* per ton, or about that, to take it from these flats and put it on the land. With the barges we have now the dredger simply dredges the earth, and then drops it into the barge, and the barges steam out to sea; the bottom falls out in the ordinary way, and the sand and refuse goes to the bottom of the sea. We can do that, and take it out to a distance satisfactory to the Board of Trade for about 2*d.* a ton, as against 8*d.* I happen to be, as Lord Provost, chairman of the Clyde Navigation Trust, so that I can speak in both capacities.

7866. Judging from my recollection of questions in the House of Commons, I think you were sometimes accused of depositing this stuff in Loch Long?—Yes. That has been obviated now, because we go right out to Garrock Head.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7867. Then there was something in the accusation at one time, was there?—We still think that no hardship would have been caused to anyone, but we have now arranged to take it out to Garrock Head.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

7868. As you are officially connected with the Clyde Trustees, you will no doubt be able to answer this question: There is a considerable amount of land lying below Bowling on both sides of the river; would it not be much better for the Clyde Trustees, instead of taking that soil out in barges to sea, to reclaim that land on the banks of the river?—The Clyde Trust is a private trust trading with trust funds, and it would be simply ruin to take that soil and put it upon the land at 8*d.* as against 2*d.* a ton. But besides that, there is another disadvantage: The estuary of the Clyde is rather wide at Greenock, and it is a long, tortuous river to come up to Brumielaw, where out-steamers start, and our engineers advise us that if we built retaining walls and filled up the ground which Mr. Wilson refers to, we would so lessen the flow of the water and the force of the tide to Glasgow that it would entirely cripple our trade. They say that we require this force of water spreading over the banks of the estuary to give us a tide sufficiently quick to get the full advantage of the river as we do at present, so that our engineers' advice is that it would be fatal to the course which is suggested by the honourable Member, in addition to the economical objections which I have already referred to.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7869. Would it have been more economical for your Corporation to have taken the refuse soil out to sea, or is your late system or present system more economical?—I think our present system is better. We prefer it.

7870. Was it adopted for economical reasons or for philanthropic reasons?—For economical reasons.

Chairman.

7871. The philanthropy involved would be very limited, would it not, because you do not employ many people?—The philanthropy would be practically nothing. We only employ 32 men, and there are 550 acres on the two farms conjoined.

7872. Could you hazard an opinion, although it is not directly within your experience, whether communities in Scotland (yours or any other) could with advantage deal with any question of want of labour and the distress arising from it, by an agricultural process such as we have been speaking of?—I think the so-called farm colonies are simply glorified poors houses.

7873. You think that they do not differ much from the ordinary poor houses?—I think they will not at all. It depends upon how much you are prepared to spend upon keeping the men making chairs, or any other process you may put them to.

7874. They might have the effect of competing unfairly, might they not, with the ordinary outside agricultural work?—That, I think, is a minor matter. I cannot see how (taking my own case, for instance) it is going to help the unemployed difficulty at all taking a certain number of men out on to a farm colony, unless you are prepared to take them in such a number as to remove entirely the possibility of unemployed labour. If you look at the table on page 6 of my statement you will find an analysis of those who applied for relief. Out of 3,643 there were 1,213 single men without dependents, 477 married men with no children under 16 years of age, 106 widowers, and so on. Any farm colony would either be for single men; or if you take away a man with a family, you certainly debar him from putting his children into any position giving them an opportunity of making their way in the world unless you take them up to a certain age. But even beyond that the economical reasons are, I think, deterrent. We certainly could not entertain it. I say so in my statement on page 10, in dealing with the question, which has sometimes been asked, why we do not promote municipal

Chairman—continued.

municipal works when cases of distress arise in our district. We are always building and always doing everything that our experience suggests that the city requires without enhancing the rates in any way. If you take the present time, for example, we must be doing works to the extent of three-quarters of a million, I should imagine, at this moment. If we were promoting any large work we would have to get an Act of Parliament and borrowing powers. That would take a year. I give an example in my paper of a bridge, for which, after we got the Act of Parliament, we would have to get the granite either from Aberdeen or Cornwall, where there might be no undue distress; the iron or steel work might come from Germany or from a district quite well employed; and when we got the materials to Glasgow we might be frozen out and could do nothing at the time we wished to utilise the unemployed upon this labour, because we never have any unemployed labour in Glasgow in summer time to any appreciable extent. Taking the trades to which these unemployed belonged, there were 106 trades of which there was only one representative out of employment, 28 with only two, and 17 with three; and over the whole number of trades outside labourers, the trades are only represented by 4½ men per trade out of employment.

7875. What you said of what are called the seasonal trades in Scotland; namely, that the men employed in them are in the habit of providing against not the rainy day but the frosty day, applies to the population generally in Scotland, does it not?—In the building trades I have come across a great many bricklayers, for instance, who go to America in the spring of the year when trade is in any way good there; they work all summer, make very high wages, and come home here and work in Glasgow, and are fairly well-to-do and well-off citizens. Those men will get on under any conditions.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan.)

7876. You do not find any of those men apply for relief in a case of this kind?—Never. At the bottom of page 9, and on page 10, I have ventured to express my opinion upon the subject.

Chairman.

7877. You state your opinion very broadly, at the bottom of page 9; you say: "The solution of this 'unemployed' question is to make it perfectly clear that no Government and no local authority have incumbent on them in the slightest degree a responsibility either to procure or to provide employment or to maintain persons while out of employment"?—Yes, that has been our policy in Glasgow. We have had two very bad banking disasters in Glasgow, in the case of the City of Glasgow Bank and the Western Bank of Scotland; and there was the time of the American War, when cotton ceased to come; and in 1848 we had the cessation of the weaving trade in the East end of Glasgow. All those occasioned very acute distress; but we were able to over-take them by the action of the municipal authorities and the people combined.

7878. Would what you say of Glasgow be applicable, so far as you know, to the whole of Scotland?—I should say that the problem for a small town and a large one is totally different. In a small town they may not have any corporate fund that they can avail themselves of, and they may not have people in the town or city able to give assistance such as we have in Glasgow; they may not have the wealthy people.

7879. And they may be more dependent on a single trade?—Yes. I should say in the case of a small town like that it might be in the power of the small corporate body or the local authority to impose a rate for that specific and direct instance of distress.

7880. We shall, perhaps, get information as to the Scotch poor law better from Mr. Motion, of the Parochial Board?—Yes.

7881. Have you had any personal experience of the administration of the Poor Law?—No, I have never been on the Poor Law Board.

7882. To go on with what I was quoting as your opinion, I may, perhaps, read what you say further on page 9: "The solution of the question rests with the people themselves, and not with any authority. It must be found in prudence, thrift, industry, and sobriety, and the avoidance of early and improvident marriages. This last I see constantly is a very fruitful source of misery. Until these duties are recognised by those who are often out of work in winter time, and provision made by themselves against the days of idleness, we shall have this question annually before us in a more or less acute form. Those who have had the most intimate acquaintance with this question are aware that respectable men, by the varying conditions of trade, are frequently thrown out of employment; yet these are not the men who, at the beginning of almost every winter, call for relief and assistance. There is a certain proportion of workers, who, from infirmity of person or of temper, are always first to be dismissed. Their infirmities do not amount to a disability to work, yet they cause these men to be more often out of employment than the normal condition of their trade warrants, and, having no savings to fall back on, they at once come into evidence when trade becomes dull. We have also the working-man who has got beyond his best working days; others who have never learned to work steadily, and who are nomadic and constantly shifting; and we have still another class, who are constantly being thrown out of employment through being a day off drunk, and finding their positions filled up when they return. It has been advanced by some that local authorities in times of undue distress ought to carry out public works. These suggestions can be advanced only by those who are not cognisant of the working of municipal institutions. We are constantly carrying out all the work which we think is necessary for the corporation, and that as speedily as possible, without increasing our rates; but no work beyond stone-breaking or digging, which the corporation can originate or carry out, would be of the slightest use to relieve undue distress such as we had last winter." That is a summary of your main opinion?—That is a summary of my main opinion, derived from the experience of my office.

7883. An experience which extends over

Chairman—continued.

periods of distress for the last 40 years?—I have summarised what has been done in previous periods of distress, but I give my own personal experience as regards the last two periods of distress in Glasgow.

7884. Which, I gather, accords with the traditional opinion of the Corporation?—Yes; and which is held unanimously by my colleagues in the magistracy to-day.

Mr. *Billson.*

7885. I see you say you had a better return from stonebreaking than from digging?—Yes.

7886. You spent over 4,000*l.* on stonebreaking, and only received in value something over 1,800*l.*?—Yes, taking that as the ordinary value of the material.

7887. Do you think that you could find any work that would give a better return than that?—I am afraid not.

7888. Are you of opinion, as, judging from this statement, you are, that there should be nothing done by the municipality for the purpose of providing employment for the unemployed?—Clearly—except in a case of undue distress.

7889. You are aware, no doubt, as we have been told here, that by the law of England municipalities or public authorities are required to provide work for the unemployed?—We are not in Scotland, and we have no power to devote any rating money to that purpose.

7890. So far as you know, the Acts on that subject do not apply to Scotland?—They do not, so far as my knowledge goes.

7891. Where does the liability of the authority in Scotland come in?—It is simply a question of humanity, and to obviate any calamity through the starvation of any of our citizens.

7892. Have you boards of guardians in Scotland?—We have poor law guardians.

7893. Have you ever been a poor law guardian?—No, I cannot speak to the poor law. I understand there is to be a representative from the poor law authority here to give evidence to-day.

7894. Are you aware that the system of dealing with distress through the police was followed by the Liverpool authorities?—I am not aware of that.

7895. You have had no communication from them?—No.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

7896. Do I understand you to say that your charitable organisation practically invited everybody who wanted relief to apply?—We did. The Charity Organisation Society assisted us in the distribution of the relief.

7897. I was not speaking of the Charity Organisation Society, but of your charitable organisation, your committee?—The opinion was advanced by some that there might be cases of genuine distress where the people themselves would not make the cases known. We invited anyone who knew of cases of distress to come and tell us of it, and we would relieve it.

7898. So that, practically, the applicants enumerated in your list may represent the maximum of the distress in your great city?—I think so.

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

7899. What is your population?—Nearly 700,000.

7900. And if you took the figures as reduced by the effect of the offer of piecework, and applied that reduction as if it had occurred earlier, that is, as if piecework had been offered earlier, that would reduce the persons applying on the ground of absolute want to a very insignificant number as compared to the population?—I do not think we should have had the same result if we had applied it earlier. It was on the weather having become milder that we put on piecework; so that we put on piecework at a time when these men were able to get employment more readily.

7901. As you express the opinion on page 7 that piecework should begin after the first week, I presume you would admit the number of these applicants was exaggerated, owing to the facility of getting relief?—We gave them three meals, where customarily we only give them two; and we found that a great many were quite content to go and take three meals a day, and go and sleep in the police office at night, and so have their 1*s.* clear. But I quite agree that we should institute piecework earlier, and have a labour test sufficiently severe. And in a large city like ours we ought to have a test of residence as well; because at present we have 50 or 60 prisoners a day discharged on our streets from 29 different police courts scattered throughout the country round and sent to Glasgow.

7902. There was no inquiry as to how long these people had been resident in Glasgow, was there?—There was at first; but the weather became so severe that common humanity prompted us to open the gates for any one who applied for labour.

7903. You say nothing in your list of applicants as to how many were single women or females in want?—Wherever women applied for assistance we gave it at once without any labour test. We did not apply any labour test so far as women and children were concerned. We gave them relief through the Citizens' Fund, without any test at all.

7904. Then are they not in the lists in your statement?—No, we took no notice of them.

7905. I see that there were 60 painters out of work, which seems relatively a high average. I suppose you would rather agree with me that a too easy granting of relief to members of these skilled trades, which are necessarily seasonal, is rather detrimental to encouraging habits of thrift?—You must not take the relief we gave this year as the ordinary relief we give. It was in a great measure running along with the severe weather, and we were compelled in common humanity to give relief at once, and not to inquire too much into these cases, which would have taken several days. If these men were really anxious to work at a shilling a day and their food, we thought that it was a genuine test, having regard to the severe weather we had.

7906. I gather your general experience is that as you cannot adequately investigate the characters and circumstances of the men you must have a test in the shape of piecework?—Yes.

Mr. *Logan.*

7907. You say that the masons in Glasgow do not, even in the severe winter, have to apply to anybody for relief?—I think it is quite understood in the masons' trade that they put by a certain provision for the frosty weather, when they cannot work.

7908. Their wages enable them to do so?—Yes, they have very good wages.

7909. Is it not your opinion that, supposing labourers had wages as good as the masons they would also be able to provide for themselves in the winter?—They ought to.

7910. Do you not think they would do so?—I cannot say.

7911. Would not the Scotch labourers do the same as the Scotch masons if they had the same wages?—The labourers are not all Scotch; we have them from all parts.

7912. Are all the masons Scotch?—Mostly I think.

7913. I ask that question because I see that out of the 3,600 men out of work, according to your list on page 5, two-thirds, or nearly so, are labourers?—Yes; 2,665 were labourers connected with various trades.

7914. Do you think it is highly probable that if these men did get the same wages as the masons they would take care of themselves in winter as the masons do?—I know you will get very many labouring men who live in proportion to their income and save in proportion to their income; their outgoings are not so great as the masons', but they save and spend in proportion to their incomes; but you would get many thousands of thrifty labourers who save money.

7915. Still, a man upon 3*s.* 6*d.* a day cannot possibly provide for so many weeks of want of employment in the winter as many getting 6*s.* 6*d.* a day?—It entirely depends upon his savings. These people do not take houses at such a high rate, and do not live so well as the masons, and their savings should be in proportion to their incomes.

7916. That may be in proportion to their income; but can a man on 3*s.* 6*d.* a day possibly provide for so many weeks out of work in the winter as a man on 6*s.* 6*d*?—I should say not.

7917. If the labourers had a better wage would they be able to provide for themselves in the winter?—Yes; but labourers as a rule are not thrown out, except masons' labourers; and then they can turn to other employment. The mason, on the other hand, is a skilled man, and has only his individual trade to attend to. The labourer is quite able to take other labouring work.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

7918. Has not the mason to serve an apprenticeship, whereas the labourer has no apprenticeship to serve?—Yes; that is so.

Mr. *Logan.*

7919. A mason's labourer can turn his hand to anything else as quickly as any other labourer, can he not?—Yes; therefore he has not, like a mason, to lay by for the day of idleness.

7920. Still, notwithstanding that you have a number of labourers out of employment, two-thirds of these men out of work in the winter are labourers, are they not?—I think so.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

7921. I am so very much impressed with this admirable scheme which you have so well placed before us this morning that I should like to ask one or two questions with regard to the scheme, and my first question is this: In carrying out your scheme, what addition to the rates have you made?—There would be no charge on the rates at all under this scheme.

7922. Do I understand your scheme is carried out purely and solely by contributions from the inhabitants?—The scheme described from page 7 to the end of the statement is entirely carried out under voluntary contributions; and not only that, but I have 5,050*l.* left over. I had to restrain people from sending money.

7923. Have you ever been approached by delegates from labour unions or associations on this subject?—I do not think so.

7924. Not even during this late severe depression?—I think there was a deputation or two to the Council, asking that we should give a higher rate of wages than we were paying: that we should pay the trades union rate of wages.

7925. You do not pay the trades union rate of wages?—We do not, except in piecework.

7926. Not to any of the men?—Not to any; we put them all in the same category.

7927. In employing the police to assist you in distributing the various charities, as you have done during last season, have you found that the fact of employing the police has been a check to imposition?—It was a strict deterrent to the criminal classes.

7928. May I take it you have not found so many men applying for relief or for employment under the category of "the unemployed"?—The police have nothing to do with the employment of labour; they have only to do with the distribution of relief to those in want, requiring fuel, clothing and food.

7929. Do you know that in this large metropolis of ours we have an immense number of men who are known as loafers who will not do work if they can get it, but who would be very glad to obtain relief if it were indiscriminately given?—Yes.

7930. I want to know in what way you carried out my check in the distribution of relief of that kind?—Would you differentiate in what way you mean.

7931. Supposing a number of men applied to you for relief, what steps did you take to see if the cases were genuine?—They had to give us a statement showing the number of their family, their residence, where they were last employed, and their wages; and if it seemed to be a genuine case, as judged by the lieutenant in charge, he would give them a certain proportion of food to tide them over that night.

7932. Would it be in the discretion of the police?—Purely in the discretion of the lieutenant in charge of the police; or if it was an outside station or a central relief office, it would be under the Committee; two members of the Committee sit there from 10 to three or four in the afternoon, and on their judgment relief would be given to tide over the night. The particulars are taken and handed to the policeman on the beat of the address given; he would go there

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

and make inquiry, and if it was a genuine case he had a ticket which he could give on the face of which was printed, "Give the bearer two shillingsworth of groceries," and this ticket would be redeemed by the Charity Organisation Society. These tickets could be cashed at any grocers in the city; and if the case was found to be quite genuine, the constable would give a ticket and we would send coals in addition, or ask the Charity Organisation Society to give clothing.

7933. I understand you left all these matters in the discrimination of men good character who were well known to you in the police of Glasgow?—Yes, the heads of the various police office.

7934. You found that answer very well?—Exceedingly well. As far as possible the members of the Committee went to the police offices, but that was only for an hour or so in the day and the relief went on all day long. 22,000 odd tickets were issued, as you will see on page 9.

7935. Another matter which very much impressed me was this: you told us just now that a number of artisans went to America in the spring where they obtained high wages, and came back again to Glasgow in the winter-time and accepted lower wages at possibly the same kind of work?—Yes.

7936. I suppose you find that at times you have a great dearth of skilled artisans owing to these men remaining in America?—Of course, there is the usual scarcity when trade gets brisk, overtakes the normal condition.

7937. Do you find that a number of the skilled artisans prefer to remain in America?—All I can say is that in going across to America several times backwards and forwards, I have taken the trouble to go to the steerage and find out various men there and have a talk with them, and I have over and over again come across bricklayers going out to America earning very high wages. As they said, they have to work in a very different way to earn those high wages from what they did here, but they were quite satisfied to work very much harder and earn the additional wages, and come back to Glasgow to their wives and families in the winter-time.

7938. In your list on page 6, you have put against the heading "labourers," 1,242; were there any agricultural labourers among that number?—I should imagine there were men employed in at least semi-agricultural labourers' work, loading manure and all that sort of thing.

7939. Did you find at any time during this depression that large numbers of agricultural labourers come in to Glasgow to obtain employment?—No; but we found from 40 or 50 miles round all over the country, after the relief works became known and through various exaggerated reports getting about, there was a stream of loafers from the country directed to Glasgow.

7940. Did you find the agricultural labourers proper coming to Glasgow?—No, not at all.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7941. Did I understand you to say that you spend about three-quarters of a million a-year in municipal works?—No; we spend very much more. Our municipal expenditure is very close on two millions.

Chairman.

7942. Three-quarters of a million, I think, you said was the amount of building and public works that you have going on just now?—Yes; we have a bridge building just now, and an infectious diseases hospital, and the water and gas works.

Mr. *Bartley.*

7943. Have you heard of the proposal that this kind of work should be largely put off till the winter, in order to find work for the unemployed?—The work could not be done during the winter time.

7944. Could a good deal of it be done then?—No.

7945. You do not think it would be wise to try and arrange to do municipal works in winter, inorder to find w ork for the unemployed?—We are there as trustees to dispense the public money to the best of our ability, as we would do in our private capacity; and to try and make the contract for, say, the building of this hospital, that is costing us 200,000*l.*, and to provide that this hospital, which we absolutely require in two years, should be built in the winter time, would be quite against what, I consider, the injunction laid on us by our constituents that we are to disburse the rates to the best possible advantage.

7946. You think that any system like that, which would tend to give more work in the winter, would not be a benefit to the community at large?—I think, in practical working, it would break down at the first attempt.

7947. You think it cannot be regarded as the solution of the question of the unemployed at all?—Undoubtedly not.

7948. As regards these smaller places, where you said it might be necessary to have a rate, do you mean that you think, under no circumstances, the cost of the unemployed should be paid for by the Imperial exchequer?—I think most distinctly not.

7949. You think that would be very mischievous?—Most mischievous.

7950. I gather you consider that any laxity of State or local aid tends to reduce thrift, and those qualities which tend to make a community better?—Yes; we cannot disguise from ourselves that there are a good many who would rather do a little work or no work at all, and others who would expect that in winter time that relief would enable them to drift through in a comfortable way. If you look at the top of page 9 of my statement, you will see that a large number of men and women availed themselves of the shelter of the police office. We found a good many workmen coming into the police office and kicking up a row at five o'clock in the morning to get to their work and making a pillow of their boots in order to save threepence or fourpence for the night.

7951. You think such remedies may aggravate the very evils they were intended to meet?—I think they weaken the characters of a certain class of persons.

7952. And that weakening of the character is more serious than any other circumstance?—Yes. It was simply the climatic condition that caused us to open these works in Glasgow. The death-

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

death-rate was mounting so quickly that, as administrators of a large city having to do with the health and general conditions of the people, we felt that we should open these works and give these facilities for relief in the general interests of the people. Without the severity of the weather we would have had no relief works at all.

7953. Do you think the locality is quite able by its own resources and private charities to meet even such extreme weather as we had last year?—If you are referring to Glasgow, I think so distinctly.

7954. Do you think that is generally the case in most large cities?—Yes, I think so.

7955. You think State aid would be mischievous?—I cannot help thinking that, if there were any powers behind us under which we would be, in a measure compelled to give assistance or relief, we would be in an invidious position, and it would be difficult for us to carry out such relief and I think it would be certainly detrimental to a certain proportion of the population.

7956. May I take it that you, as the head of the second largest city in the country, are strongly opposed to any idea of State grants to assist the unemployed?—I am, and the magistracy of the council are unanimous in that opinion.

7957. You think that would really tend, if it were done, to increase the suffering of the poor in the long run?—Yes, I think it would in the long run.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

7958. In the case of Glasgow, I should like to ask whether there has been any demand at all for putting people who have come to you as unemployed out on the land; we have heard a great deal of evidence in regard to London and other parts of the country as to the great desire that exists for putting back a considerable portion of the labouring population that drifts into large cities upon the land; are you conscious of any demand of that sort existing in Glasgow on any considerable scale?—There is an association for improving the condition of the people of Glasgow proposing to set up a farm colony; but personally, I think, it is just a glorified poors house; nothing more nor less.

7959. So far as your experience goes, could you mention to the Committee any case in which either allotments or small holdings have been taken up on a large scale for a portion of the population in Glasgow?—No, it is not within my knowledge that anything has been done.

7960. It is not within your knowledge that there is any great demand for anything of the kind?—There is none at all, so far as I know.

7961. You do not know of a single case anywhere in the counties, in the immediate neighbourhood of Glasgow, where such colonies have been established?—No.

7962. Nor that they have been asked for?—There is that proposal I have indicated by this association in Glasgow; but personally I do not see in it any solution whatever of this problem that we have had nine times in 50 years; it perpetuates the evil which now we have only intermittently.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

7963. I presume you hold a very strong opinion as to the undesirability of giving extended powers to the Poor Law authority in Scotland to give them power to administer out-relief to the able-bodied, which at present they are prohibited from doing?—I am not quite conversant with the powers of the Poor Law at the moment. I cannot really answer that question. I have never been a member of any Poor Law Board.

Mr. *Mather.*

7964. On page 9 of your paper you make the following statement: "At present we have no rating powers enabling us to open any relief works; and what we have done has been paid, as far as the value of the work was concerned, by a rating body, say, parks or roads trustees, and the balance, viz., the difference between what we paid and what we could have got the work done for by contract, fell to be defrayed either by private contributions or from the Common Good"; what does the phrase "Common Good" mean?—It is a Scotch phrase; it is the accumulation of centuries of odd money and land that has been sold and passed into the Common Fund for the Common Good. It forms a fund which is entirely at the disposal of the members of the council for the time being. We have our city halls and the lands that have been feued, and many other little items that accumulate and amount to a large sum. It represents about 500,000*l.* now.

Chairman.

7965. It comes largely from bequests, does it not?—Yes, but the origin of the great bulk of the Common Good in Glasgow is lost in antiquity; we do not know where it comes from.

Mr. *Mather.*

7966. You spoke of the Citizens' Fund; is that another fund, apart from the Common Good Fund?—The Citizens' Relief Fund represented some 10,000*l.* subscribed in money, food, and clothing. The other fund was 4,854*l.*, expended for stone-breaking.

7967. The Citizens' Fund was a special fund obtained from the citizens during the past winter?—Yes, the 10,000*l.* was specially contributed.

7968. Is this Common Good Fund of Glasgow a perennial source of money for distribution for the general welfare of the city?—No; only on two or three occasions has it been touched.

7969. Is there any condition attached to this fund, that it shall only be used for certain definite charitable purposes?—No, there are no conditions whatever. It belongs to the corporation, and is very jealously guarded by the members of the corporation.

7970. I presume it is invested and you have a regular income from it?—Yes, we have an income of 40,000*l.* a year.

7971. Is it a growing fund?—Yes, it will grow; and then we use it again for municipal purposes.

7972. You never touch the capital; you spend the interest, I presume?—Yes, we never touch

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

the capital. We accumulate part of our interest, too.

7973. On the same page you say that the problem of dealing with the unemployed "is totally different in large cities from what it is in small towns"; "in a city like Glasgow there will always be a normal percentage of unemployed in all trades. This in the aggregate may be considerable." Have you any reason to suppose that in the administration of your fund during the last winter a large proportion of this skilled artizan class unemployed applied to you for relief?—Not a very great many, I think.

7974. You have given us a table in your paper showing the occupations of those who did apply?—Yes. You will find in the figures that after you deduct the labourers only four and a-half men per individual trade applied to us for relief.

7975. Would you suppose that at the back of all the applications you received from these skilled artizans there was a large amount of suffering among the artizan class out of work who would not make their suffering known?—I do not think so.

7976. You believe by the humanitarian methods you adopted such a class of respectable well-conducted artizans would not be debarred from coming to you on the ground of losing their self-respect?—I think not. I think the crisis that was occasioned by the bad weather of last year was very well got over, and that we had no excessive number of respectable artizans out of work.

7977. Coming to the statement which has been already read out by the Chairman, to which you yourself called attention; this very emphatic statement, that "the solution of this unemployed question is to make it perfectly clear that no Government and no local authority have incumbent on them in the slightest degree a responsibility either to procure or to provide employment or to maintain persons while out of employment"; do you mean that also to cover another body not specifically named here, viz., the guardians of the poor?—No; the guardians have a certain authority now. I cannot exactly tell what it is.

7978. They have the authority, but you say here the solution of the question is to make it perfectly clear that no local authority has such a responsibility; would you abolish the Poor Law?—No, I do not take it in that way at all.

7979. What do you mean by saying that the solution is to make it clear that no local authority has such a responsibility?—I may have used a wrong word in speaking of it as the "solution"; but what I mean is that we should not have laid upon us any obligation in any way to find employment or to provide employment or to help people when out of employment; they must get that for themselves.

7980. Surely that refers directly to the existing Poor Law, and, if so, may I take it that you think the Poor Law is a mistake?—No.

Chairman.

7981. Does not the question come to this: do you include boards of guardians in the words "local authority"?—No; I do not look upon the Poor Law side of the question at all. I take it from the municipal point of view, and from no other. I say we should not have resting upon us any responsibility of that sort.

Chairman—continued.

Mr. *Mather.*

7982. Then we must take this in a limited sense?—Yes.

7983. Your solution as applied in this limited sense is to make it clear that municipal bodies and local sanitary authorities should not have power to maintain persons out of employment, or relieve them when out of employment?—You have a certain authority in the shape of the Poor Law guardians now to relieve distress, but not in Scotland in the case of the able-bodied.

7984. The term "solution" is used again in the next sentence: "The solution of the question" (that is the question which this Committee has been appointed to consider) "rests with the people themselves and not with any authority"?—I am there giving my personal opinion.

7985 You are a person of great authority; you have had the jurisdiction of a great city under your control for a considerable time, and these statements are very deservedly accepted with great respect; you say you look for the solution to the exercise of all the virtues of prudence, thrift, industry, and sobriety?—Exactly; that will solve it.

7986. That, you think, will be the true solution?—That will solve it.

7987. That is a very high state of civilisation at which we have not yet arrived; you spoke of Glasgow being a very opulent city, and in such opulent cities as Glasgow you think there is no difficulty, whatever the suffering may be, in meeting the distress; you think the citizens of such a city and the local authority may deal with the exceptional distress whatever it is?—I think so.

7988. You think that no legislation of any kind is needed, and no other plan than what you have adopted from time to time in Glasgow?—I think there is a responsibility incumbent upon us which we will always rise to when occasion requires.

7989. Glasgow is a very conscientious city?—I hope it has been so, and will always be.

7990. Glasgow is a city set on a hill in that respect; but you do not wish the Committee to apply your remarks to any other towns in the country?—I give my impressions as entirely confined to Glasgow.

7991. Speaking of farms, would you say whether this municipal farm upon which you dispose of the refuse and waste products of the city now pays its expenses?—Yes.

7992. What do you produce on the farm?—On the one farm last year we grew hay, straw, oats, wheat, and barley. I can give you the figures if you wish.

7993. That is quite sufficient for my purpose?—It is an arable farm, as we call it in Scotland.

7994. No milk is produced, I presume?—No.

7995. Do you pay your labourers the full labourers' wages?—Yes, the ordinary rate of wages; very full wages, indeed.

7996. You have to incur all the expenses in connection

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

connection with farming, less that of manure; the manure is free?—Yes; but in addition to that we have to provide a sinking fund and interest. This fund will be paid over in 31 years.

7997. Having taken a piece of moss-land, you have put upon it the labour of 32 men, I understand?—No; the moss-land is only 100 acres.

7998. What was the larger farm of 550 acres?—Poor clayey and hilly land.

7999. Out of cultivation?—Not out of cultivation, but yielding a very poor crop.

8000. That you obtain for a shilling an acre rental?—No, that is only the moss-land; for the other we paid 22*l.* per acre.

8001. You bought it out and out?—Yes, paying 22*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* per acre.

8002. What would that land be worth after you have done with it?—Not a very great deal more. It could only be worth the agricultural value in that neighbourhood at the time. What we use it for really is to get rid of our excess manure. I can give you the quantity of stuff we put on it last year. We disposed of 33,000 tons of manure on it.

8003. What did it cost you to take it down there?—Sixpence per ton.

8004. This moss land of 100 acres you obtained at 1*s.* per acre rent, as I understand?—Originally 1*s.*, and then it advanced to 5*s.*

8005. What do you produce from that land?—Just the same as from the other.

8006. That is now in a high state of cultivation?—Yes.

8007. Can you take any crop off it?—Yes, except wheat.

8008. At the end of your term that land will be worth twenty times the rent you paid for it at first?—Yes, distinctly; but we cannot get any more land within the circle within which we can get cheap railway carriage; there is none available.

8009. Upon the 100 acres how many men do you employ?—Nine permanent men, and then at the potato planting and at the lifting and at harvest time we employ women who are working at other work during the rest of the year.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8010. I think you stated to the Committee at the beginning of your examination that the only test you put these people to was stone-breaking?—Yes; we originally opened the works with the intention of only employing men who had been resident in Glasgow three months prior to the date of opening the works; but when the weather got so intensely cold we could not make inquiry and we allowed anybody to work.

8011. It was very severe weather, was it not?—Yes, dreadfully severe; we had never had anything like it.

8012. Had these poor men any covering where they worked?—No, only at meal times.

8013. The discrepancy between the value of the material and the wages is so great that I am surprised anything was got?—It is just about the same proportion as we have always had in times past.

8014. Do not you think they would have done

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

better if they had had some shelter?—I think not. There were shelters, but not for them to break stone under.

8015. Is it not very hard for these men to work without a shelter?—It is the ordinary conditions of outdoor labour; you do not put up a shelter for men working in the fields or anywhere else.

8016. You referred to the assistance which the police gave to the authorities in distributing the benefit the citizens had provided for those in want?—Yes.

8017. I suppose a good many of those who got that assistance were not very considerate, and got a great deal more than they were entitled to?—You will always get a percentage of people who will take all they can get.

8018. May I take it from you that those who got assistance were the very lowest type of society?—No, I would not put it so. There may have been a good many who were not very deserving recipients; but undoubtedly the fund did an enormous amount of good; it lowered the death-rate, improved the health of the lower classes, and very many deserving people got assistance from the fund.

8019. Are you aware of the police in many of the neighbouring boroughs doing the same?—Yes; I think Govan did the same, and Edinburgh.

8020. Are you aware that Govan has done the same thing for eight winters?—Yes, but it is not quite the same thing.

8021. They have done something in the same sort of way, have they not?—Yes.

8022. I quite endorse what you say about the citizens appreciating the services of the police in this work, because it has had the same effect in the borough I represent. Were you troubled with men coming into the city to take advantage of the citizens' generosity?—We could not very well get at that, because as regards the soup kitchens, we gave soup and bread to everybody who came and said they were in need of food; but certainly outsiders did not get any benefit under the heading of the provisions ticket, and clothing and coals; that was entirely given to the citizens of Glasgow.

8023. There are a great deal of railway operations about Glasgow at the present time?—Yes, there is a railway running through the centre of the town being made at present.

8024. During the severe weather were those operations stopped?—Not the underground operations; those above ground would be, no doubt.

8025. Did that cause a great many of the labouring class to fall back upon the benefits derived from the citizens?—Yes; even the shipbuilding-yard labourers were thrown out; metal became too cold to handle.

8026. A good deal has been made of the common good fund in Glasgow; that is a fund that is under the corporation, is it not?—Yes, it is the capital account of the corporation, which is not placed against any rating body.

8027. It is a very satisfactory thing to have upon which they may lay their hand when any occasion arises?—Yes. It is absolutely necessary

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

to maintain it intact, and increase it as far as possible.

8028. So far as your knowledge of Glasgow and Scotland generally is concerned, you do not see the propriety of any Imperial grant or assistance being given for the purpose of meeting distress among the unemployed?—No; I think the municipality should be able to do that for themselves.

Mr. *Acland.*

8029. I want to ask you one or two questions about dates, not for the purpose of criticism, but to compare your action with what might be the action in the case of an English city council. The first important step in regard to relieving distress in Glasgow was the meeting of the magistrates, on some date prior to the 4th of February, as would appear from page 4 of your statement?—On the 4th of February two stone-breaking yards were opened.

8030. At some earlier date the magistrates had come to a resolution to open the stone-breaking yards?—Yes; on the 28th of January.

8031. On the 28th of January the magistrates passed a resolution to open those yards?—Yes.

8032. In doing that they were acting on behalf of the town council, or what you call the corporation?—Yes.

8033. They bound the corporation by that resolution?—Certainly.

8034. The magistrates are the bailies, are they not?—The magistrates are the bailies, and it was remitted to them to associate one or two members of the council with them; it was remitted to them with power to open these works if they thought it necessary after due inquiries.

8035. They being members of the council were acting on behalf of the council?—Certainly.

8036. In the case of an ordinary city council they would have known at that moment that they might be by that resolution bringing a burden on the rates. In the case of Glasgow, I assume they knew that they were not going to do so, because, at any rate, they had the common good behind?—They had. I do not think we have yet decided how the money is to be got; whether we will get it from a private source or from the common good. The question was raised in the first instance how should we pay the deficit, and the answer was, we will decide that afterwards; we will meet the urgency of the present case without deciding the further question.

8037. Might it come out of the rates?—It is not decided yet; but it cannot come out of the rates, for we have no rating power.

8038. Then it could not have come out of the rates when that resolution was passed?—It could not.

8039. The resolution was passed by the public representative body, with the knowledge that it could not come out of the rates, but that it would be found by the city?—Somehow.

8040. Then the work began, and it was known that there would be a loss, and yet all the time it was understood that while the public authority was carrying it on that loss would not be found

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

out of the rates, but would be found in some way or another?—Exactly.

8041. Supposing there had been no subscription, and supposing there had been no resolution to use any part of the common good, it might possibly (I am only putting an extreme case) have come out of the pockets of the very councillors themselves, might it not?—It is quite possible.

8042. You will understand that I am only putting an extreme case?—I think it could not have come out of the councillors' pockets, because the corporation remitted to that committee, with powers to carry out those relief works, and the corporation would find the money. It might have come out of the individual pockets of the members of the corporation, but not out of the pockets of the members of the committee.

8043. That might be so simply because there was not a power to spend the rates on this kind of work. That is not one of the powers you possess?—Yes; I say so distinctly in the body of my statement.

8044. I quite follow that. When the parks or roads trustees were taking part in the work, they were taking part at the desire of the corporation, and they were administering a fund which was going to be partly contributed from outside?—The parks committee was simply the medium for carrying out the work, supposing we employed people on a park, putting it as an example. The parks committee did not carry out the work this year; it was statutory labour, of the roads and streets committee. The parks committee did it where bigger work was concerned.

8045. The corporation willingly lent themselves and their committees to carry out these works with funds which were contributed by the city at large; was not that so?—No, the citizens' fund contributed by the city at large was not used for any purposes connected with the corporation. They were two quite distinct funds.

8046. May I put it in this way: they lent themselves to the expenditure of money on which if there was a loss the loss would not come from the rates?—I do not quite follow what you wish to get at. We had two funds altogether; one, from which we drew the money to pay the wages and the cost of the stone and the shelter and food, from the City Chamberlain; whichever department took over the stone it would belong to the statutory labour, the streets and roads committee, and they pay to the City Chamberlain the value of those stones at the same rate as they would have purchased them, and the balance is to be found by the corporation in some way or other. That is the point you elicited before.

8047. And yet that balance or loss cannot come out of the rates, but will come from some voluntary sources?—Yes, voluntary so far as we can vote it away.

8048. I mean that it is an example of the corporation willingly using money, as to which, if they take the whole of it, part will come from a voluntary source?—We entirely accept the responsibility; the corporation has always done

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

done so in Glasgow, where the case of undue distress has existed ever since 1878. Up to 1878 there was a Citizens' Committee who carried out these works; after that date they handed over a balance to the corporation of some 840*l.*, and the corporation have always, where undue distress has existed, felt it their duty to collect money and disburse it; or if they did not collect the money from the public they found it in some way from some funds in their possession.

8049. In the meantime, they are quite willing that their own machinery should be employed for the work?—We consider it our duty, in the case of exceptional distress, to do that.

Chairman.

8050. There is a surplus, I believe, on the Glasgow Distress Relief Fund of upwards of 5,000*l.*, is there not?—Yes.

8051. You do not propose to use any part of that to make up the balance on the relief work, do you?—A majority of the corporation might decide to do so. What we think is that our machinery was the best equivalent for relieving this case of undue distress.

Mr. *Acland.*

8052. It is an interesting point to see that you are so ready to lend your machinery for purposes of this sort when you know you have not got rates to fall back upon?—We would be very sorry to feel we had the obligation to do so. We do it simply as a matter of humanity, to increase the health and the well-being of the city.

8053. I understand that, although you do not advocate the using of the rates for purposes of this sort, you are not opposed to the principle?—I am opposed to the principle in this way: that I would rather leave it to the citizens than let it become an obligation.

8054. I gather that you would not be opposed to the principle outside Glasgow?—I cannot speak for outside Glasgow, but I should say that the obligation should be the same for all cities; that they ought to be left to do it themselves.

8055. I was reading your own words—"but, as smaller cities and local authorities may not be in this position, it seems to me the remedy is to enable local authorities to impose a small rate for the establishment of temporary relief works."—There are small towns, as I explained, where they may not have so much surplus to fall back upon.

8056. May I put it that you are not opposed to the principle outside Glasgow, and other large cities?—I am not opposed to the principle of a small rate being applied for exceptionable distress, arising, say, from the changes in the seasonal trade in a small place.

8057. Such rate being specially limited?—Specially limited, and special marked.

8058. You spoke about the death rate during severe weather. That rising death rate, I suppose, was not merely amongst the old who died from the cold weather, but it was something more serious?—It was all over the city. Of course, the old people were cut off in very great numbers.

8059. That commonly happens; but I suppose it was more than that?—It was more than that. The death rate went up tremendously. It was 24·6 in January, and in the week ending the 2nd of March it was 53·6.

8060. That would include people of middle age and children as well?—Yes. I can give you the conditions, if you care to have them.

8061. That means, I suppose, that there must have been a good many people before the frost came who were in very precarious conditions, living on from week to week?—It does not follow. In 1875 we had the same climatic conditions, and we had the same high death rate. Glasgow is very subject to fog, and we had alternative fog and east wind, with the thermometer down below zero. Any weak constitution was bound to be affected.

8062. Did you look upon it as showing that there were a great number of people who were in a weak or precarious condition?—We recognised at the time that nothing would enable them to regain their normal condition but additional food, fire and clothing.

8063. Which they had not got?—People do not usually provide against such a condition of weather as we had last year; they were not normal conditions.

8064. That is very much what I meant by that?—I am afraid that with a winter like last winter, even with every man employed, and the conditions of the best, you will find a certain proportion who will be caught unprepared for the climatic conditions that we had last year.

8065. Then when there is no frost at all and no cold, what is your view about the workers of whom you speak, and who suffer from an infirmity of person or temper, or who have got beyond their working days?—That is a question beyond my giving any opinion upon. It may be a matter for the Poor Law Guardians.

8066. You do not offer any opinion as to the way to meet that case?—No.

8067. In the case of piecework, I suppose there is a very great physical difference between the different men who come to work?—Yes.

8068. And some of those who might be quite as deserving as any might be very weak in physical capacity?—Yes, unfortunately we had a great many of those.

8069. Then how would piecework work out in their case, supposing you had begun that after the first week?—In the one case the man who is physically strong and well would do his work in three or four days, and the other might take five or six days. In the one case the man got his food during all the week, and in the other case he did not; he had to take his 7*s.* and go and look for other employment and come back on the Monday next if he wished to do so.

8070. So that a man who works more slowly and takes longer is not at a disadvantage as compared with a stronger man?—He gets his food additional. He has this disadvantage, that he cannot get away to look for employment; but under no possible conditions will you get a perfect scheme.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

8071. I am not criticising the scheme, I am merely asking for information?—I wished to show that we try to make it as fair as we can. Where the one works longer he gets his food in addition.

Mr. *Round.*

8072. I should like to ask you one question. I suppose the character of the work that these men were employed on on the farm was moving manure?—We did not employ any of the unemployed on the farm at all.

Mr. James Russell Motion, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

8073. You are acting Inspector of Poor of the Barony Parish, Glasgow?—Yes.

8074. Are there two large parishes in Glasgow, the city parish and the barony?—The city, the barony, and Govan; there are three.

8075. And you are clerk of the parish council?—Yes.

8076. Previously to that, what position did you hold?—I was collector of poor rates in the same parish.

8077. From what date?—1878.

8078. And you had been in the service of the barony parochial board before that?—Since 1866.

8079. What is the population of the barony parish?—The population of the barony parish is 309,812.

8080. And the area?—Twenty-one square miles.

8081. And that is partly in the borough and partly in the county?—Partly in the borough and partly in the landward.

8082. What is the proportion?—The proportion is about 10½ square miles in each.

8083. Then, what are your last statistical returns of pauperism?—The last statistical returns of pauperism, made up to the 14th of February last, show that for the six months ending at that date there had been 3,105 applications, against 4,169 for the period ending 1885.

8084. Ending at the same period in 1885?—Ending at the same period in 1885.

8085. Ten years previously?—Ten years previously; and the number of paupers chargeable to the parish at that date, the 14th of February 1895, numbered 6,764, compared with 7,070 in 1885; showing a decrease in applications of 1,064, and a decrease of individuals, chargeable at the same period, of 306.

8086. What are the figures for lunatics?—The number of lunatics, who are included in these figures, in 1895 numbered 596 in the asylum, against 490 in 1885; lunatics boarded out, 201 in 1895 and 20 in 1885.

8087. Then on lunatics there is an increase?—On lunatics there is a large increase.

8088. What is the increase?—Two hundred and eighty-seven.

8089. Then as regards boarded-out children, what is the comparison?—The boarded-out children in 1895 were 498; and in 1885 they were 439.

8090. And the total paupers chargeable?—6,764 against 7,070.

8091. You have for many years taken a considerable interest in the question of the unemployed, I believe?—I have.

8092. And you have written on the subject?—Yes.

Chairman—continued.

8093. The Committee understand that the Poor Law Act of 1845, which is the leading Statute in Scotland, did not provide, as in England, for the relief of able-bodied persons?—It did not.

8094. Has that provision been altered by practice at all?—It has not been altered by practice, further than that the House of Lords decided upon a case that the assessment raised for the relief of the poor could not be diverted to the relief of able-bodied men and women. Since then the Board of Supervision has advised a reasonable interpretation of that decision; and the parochial boards give a wide scope in the consideration of cases of able-bodied men who have wives and children dependent upon them.

8095. What do you mean exactly by giving a wide scope and a reasonable interpretation?—If an able-bodied man has a wife in bad health, or children in bad health, we provide for them in the hospital.

8096. Is the condition of destitution enforced in Scotland in the case of relief, as it is in the case of out-door relief in England; you have any such provision as that?—No, it is simply whether the applicant is an object of relief; that is the point the parochial boards consider.

8097. An object of parochial relief?—Yes.

8098. A fit subject for relief, that is to say?—Yes.

8099. What is the condition of in-paupers; what is the condition before a man is admitted into the house?—Practically, destitution is the test of admission to the poor-roll, either on the outdoor roll or the indoor roll.

8100. Will you explain how a man gets on to the outdoor roll?—He gets on to the outdoor roll if he is unable to work and earn a living for himself, his wife, and children; but he may be partially employed as a watchman, and such like.

8101. And so be able to contribute to his maintenance?—Able to contribute to his maintenance.

8102. What is your opinion as to the amount of distress which prevailed in Glasgow last winter?—Until the appearance of the late severe frost it appeared that there was no immediate necessity for exceptional measures.

8103. How did you gather that impression?—The outdoor assistant inspectors—the district-inspectors, who are constantly moving about in these areas and are going in and out among the people—observe what is going on, and they reported to me in January, from the 16th to the 18th of January, that there was just the usual number of men hanging about; that shopkeepers found no unusual distress. In one district in particular

Chairman—continued.

particular the inspector says there are always a number of so-called unemployed men who would rather loaf or beg than work, and that the time for the unemployed was past and gone; meaning by that that the season of outcry for that had disappeared.

8104. In January?—In January.

8105. Do you mean that trade had become brisker?—It was just in its normal state. Another says it is quite a common thing for men to be thrown idle by failing to rise early enough in the morning, and also through drink. This statement is made upon the authority of the manager of a large engineering work in the west end, in the Anderston district.

8106. He says that they have a difficulty owing to men not being willing to get up early enough?—Entirely. I might read this statement illustrating another point of it. The foreman of a brass and copper work says they are very busy working day and night, different men for each shift, wages 30*s.* 6*d.* per week; and that there are many who will not work. Some time ago a woman successfully pled with him to get her husband a job, but he worked only two days when he, without any assigned cause, disappeared and sent his son to the works for what he had earned.

8107. And it was represented to you that that sort of thing was the cause of a great deal of such want of employment as existed?—That is so; and there are other similar statements; that is just a sample.

8108. Now, when in February last the Lord Provost, as he has told us, inaugurated a special fund for the relief of the unemployed, what did you do?—The inspectors of poor attended the various relief stations and gave assistance. The committee, as I took their instructions from their observations, were so anxious to see that no one was turned empty away in a sense, that very slight investigation was made; certainly there was no organised inquiry into the circumstances of each applicant.

8109. It was considered an urgent matter?—It was considered an urgent matter.

8110. It did not even admit of the time being spent upon those purposes?—No, they were so numerous. The people relieved were generally of the lowest description of the populace, and a great many were already in receipt of poor relief. They were recognised by my assistants, and, in point of fact, when these people saw my assistants they cleared out of the place. In another instance, it was observed that there was a decrease in the number receiving soup in a district. I sent the assistants to our poorhouse, where we were giving soup out to people, and it was found that they were going to Barnhill, to the poorhouse, and getting soup there, as well as at this soup kitchen; and two women were given into the hands of the police, but they were allowed to go away.

8111. That was regarded as a fraud, by the police, of course?—Entirely. Then there were an unusual number of children sent for soup, and rations were supplied to these without any inquiry whatever. It is to be observed likewise that, from information given to me by the governor of the poorhouse, who catechised people in a casual way, that the whole of the people who went up there seemed to have enormously large families.

Chairman—continued.

8112. There was not, I presume, time to investigate into the genuineness of the alleged famine?—That is so.

8113. But these circumstances were, I suppose, inevitable under the pressure of the case?—Quite so. I give you these also to illustrate the class of people who were taking advantage of it.

8114. Were there many among them who were genuine tradesmen out of employment?—Very few comparatively.

8115. They were what we have heard spoken of as the loafing-class generally?—Entirely the loafing-class; the men really who have never done any work; as anyone who took the trouble to observe the palms of their hands would have seen; and also that class who mainly frequent the model-lodgings in the city, where they get a bed from 2½*d.* upwards.

8116. Mr. Burns's lodging-houses, and the others of that kind, that we have heard of?—That is so. There is, roughly speaking, accommodation in the city for nearly 9,000 sleepers, distributed over the three parishes, and last year nearly 2,500 inmates of the poorhouses came from these model lodging-houses.

8117. You mean that the model lodging-houses did not make them any worse than they were before; but that was their last stage?—That was the last stage.

8118. You do not mean to imply anything against the lodging-houses, do you, as conducing to that state of life?—They do not improve the class between 18 years of age and 40 years of age.

8119. I suppose, after that, they may be feeble people, who must have something of the sort?—Who probably finish their lives in the poorhouse.

8120. But in the earlier years the morals and general tone of those who go to them are not improved?—That is so.

8121. Do you think that that is really a considerable evil?—It is a considerable evil. For instance, the average number of deserted cases; that is, applicants for relief whose husbands or fathers have deserted them, is about 279 for my parish alone. The criminal officer makes his first visit to these models, and is usually successful in finding his man there.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

8122. Two hundred and seventy-nine out of what total?—About 3,000.

Chairman.

8123. But where would these people go if there were not those houses for them to sleep in?—In the first place they should go and live with their wives, and in the other cases they should live with their parents.

8124. You think that many people frequent those lodging-houses who really are not driven there by necessity?—That is so.

8125. They get away from the constraint of their wives and families by going there?—That is my point. And there were 51 of these cases suffering from venereal disease.

Chairman—continued.

8126. Fifty-one out of how many?—I will put it in this way: that out of a total of 3,685 persons admitted to the poorhouse last year, 479 came from model lodging-houses and 172 came from police offices, while 51 out of that total suffered from venereal diseases, acute and chronic.

8127. But you do not imply, do you, that those who came from model lodging-houses were especially those who suffered from venereal diseases?—I say that 51 came from the model lodging-houses.

8128. Out of how many?—Out of 479.

8129. I thought you meant out of the 3,000?—No, there were 479 from the model lodging-houses and 172 from police offices; and out of those 51 suffered from venereal diseases.

8130. Then you have discharges from Barlinnie Prison, which increase your less reputable loafers, have you not?—We have, roughly, from 50 to 60 men (there are a good number of women, certainly; but I keep myself entirely to men) who leave Barlinnie every morning. Barlinnie is about two miles from Glasgow—three miles, say, from the Exchange. These men are brought on in vans in the morning and deposited at the Glasgow Prison in Cathedral-square, where they are discharged and allowed to go where they choose. There is a prison-gate mission established just below Alexander's Mill, which you know yourself, where these people who choose to go are taken, and they get coffee and bread, &c., and the officials there pray with them and read the Word of God to them, and try to instil proper ideas into their heads. These, again, leave that place probably about nine o'clock, or half-past nine o'clock, and go in to swell the crowds of the existing unemployed in the city. These men, as the Lord Provost of Glasgow has stated, come from 29 different police-courts throughout the West of Scotland. In addition, there is the Sheriff's Court, and the Justice of Peace's Courts, *et cetera*.

8131. So that the accumulated discharged prisoners from all the West of Scotland, you may say, are all poured into Glasgow?—Brought into Glasgow.

8132. At the rate of 50 or 60 a day?—At the rate of 50 or 60 a day.

8133. How many prisoners are there in Barlinnie altogether; do you know?—Some time ago there were 800, but I think the number has increased to somewhere about 1,200 now.

8134. Fifty or 60 seems a large number?—I might explain that that probably arises through the short sentences.

8135. Thirty days and 60 days?—No; seven days and 14 days.

8136. Still, a certain number of those men would find their way back to their homes, I suppose?—Yes. I have authentic figures here from the superintendent of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, showing that in the year 1892, out of 11,509 discharged from prison, 40 per cent. had been convicted from one to three and four times, and it was then stated that there were 500 professional thieves in Glasgow; and as I am giving these figures, I might mention, in addition, that there are from 500 to 600 certified vagrants in Glasgow, as per the Return to the Home Secretary, taken in June and December of each year.

Chairman—continued.

8137. Now the unemployed, as shown in the Lord Provost's statement, have been dealt with on previous occasions from 1848 downwards?—From 1848 downwards.

8138. There was a sum then raised, was there not?—A large sum was then raised.

8139. And paving and stone-breaking were organised?—Paving and stone-breaking, and emigration were then resorted to. In September, 1862, the newspapers reported that there were 5,000 out of employment, but only 310 came up for employment when it was offered. Complaints were then being made that the bulk of the men were loafers. At that time free passages were obtained from the Queensland Government, of which three-fourths went to Lancashire and one-fourth to Glasgow. The total amount realised then of relief was over 36,000*l*.

8140. The efforts made this last year were not so ambitious or extensive; but during this late period of distress, with a view to ascertain who were the applicants, did you make a suggestion to the Lord Provost?—I made a suggestion to the Lord Provost.

8141. Will you tell the Committee what that was?—"That the Lord Provost be requested to nominate a Commission of Inquiry from among the magistrates, the Poor Law authorities, the Charity Organisation Society, and such other representative bodies as his Lordship may think necessary, to take evidence for the purpose of ascertaining to what class or classes belong the great mass of the people who were employed on stone-breaking, who received orders for provisions, coals &c., and who were supplied with soup at the various depôts, and what class or classes received shelter at the various police stations, for the purpose of advising as to measures to meet such recurring periods of distress, or if necessary to advise the Government regarding measures of relief to meet the classes discovered in the inquiry." This recommendation was made more for his Lordship's consideration, because I felt, after sending it, that it was too wholesale for anyone to take up; but I thought it necessary to put these notes before his Lordship.

8142. Has anything been done on that recommendation?—Nothing has been done, so far as I know.

8143. And, of course, so far as the last witness is concerned, it would be difficult or impossible to go back upon the cases, then, at this time of day?—I think sufficient information could be got upon which any committee of gentlemen could form an opinion as to what class they appeared to belong to at the period of the late distress.

8144. Is it, under the Scotch law, any part of the duty of the Poor Law authorities, such as yours, to deal with the relief of distress by furnishing employment?—Oh, no.

8145. You have no obligation to find work for the unemployed?—We have no obligation to find work for the unemployed.

8146. You deal only with the destitute poor?—With the destitute poor entitled to relief.

8147. And

Chairman—continued.

8147. And is it your opinion, from your knowledge of the whole question, that it would be a desirable thing that the other public authorities should have that duty put upon them?—I am strongly of opinion that the question of dealing with the able-bodied poor or the unemployed ought to be under the care and control of the Poor Law authorities, either by express enactment or through some machinery which may be created under the authority of the Secretary for Scotland. The conditions under which the Court gave that decision about 1858 are entirely changed now. The expression "the stigma of pauperism" is frequently used; but it would do no harm whatever to have some power like these in the hands of the re-constituted parochial boards or parish councils, under the control of the Local Government Board.

8148. What sort of power do you speak of?—Power to afford them relief for work, as I suggest. I think they might. To meet the claims of the unemployed, measures ought to be taken to provide for the class of men bordering upon pauperism, who subsist on casual employment and begging, by providing them with work, shelter and food upon farm colonies which might be attached to poorhouses. That is the form I think that any change might take. Farm colony is perhaps not quite a good name to use in relation to that; but under the Poor Law authorities let everyone have the right to apply there, and let the Poor Law authorities deal with the case in the way best suited to that case.

8149. Whether the want of employment be owing to exceptional circumstances or not?—That is so.

8150. Would you say that any man in normal times out of employment, whether from fault of his own or not from fault of his own, should be entitled to go to the Poor Law authorities and claim work and relief for work, or would you confine it to cases where from exceptional causes beyond the man's own influence he is out of employment?—In the first place I will put it in this way: that the Local Government Board of Scotland should have power, upon the application of a Parish Council, to give relief in cases in periods of exceptional distress.

8151. That the Parish Council should, as it were, apply to the Local Government Board to have the existing condition of things declared an exceptional condition of things justifying exceptional measures?—Quite so, and the local authority, the Parish Council, would then have power to reply to the application of each of these men as they come up, so that the so-called well-doing workman who is thrown out of employment would get different treatment from a man who had a bad reputation. And, in addition to that, some more stringent provisions should be taken for the prevention of vagrancy and begging.

8152. What sort of provision do you point to there?—Just now under the Poor Laws we cannot detain a person in the poorhouse longer than 24 hours. The result is that we have known and proved disreputable characters who trot out and in of the poorhouse 50 times in the year. They are outside doing casual work; the

Chairman—continued.

women are washing and such like, and the men are doing something certainly when they are out; but these men prevent the honest labourer getting his proper share of the work.

8153. They compete with the honest labourer?—Yes, it is subsidised labour competing with what is not subsidised.

8154. What would you do to prevent them?—Before the Committee presided over by Sir Charles Cameron I recommended something in the same line, that they should be committed. This class of men and women, who are a disgrace to our streets and a disgrace to their sex, ought to be committed, on the power of a sheriff or other magistrate, to an institution. There is plenty of room in the present poorhouses of Scotland for the whole of what I would call the certified tramps and vagrants; and these people ought to be committed to those institutions which already exist, until they are able to rehabilitate themselves in the eyes of the judge who has sent them there.

8155. But do you think that in a sort of penal colony of that kind they would have the chance of rehabilitating themselves?—I do.

8156. By being kept steadily at work and by being kept from drink?—By being kept steadily at work and kept from drink; because it has proved itself in my own poorhouse. In 1882, following the example set by several English workhouses, we built test wards, 60 for men and 60 for women. In less than 10 years we have not a test case on either side; the whole of the people who were test cases in 1882 have disappeared, where I cannot tell; they certainly are not paupers; they certainly are not in the poorhouse, and we have no record of them.

8157. What do you mean exactly by a test case?—Men who have come to the poorhouse through their own misconduct, and who are certified by the medical staff as partially able for work. A man probably has been on the beer for a week, and he is run out and cannot get even a model lodging-house bed, but sleeps on a stair in the night, probably gets cold; the medical officer certifies catarrh, or something of that kind, he is unfit for work, and he is sent to the poorhouse. That is a test case.

8158. Then while you would deal with the regular constant unemployed loafing class in that way, you would give greater powers to and make it the duty of the Parish Councils, who take the place of parochial boards, to give relief to the unemployed?—I would; that is my opinion.

8159. Your view is that it would be greatly in the interest of the respectable, hard-working, decent living working man that these people should be dealt with?—Most decidedly, I think so.

8160. Because they run down his standard of wages?—Entirely.

8161. In fact you would advocate the introduction of some sort of system like the colonies in Belgium and Germany?—In Germany. I was sent by a committee to Germany with three other gentlemen to inquire as to the farm colonies, and I signed the report with a qualification.

8162. When was that, may I ask, and who

Ch airman—continued.

sent you?—It was the outcome of an Association for Improving the Condition of the People of Glasgow; and this is a quotation from the report: "It has to be borne in mind, however, that the German criminal law is more comprehensive than our own, in so far as it confers more extensive powers over the class of persons for whom a labour colony is intended." Those powers are contained in the 361st section of the German Penal Code. Shall I read them?

8163. If you please?—"By the 361st section of the German Penal Code, amongst other provisions, it is enacted that 'he is punished with imprisonment'—(1) Who, after he has been put under police supervision, breaks through the restrictions under which he has been placed. (3) Who goes about as a 'tramp' (Landstricher). (4) Who begs, or directs or sends any children to beg, or fails to prevent persons from begging who are under his control and supervision, and belong to his household. (5) Who gives way to play, drink, or idleness, so that he falls into a state in which the help of outsiders (fremde Hülfe) has to be claimed through the intervention of the authorities for his maintenance, or the maintenance of those for whose support he is responsible. (7) Who, if he receives relief from public poor funds (Armenmittelu), refuses, and of dislike of work, to perform a task suitable to his powers, which is assigned to him by the authorities. (8) Who, after loss of the lodging which he has had up to the time, has not, in the interval permitted him by the proper authorities, procured for himself a lodging anywhere else, and cannot show that, notwithstanding the trouble he has taken, he has been unable to do so."

8164. Do you think that in the case of those deserving poor who might get assistance in one way or other from the parish authorities under the extended provision that you advocate, there would be any evil come to them from that support; would it lower their tone, their independence, on the one hand, or would you find them objecting to it because of the stigma of pauperism touching the pauper class?—No, I think that is nonsense. My experience points to that.

8165. You think that you can give a man in those circumstances help without lowering him in his own estimation or in that of others?—I do think so.

8166. Have you any strong view as to his losing his right of citizenship, his vote; do you think that he should lose his vote?—I have not thought about that.

8167. At present do you think, as things go now, that that would have any effect in preventing applications?—I have never heard it mentioned.

8168. I omitted to ask you as to some information that you wished to give with regard to your parish, which is set out on page 11 of your proof, as an indication that the ratepayer of your parish is not numbered among the distressed unemployed; can you give some figures of the rating as bearing upon that point?—Yes, I would like to refer to that. For the year ending May 1894 there was a sum levied by

Chairman—continued.

rating of 60,923*l.* Of that sum 60,015*l.* was collected, or 19*s.* 8½*d.* per £, or 98·5 per cent. The difference, which is 909*l.*, which we had to write off as irrecoverable, represented 10,296 receipts out of a total number of receipts of 85,144, which is equal to 1*s.* 9*d.* per receipt; that was the value; the 909*l.* divided gave 1*s.* 9*d.* to each receipt. Then for the year ending the 14th of May 1895, with 1*d.* less of a poor rate (and which 1*d.* yields 5,844*l.*), we had only 4,570*l.* less collected at the very worst period of the distress. Then when the warrants for poinding and the recovery of the rates were taken out in January, out of 86,621 receipts, or an increase of 1,477 over the previous year, only 29,237 names were in the warrants, an increase of only 965, that is to say, the principal body of the receipts had increased by 1,477, while the defaulters had only increased by 965; showing that the rates, *quoad* individuals, have been better paid; while at the 20th of April current 14,458 remained unpaid against 13,813 in the previous year, or an increase of 645. That is 645 put against the total increase of 1,477, showing that even with the bad eight weeks in the months of February and March last the rates were paid better than the previous year.

8169. Then you have, I think, the applications for poor relief during the distressed weeks of this year?—The new applications for poor relief during the eight weeks from the 2nd of February to the 25th of March show an increase of 722 over the whole city, the three city parishes. There was a gradual rise from the 2nd of February till it reached its height on the 23rd of February, when it began to decline, and so also with the numbers in the poorhouses, which reached a maximum increase of 280 upon the very same date, the 23rd of February.

8170. And what is the conclusion that you draw from these figures?—The conclusion that I draw is that this distress was felt mainly amongst the class verging upon pauperism, and those who live in a chronic state of poverty and who ought never to be out of the poorhouse. I would just like to mention that roughly over a year, taking year by year, there are about 450 people refused relief in respect of their being either able-bodied or that they have relatives able to support them; and who have a right to go to the sheriff and insist upon relief. In these cases, particularly for the year ending 1892, no such recourse was had to the sheriff. Now you have these 450 people, men and women, who have applied for relief and been refused; they also swell the unemployed. Then there is the other class who want out-door relief; they must have it, it is the only relief that will do them good, and is suitable for them; while the parochial authorities on the other hand say, "It is the poorhouse hospital you require or the wards of the poorhouse." They refuse to go in there. These again swell this class of unemployed and vagrants and beggars. We have no power, of course, to force these people into the house, but still they are left outside and swell the class before referred to.

8171. Do you wish to give the deduction that you draw from the figures in your proof as to the

Charity

Chairman—continued.

Charity Organisation Society's shelter?—I should like to put those on record.

8172. What have you to say on that?—This shelter for houseless men was organised by the Charity Organisation Society, and opened on the 19th of November last. From that date to the 31st of March 174 men were admitted. Of those, 50 were still in the house at the latter date, 31st of March; 31 are known to have got regular work; 22 left to look for work, but did not return; 14 left of their own accord; eight were discharged by order of the committee; nine left to seek admission to the poorhouse; four went to their native places; one went to live with friends, while 33 were dismissed by the superintendent for refusing to work; one was handed over to the police for being drunk and disorderly, and got 14 days' imprisonment; and one was discharged suffering from infectious disease. I have here a short history of 18 of those men, so far as I could get it, taken quite at random, and it discloses the class of people who make up this mass of unemployed. They are all comparatively young men; their ages were 38, 26, 34, 20, 53, 40, 55, 32, 44, and so on.

8173. Of what sort of class of the community did they belong to?—The very worst class. They have been convicted of drunkenness several times, and they are known to be intemperate, they admit it; this is their own statement taken down.

8174. Have you anything else you wish to say further?—No, I think not.

Mr. *Acland.*

8175. In the case of out-door relief, I understand that that is applicable to people who are unable to work, or are only partially able to work?—Those who are partially able to work and those who are unable to work; both classes.

8176. But you do give out-door relief to those who can partially employ themselves and earn wages?—We do.

8177. What is the proportion of out-door to in-door relief?—We have 4,000 recipients of out-door to 1,150 in-door.

8178. Would that be the common proportion for other districts besides your own?—That proportion nearly prevails in Scotland. Parenthetically, I might refer the Right Honourable Member to a Report issued by the Board of Trade, where the figures are given of the proportion of out-door to in-door relief for the whole of Scotland.

8179. Then you spoke of those of a certain class who ought never to be out of the poorhouse. I am not quite sure that I followed exactly which class that was?—The class who apply for relief, and whom the medical staff of the parochial board, and the inspectors, think ought to be in the poorhouse. They have no possible means of existence outside and they ought to be inside.

8180. And they ought to stay there?—They ought to stay there.

8181. Have they no friends to support them outside?—In these cases that I refer to they have none.

8182. And they are not physically strong?—They are not physically strong. There is an average of 257 people who apply from old age,

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

who have friends able to assist them, and who ought to assist them; while there are 280 who have no friends whatever to assist them.

8183. And they are mostly too old for work?—They are mostly too old for work.

8184. And some of them, I suppose, ought to be in the infirmary?—They would be in the infirmary. We persuade them to go to our infirmary or hospital.

8185. But they have a habit of going out notwithstanding?—That is so.

8186. Then you spoke of those who have been refused out-door relief, and who also swell the number of unemployed. Are they a class that could not get work very well?—They are a class who ought to be looked after by their own relations.

8187. But they are not?—But they are not. They are generally people of bad character who have lost touch with their relatives, and whose relatives would rather see them in the poorhouse, and pay for them there, than outside.

8188. But they are not destitute absolutely?—They are destitute in the sense that they are not able to work.

8189. But at the same time they are not considered worthy of out-door relief?—That is so.

8190. They may come into the poorhouse if they like?—Yes.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8191. I think you stated in the beginning of your examination that there is a large increase in lunacy?—A very large increase.

8192. Can you give the Committee any information as to your view of the principal cause of that increase?—The General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy, since 1875, when the Government of the day gave what is called the lunacy grant, declare that the increase in lunacy has risen since that grant of 4*s.* per week was given. I do not agree with that; but my own opinion is that there is no increase in certifiable lunacy, but that it is an increase of chronic lunacy, which is going on accumulating in every asylum throughout this country.

Chairman.

8193. But is not that certified; what is the distinction?—It is certified; it is passed and certified, and the people are confined there. What I mean by certifiable lunacy is that if you have 200 certified cases this year, and 220 the next, and 230 the next, that is not an increase of lunacy; it is an increase of cases in the asylum at the close of a year. I will explain it in another way, that the average rate of recovery is 42 per cent. Now, where do the rest go that do not die off, that are left in the bottom of the bucket, as it were, in these asylums?

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8194. What my question points to is whether there is any assignable cause that you know of more than another that is the reason of this increase in lunacy?—Drink and heredity.

Chairman.

8195. And railway travelling? — I cannot define it so closely as that.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8196. Then you stated that workmen were thrown out of employment through failing to rise in the morning, and you also said through drink. Do you think it is because they tipple at night that they are not able to rise in the morning. Do you think that has anything to do with it?—I quite believe it; I am sorry to say I quite believe it, particularly when it is bad tipple.

8197. Then you also stated that there were between 50 and 60 prisoners released from Barlimire prison every day. Many of those, I suppose, would be habitual inebriates?—That is so.

8198. Who have got themselves into bad company under the influence of drink, and have committed crime?—That has been proved.

8199. You also stated, I think, that the genuine unemployed, that is to say, the respectable working men, during the time of distress in February and March, were not to be found among the crowd seeking relief from the authorities in Glasgow?—No, they were not in the crowd. We came to their knowledge by other sources.

8200. Did you assist those men privately at all?—They were assisted privately, and I myself have assisted them. I made inquiry of a man who was said to be one of the unemployed,—a respectable man, and I found him so; but the reason he had gone below was that he lacked backbone. I got him work in two or three places, and he always fell out of it; he was what we Scotch call "fusionless."

Mr. *David Randell.*

8201. What is that?—Just a useless sort of creature, with no solidity and no backbone.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8202. I suppose many of these respectable working men would be householders?—Yes.

8203. And I suppose under those circumstances they would be relieved from rates, would they not?—As a rule. The poor rates they were relieved from; but as to the police and other municipal rates I cannot answer.

8204. You stated that there were about 9,000 persons who slept in model lodging-houses in Glasgow nightly?—There is licensed accommodation for nearly 9,000.

8205. Are those model lodging-houses under private management or under the corporation?—They are mainly under private management; but the corporation have several.

8206. What do these people pay per night for their lodging?—I cannot tell you.

8207. Is it your opinion that the casually employed artisan or labourer,—what we may call the low-priced labour, if I may say so,—interferes very much with the better class of labouring man getting employment?—Yes, I put it in that way. I think I have said so.

8208. I think you did. And what would you do with those men to get them out of the way—that is to say, with those casual men who perhaps work a day and drink a day?—I would leave them to the Poor Law authorities.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

8209. And what would they do with them?—They would put them either into the poorhouse, or upon land which could be acquired in the neighbourhood of the poorhouse, and make them work there.

8210. Then I suppose if the Poor Law authorities took those men under their protection, they would see that they kept them there for a considerable time in order to wean them from their bad habits?—That is so. What we have been able to do in the poorhouse with careful management we are quite prepared to do outside.

8211. Then what is your opinion now, can you tell us, from your experience as an Inspector of the largest parish that there is in Scotland so far as population is concerned, of the cause of the great bulk of the destitution and poverty that we have; is it laziness?—There are two or three causes. There is a good deal caused by evil human nature, somehow the worst side of human nature. I cannot say that I can attribute it entirely to drunkenness. I have come across some of the worst characters out, who did not drink, but it is just what I call a low type of humanity both in men and women; and it is being perpetuated, I think, as the Lord Provost of Glasgow stated, by early and indiscriminate marriages.

8212. And they get into dissolute habits?—I know of the daughter, aged 17, of one pauper, marrying the son, aged 18, of another pauper, when they have not a rag to cover themselves with.

8213. Then is there any cure for that?—Education, I suppose, is the only cure.

8214. Do you think education would do that?—Probably the clergyman ought to be educated first.

Mr. *Mather.*

8215. Do you mean that the clergyman should decline to marry anyone in that condition?—I should say so.

8216. You spoke of having visited some farm colony in Germany, and you thought that the system which you discovered there might apply to a city like Glasgow, to certain parts of the population, is not that so?—Yes, provided we had certain improved methods of treating these classes before referred to, which I read to the Committee.

8217. You know that those colonies in Germany are supported by subsidy from the authorities?—I do.

8218. They are not self-supporting?—They are not.

8219. They are established for the purpose of the vagrant and criminal classes, and all the colonists are under very strict supervision and discipline?—That is so.

8220. It is a kind of penal settlement in fact, in a certain sense?—Yes.

8221. Do you think that there is any class in Glasgow that would do with the same sort of treatment?—Yes.

8222. You have a class of that kind?—We have.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

8223. At the present time, how do you dispose of that class otherwise than in the workhouse?—They are not disposed of in the workhouse.

8224. They are left to themselves?—They only come to the workhouse when they require help or when they require treatment.

8225. Do you think that it would be a proper, advantageous and beneficial expenditure of money for the authorities of Glasgow to acquire land for farms of that kind in which they could dispose of this class of the population; that it would be well-spent money subsidising a farm of that kind?—Not to the extent, I think, that you apprehend. You refer to large farms.

8226. I mean the sort of farm colony that you saw in Germany?—Not upon the same lines. I would simply acquire land adjacent to our poorhouses, which need not necessarily amount to a farm in any case.

8227. But you would acquire land for the purpose of cultivation?—Fifty acres as an experiment.

8228. I mean that if that answered you would cultivate any amount of land required for that class of the population?—Yes. A task of the land; the work on the land, and the existing arrangements and administration of the poorhouse would be quite sufficient to meet those cases.

8229. You would blend the workhouse and the farm around it?—Certainly.

8230. And that would be, in your opinion, preferable to breaking stones in the city?—Yes.

8231. Or any fictitious employment of that kind?—Quite.

8232. You would not call farming and the cultivation of land a fictitious employment, but a genuine one, I presume?—Yes; they only produced vegetables for the poorhouse.

8233. Therefore, whatever money the Poor Law guardians had to bestow in the way of relief on any class of the population, you would say would be best bestowed, in making up the difference between expenditure and receipts, on a colony of that kind, rather than on giving work near a town in breaking stones, which would be an immense loss?—Yes.

Mr. *Renshaw*.

8234. You expressed an opinion that measures ought to be taken to provide work, shelter, and food, on farm colonies attached to poorhouses. Do you think that, in expressing that opinion, you are expressing an opinion which is generally held by those who have had, I will not say an equal, but a similar, experience to yours. I fancy there are very few who have had an equal experience with you, but do you think that that view is shared by those who have had a similar experience to you in the administration of the Poor Law in Scotland?—Yes. I think so; but I would not like to tie it down to farm colonies, but simply to the acquisition of land by the Poor Law authority to which these classes to whom we refer should be relegated; and I think that that opinion, which I have expressed, is pretty general among those men whom I meet. We have discussed this question of vagrancy over and over again, and a committee of Poor

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

Law inspectors has sat upon it several times, and certainly these opinions have been expressed.

8235. But, in your opinion, I gather that it would rather be as a test of the readiness and willingness of those who are applicants for Poor Law relief to work than it would be with any idea that you would be able, by giving men employment on the land on such farm colonies, or in any modified form that you suggest, to bring them back into the ordinary channels of labour?—Quite so. I do not believe in that last idea.

8236. So that you do not look upon it as a remedial measure?—No; it will remedy itself probably in 20 years.

8237. Then, you spoke about the parish councils having power to appeal to the Local Government Board to declare an exceptional state of matters, and for the Local Government Board then to have power to declare that an exceptional state of matters existed, if the evidence was sufficient; and, thereupon, I presume you would suggest that the parish councils should have the authority to give exceptional relief?—Yes.

8238. That is what you proposed?—That is what I proposed.

8239. Would you limit the applications on those lines to exceptional circumstances, or would you admit that in the case of a place where, for instance, there was a decaying industry, it would be a desirable thing to give special powers of that kind—for the Local Government Board to have that power of declaring that an exceptional state of matters existed?—In the first place, the Parish Council would require to be satisfied, and then approach the Local Government Board.

8240. You must, of course, always bear in mind (and I should like to put this to you) whether, in suggesting that the Parish Council should be the body to take the initiative in a matter of this kind, you are not suggesting a somewhat dangerous course in view of the fact that the Parish Councils are elected by the very men who would become applicants for relief?—I see your point.

8241. I would suggest whether the preferable method of arriving at the object you have in view would be that on the initiative of the Parish Council an inspector should be sent from the Local Government Board to inquire, and that on his report the Local Government Board might be able to put some such machinery in motion as you have suggested. Would not it, in your opinion, be a safer thing to do it in that way?—I did not express it so; but certainly I had that in my mind from the official experience of Mr. McNeill, the present secretary, and Mr. Barclay, general superintendent. Invariably they are sent, and I assume that the Local Government Board would take the same means to ascertain the existence of a given state of affairs.

8242. So that, in your opinion, it would be better that whilst the application might be made by the Parish Council the actual initiative in taking proceedings should be upon the report of an inspector coming from the Local Government Board?—Quite so. I would go a little further

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

by making some limitation as to the population and the parish council, by whom that could be administered. I think it is quite useless in a number of cases.

8243. That is to say that you would limit it to the larger parishes, and not give such power to the smaller ones?—Entirely.

8244. On the point of vagrancy, you expressed a strong opinion in regard to the prevention of vagrancy and begging. Could you tell us, from the experience and knowledge which you possess as a member of the Inspectors' Association, whether the application of the Vagrancy Laws in the Borough Police Act of 1892 has had any effect in reducing the amount of vagrancy and begging in boroughs to which that Act applies?—I do not think it has.

8245. You are not aware, from anything that has passed in any of your meetings that that has been the case?—I am not aware of that.

8246. There is only one other question that I want to put to you, and that is with regard to the figures of in-door and out-door relief that you gave us; you stated the number of indoor recipients at 1,000, and outdoor 4,000. I wanted to ask you whether that is at one time or whether it extends over a considerable period; whether, for instance, you have 1,000 in receipt of in-door relief on one day, and 4,000 in receipt of out-door relief; or whether that extends over a period?—That is the total number chargeable on the 14th of February last.

8247. On one day?—Yes.

8248. Is that proportion pretty uniform throughout the year, or does it vary between the summer and winter months?—That is pretty uniform.

8249. It is even in summer and winter?—It is. The percentage of out-door relief to pauperism in the barony is 60·55; in the Glasgow City Parish it is 54·57, and in Govan Combination, 68·74.

Mr. *Round*.

8250. Following what the honourable Member was asking you about entrusting of powers of relief to the parish councils, you have much larger parishes in Scotland than we have in England. You would not entrust such powers to small parishes, would you?—I have had no experience of the Act, it has only recently come into force, indeed the provisional council is only sitting now.

Mr. *Round*—continued.

8251. But you have very large parishes in Scotland?—Yes; there are eight or nine large parishes.

8252. And with regard to what you were saying as to farm colonies, or using land for a test, have you had any experience in that, or is it merely that you would like to try the experiment?—The city parish at one time had a track of land, probably about 40 acres, too far distant from Glasgow for proper supervision, and they sent the men out there, where they grew cabbages and such like. I do not think it is worth while referring to that; it was not an experiment, that was simply an adjunct to the administration.

8253. And it was not a success?—No.

8254. And you would like to see the experiment tried upon land more at hand?—Yes, land adjoining, adjacent to.

8255. But you have not, as a fact, known it to be tried under such conditions as you would like?—No.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

8256. Did I rightly understand you, in answer to Mr. Renshaw, to say that you would not entrust the dispensing of relief to parish councils, seeing that they were elected on a broader basis?—I did not put it so strongly as that.

8257. I might not have understood it rightly?—No, I would not put it so strongly as that, but I think in the administration, in the laying on of the rate, and the distribution of that rate, the governing power, that is the Local Government Board, ought to have some considerable discretion as to how it is to be laid out.

8258. But what is there in the new bodies now that would lead you to suspect them more than you would those under the old order of things?—Nothing more. These remarks apply to the old order of things as much as to the present.

8259. I understand that if the new Local Government Act had not come into operation, you would still have had the same idea as to the dispensing of relief?—Yes.

Friday, 10th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Keir-Hardie.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. A. J. HUNTER, called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

8260. YOU are, I believe, Secretary of the Glasgow Trades Council?—I have been so for the last 15 years.

8261. You are also Secretary of the Co-operative Bakers' Society?—I was for upwards of 20 years Secretary of the Co-operative Bakers' Society, but I am not so just now.

8262. You have also been a member of the Glasgow Town Council for some time, I believe?—Yes ; this is the fourth year running.

8263. In Glasgow you have experienced, have you not, the difficulty of dealing with the case of the unemployed?—Yes.

8264. Are you aware of the main lines of the recital given by the Lord Provost the last day the Committee met, as to the past history of the successive periods of distress in Glasgow?—Yes, I have read the Lord Provost's evidence.

8265. May I take it that substantially you have little to add to it?—I do not intend to give any evidence with regard to that, seeing it has been so fully entered into; but I would like to take notice of some of the other things that helped the men to come through the period of distress without more applying for relief from the Lord Provost's fund.

8266. Will you kindly say what those resources are?—The resources that I particularly allude to are the efforts of the trade unions in Glasgow, who pay their men a donation or aliment allowance during idleness. I will just mention a few of those who did so, and had been doing so for some time during the months of January and February (that is, just before the commencement of the great trouble in Glasgow, which was brought on very much by the weather, of course). The Blacksmiths' Society, numbering 2,370 members, paid in unemployed benefit during those two months 600*l.* The Scottish Society of Ironmoulders, with a membership of 6,390, paid, during the

Chairman—continued.

same two months, 2,800*l.* towards unemployed aliment to their members. I would also just merely mention other trades which I know did the same, though I have not the exact figures, such as the lithographic printers, the boiler makers, the tin-plate workers, and others. I know that the Scottish portion of the Society of Engineers paid during the whole of last year the sum of 6,500*l.* as idle aliment in Scotland alone. At the time when the distress was so great in Glasgow there were a great number of those men idle, and the same applies to the shipwrights and other trades that were particularly affected at that time. There was another party in Glasgow that I think it is only fair should be mentioned as having done what they could to relieve this distress; I allude to the management of the Gaiety and Scotia Theatres. They did a good deal in feeding the hungry at that time ; they started soup kitchens in connection with their places of entertainment, and they raised, with a view to further that object, a sum of 118*l.*, and they gave meals to the poor to the number of 10,363 meals. They did that until the great stress of the trouble was past, and then they stopped their work with a balance in hand in the fund which they had raised for this purpose.

8267. Was that from the proceeds of special benefit performances?—It was not so much that as just collected from the audiences.

8268. It was not their own money?—They collected it, and they also gave a performance, I think. I am not quite certain of the means by which the money was raised; but I know Mr. Angus Campbell appeared on the boards of one theatre and made an appeal to the audience, and the response was such as I have indicated.

8269. They took advantage of the pleased condition of the audience to get some money from them?

Chairman—continued.

them?—Just so; there was another point that particular stress was laid upon in the Lord Provost's evidence, namely, as to the number of people who applied to this relief fund. I do not doubt at all that there was a considerable number of what were termed "loafers." I do not know whether they are correctly so termed or not. I myself do not like the word, and I do not think it expresses correctly the position of a great many of those people who were talked about. Many of these men in such times are thrown upon their resources, although I do not think they are themselves very much to blame for it. I believe there might be a considerable amount of loafers, as they term them, applying at the time, but I know also that the distress, or rather the want of employment, at that time was not exactly understood. I may say that the parties whom I particularly represent here, such as the working classes of Glasgow, were very well aware, for a considerable time before the exceptional cold weather came on, that there were an immense number of idle men in Glasgow of a class who are not in the habit of applying for relief. We knew, for example, that there were in many trades vast numbers of idle men. The fact is, at that time some of what are called the seasonable trades, and more especially those connected with the building trades, were entirely idle for two months, and did no work at all on account of the weather. As regards such trades as the painters, I believe at one time there were two-thirds of the painters in Glasgow entirely idle. Perhaps a few of those men applied for relief, but very few, I think; they are men that do not do that sort of thing. What I want to show is that, although not many of those men applied for relief, there was an immense number of them that might have applied, and not be blamed very much if they had done so.

8270. It was observed on the last occasion when the Lord Provost was giving his evidence, and from the tables he put in, that in the classification of the trades of those who received relief, the trades which we know as the seasonal trades did not bulk very largely?—Quite so.

8271. And the Lord Provost said that in Scotland the members of those trades, the Masons, for instance, knowing that they were apt to be shut out in winter, were in the habit of laying up against the frosty day?—Yes.

8272. Those are the class of men you speak of, who live on their own savings and resources, and it is only at the last moment that they would apply to the public for relief?—That is so; but I would be quite prepared to give some statistics about the number of idle men in Glasgow, even yet. It was supposed seemingly by a great many people, that when this exceptional distress was over, there were very few idle men left in Glasgow. That is not exactly so. I think also, there was altogether too much made of the possibility of a working man laying by something for the rainy day, or the frosty day. Looking at it from my own position as a working man, who knows all the ins and outs about labour, I do not think that anybody has a great right to expect that working men, even in those trades

Chairman—continued.

that are said to be well paid, can, by any possibility, if they do justice to themselves, their wives and their families, lay very much aside for a rainy day. I do not speak against thrift, but I do not want it to be supposed that they have it so much in their power to lay by as a great many people seem to fancy they have. Many working men have not a pound a week, and I defy them to lay anything at all aside for any future contingency.

8273. It has been the habit, especially of your countrymen and mine, to do so in the past, has it not?—Yes; but we have always had these distresses with us for the last 40 years, so far as I am aware, and, in fact, I have known them for 50 years, ever since my connection with the trades commenced. I would like to show that there are a great many trades in which there are a very considerable number of idle men even yet. As Labour Correspondent for the Board of Trade, I asked, last month, the trades to let me know the number of men they had, and the number of unemployed. For reasons best known to themselves (which I can quite easily understand) very few of the trades did so. There were 14 Trade Societies (not very large ones) who reported that they had 3,064 members, and of that number 175 were idle. Many more of the other trades, without specifying the numbers at all, said that they had a certain percentage of idle men, varying from ½ per cent. up to, in some cases, 15 per cent. So that you will observe there are still a great number of unemployed men in Glasgow.

8274. You said you could quite understand the reasons that prevented some of these societies from making the return you asked for; what was the nature of the reasons?—They do not want everybody to know the number of unemployed in connection with their trades.

Mr. *Mather.*

8275. Are you speaking of the employers or the heads of trade societies?—I am speaking of the trades.

Chairman.

8276. What harm would it do to them to disclose the figures?—They do not think it is to their advantage that everybody should know the number of unemployed men that they have.

Mr. *Benn.*

8277. Does not it sometimes lead to the reduction of wages?—Yes.

Chairman.

8278. It discloses what may be regarded as a superfluity of labour?—Just so; and there is always a superfluity of labour, with the exception, perhaps, of the building trades at the present time.

Mr. *Logan.*

8279. When you speak of the present time, I presume you mean the spring?—Yes. There is an exceptional boom in the building trades all over the west of Scotland just now.

8280. You

Chairman.

8280. You cannot name any figure for the number of unemployed at present?—No, I really could not do that. I know there are a great number of men still unemployed.

8281. What is the reason, do you think, why there are so many men unemployed in your part of the world?—It is just because there are too many men.

8282. Too many competitors for the trade that is doing?—Too many competitors for the work that is to be done.

8283. That you consider the great reason?—Yes, that is a reason.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8284. You say it is *a* reason; it is not the only one, I suppose?—Of course the other ones lead up to that. I think the overstocked labour market is the very reason why there are so many unemployed. There are reasons which lead up to that, I think, such as the impossibility of competing profitably with foreign competition on the part of many of the workers in this country, on account of many things, mining royalties, for example, and other things of that kind: men are thrown out of employment on that account.

Chairman.

8285. What have you to say with regard to the remedies you would suggest?—It is a very general opinion amongst working men, and others with whom I associated, that the system as regards wayleaves, and royalties, and minerals should be changed entirely. They do not think that the manufacturers of steel and iron in this country competed fairly with foreign manufacturers when there is such a difference in what they pay for mining royalties. We were told a year ago at the meeting of the Iron and Steel Trades, in Glasgow, by the Secretary, Mr. Jeans, that taking the royalties on a ton of finished iron or steel in this country the figure was 6*s.* 3*d.*, while in Belgium it was only 2*s.* 6*d.* We believe that that handicaps the home manufacturers very greatly.

8286. Do you think that the number of unemployed in Glasgow has been at all affected by the long strike, or the difference between the masters and the men in the mining industry of Scotland, last year?—I intended to come on to that at a later period.

8287. Very well; will you go on with what you were saying?—A great many of the men with whom I come in contact still believe that one great means for relieving the unemployed would be the cultivation of all unreclaimed and cultivable land, and thus placing the rural labourer upon the soil, and preventing the rush of unskilled labour that is going on, and has been going on for years, into the large towns and cities of Scotland, more especially Glasgow, I believe. We think that if power was given to municipalities and county or parish councils to acquire land, and to try and induce the agricultural labourer to remain upon the land instead of coming to the town, that would have a great tendency to lessen the pressure in a city like Glasgow. I may say I have been in Glasgow for some years, and I know very well the immense number of men who have come from the country to compete with the men already there, who find it difficult enough to secure situations without this influx of labour; and we believe that were an attempt made somewhat in the direction I have indicated, it might have a tendency for good.

Chairman—continued.

8288. Would you say from your knowledge of the matter (which is extensive) that that influx has come from the ordinary agricultural districts, or has it come from the Highlands, from among the crofters and those people?—It has come, I think, from every agricultural district, judging from districts of the country with which I am acquainted (I allude to Berwickshire, for example, which I used to know very well, and know something about yet). I know that in some districts, and I think I may say in all districts, the 10 years' return shows that the number of inhabitants is now a perishing quantity, and that every 10 years there is a great reduction in the number of the inhabitants in many of these rural districts. We know that these men have all left the soil and come into the towns to compete with those already there.

8289. Taking Berwickshire, for example; is it your belief that in Berwickshire there is a large quantity of land that could be cultivated that is not under cultivation now?—Certainly I think there is. We think, at any rate, such an experiment is well worth a trial. We are getting tired, in fact, of these recurrent periods of awful depression and of nothing being done. I quite agree with the Lord Provost that Glasgow is quite able to cope with the difficulty of feeding the people who are in want during these periods of distress. But that is a mere makeshift, and does not deal with the real evil.

8290. That, you think, deals with a symptom and not with the disease?—Quite so.

8291. Are you aware at all whether the emigration from the country districts due to the lack of employment in the agricultural districts is still going on at anything like the same rate as formerly?—I think perhaps for some time it has not been so extensive, because a limit must be reached beyond which they cannot do without men. They cannot do without men beyond a certain limit; but of course with the introduction of machinery and other things they have done so to a very great extent.

8292. Possibly the men themselves have found that the great city is not such a certain El Dorado as they thought a few years ago?—Of course I could not exactly say as to that, but I have reason to believe that it is so.

8293. Will you kindly go on with what you were going to say?—I was intending to allude, in passing, to the numbers that come into this country from foreign countries to compete with the trades here. I do not pretend to say what should be done, but I do not know whether we might not take an example from our American brethren and see that we do not allow so many pauper aliens to be landed upon our soil as has been the case for some time.

8294. Are you familiar with the statistics as to the number of alien immigrants?—Not exactly; but I hear continual complaints from the trades,

Chairman—continued.

that are continually affected by these aliens coming in—such trades, for instance, as tailors, tailoresses, brush-making, boot and shoe-making, and the iron trades. I have not heard so much with regard to them for some time, but I can recollect some years ago a colony of Russian Poles coming to Glengarnock, and working for something less than half the men took.

8295. What has become of those Russian Poles now?—I do not know.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

8296. Was not that during a strike?—Yes, it was in connection with a strike.

Chairman.

8297. Did they remain there?—They remained for a considerable time. I lost sight of them afterwards.

8298. You do not know whether they were absorbed in the Scotch population or not?—No. With regard to the coal strikes, I think they had a very detrimental effect upon the working classes all round, and enabled foreigners to come in and take away the trade that otherwise would have remained here. They did more: they hurt the other trades. I may say that, of course, we did not come so much in contact with the English strike of 1893, which was, of course, virtually settled through the intervention of the Government through Lord Rosebery. The same remark applies to the boot and shoe strike of this year. But I would like to allude particularly to the Scotch coal strike of 1894. Great as was the suffering that was inflicted upon the miners in Scotland on account of that strike, I do not think it was anything in comparison with what was inflicted upon the general public; because at that time there were many trades that reported to me that they were completely idle on account of the coal strike. I refer to trades not, perhaps, very large in numbers, such as stoneware-throwers and bottle-blowers, and trades of that kind, but still they form a portion of the community to be considered. Then we know the ironworkers were completely stopped. I remember having one report, at all events, from Motherwell, saying there were 9,000 men idle in the Motherwell district, entirely on account of the coal strike. Those men suffered from what was not their own fault; they had no connection with the coal strike at all, but they could get no labour because of the coal strike.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8299. That strike lasted for two months, did it not?—It was a strike of 16 weeks.

Chairman.

8300. That number of men you speak of were not colliers?—No, they were not colliers; they were steel workers and iron workers.

8301. Whose trade is dependent upon a supply of coal?—Yes, whose trade is dependent upon a supply of coal. In fact, as regards many of the trades reported to me, I had never understood before that the coal strike would have any effect on them at all, but still it was found that they were thrown idle on account of the coal strike. I think, and a great many people besides me think, that these strikes should never be allowed to take place at all, or that, at least, there should be something done to attempt to prevent them, and we think that that is a work which a Committee like this should try to take up.

Chairman—continued.

8302. I am afraid we have quite enough to do here without taking up a large question like that?—That is quite true; but what we think is that the question of these strikes should be carefully considered by this Select Committee; and, seeing the success of some of the interventions of the Government to stop strikes, we think it would be advisable that there should be a board of conciliation appointed, and that that board should have power to cite witnesses and to see the books of the employers, and in fact to know generally how things stand before a strike comes off at all; because it is always very well known for a fortnight or three weeks before any strike takes place that such a thing will take place if a certain thing happens. We believe that, unless there is some attempt made in this direction, the thing will just go on recurring again and again. We know, as I have said already, that the English coal strike was stopped by the intervention of Government, and I know perfectly well from personal experience that the Scottish coal strike would have been stopped quite easily had it not been for the impossibility of getting the coal owners to meet with the representatives of the men. We believe that a conciliation board is the only means of averting these things in future. We are not quite content with merely getting through one of these periods of depression, but we want them hindered in the future if we can. Anybody who knows anything about the recent distress in Glasgow knows that it was very much intensified by the coal strike; there can be no doubt about that. I believe that such a board of conciliation as I have suggested might be a remedy for these strikes. I will not go the length of saying that it should be compulsory, but I think the power of public opinion would have a very great effect, and we believe if there was a paid independent board of conciliation appointed—consisting of, say, three workmen and three employers, with a chairman appointed by the Board of Trade—to take up all these cases, that would be well worthy of consideration, whether it was made compulsory or no. Personally, I would even go the length of its being compulsory, so far as I am concerned, because I would do anything to stop the recurrence of these tides of depression that may come on.

8303. I think we cannot go into that subject in any detail, as it is rather beyond our scope; have you any other remedy to suggest?—There is another matter that I wanted to bring before the Committee in connection with what we think might have a tendency to hinder these recurrent periods of depression, and that is with regard to an eight hours day.

8304. You think that a better arrangement generally (however it may be brought about) of the hours of labour would produce a better distribution of labour and its reward, and might prevent,

Chairman—continued.

prevent, and would, in your opinion, prevent, the recurrence of these unemployed periods?—Yes; because there would be very many more men employed. We are prepared to recommend that all public bodies, such as municipal councils, parish councils, and others, should put their men upon an eight hours day to start with. We think it must be perfectly evident to every gentleman sitting round this table (because, I presume, like myself, they are always watching current affairs) that the tide is setting in very strongly in favour of an eight hours day all round, and we believe that this would be one of the most effective means whereby a greater number of men would be employed.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

8305. Do you think that the tide is setting in in that direction on the Continent?—I have never been there. I cannot speak for the Continent.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8306. Do you mean at a reduced rate of wages, or at the same rate of wages?—We have never found, so far as my experience goes, that a reduction in the hours of labour has reduced wages.

Mr. *Logan.*

8307. Has it increased them instead of reducing them?—It has increased them instead of reducing them.

8308. The men who work the least hours in England are paid the best money, are they not?—Yes. The parties that I represent here to-day are also very strongly of opinion that there should be some mode of knowing accurately the number of the unemployed. As the Committee are aware, at the commencement of their sittings they were quite helpless to ascertain how many unemployed there were. It was the very same in Glasgow. We believe that it would be a very advantageous thing for everybody concerned were we able to lay our finger upon the number of the unemployed, or to know it approximately.

Chairman.

8309. How would you propose that that should be ascertained?—I do not know whether it would be agreed upon by all the people I represent, for I have not had time to bring this special matter before them; but I think, and many of those whom I have spoken to think, an excellent way to get the exact number of unemployed at any time in Scotland (I do not speak about England, for I do not understand it so well) would be to get the information through the medium of the school boards. If all school board children were to receive a schedule on a certain date, to take it home, and to get it filled up stating the number of the unemployed and the number of parties ready for employment (because, of course, some of the members of the family might have done with schooling and never have been employed, and yet be ready for work) we think the school board officers could quite undertake that matter along with their other duties. In the case of the absence of the children the officers could call and give them the papers, and get them filled up.

Chairman—continued.

8310. How would you deal with the people who had no children?—We would have to get at them in some other way; that is a matter for consideration. Then the people in the model lodging-houses could be taken, dealt with in the same way. I think it would be very easy to get the necessary powers. I am not here to propose a cut-and-dried scheme; I only suggest what I think might to a very great extent obviate the difficulty.

8311. Have you attempted any census, or did you this winter attempt a census or estimate, of the unemployed?—No; we did not see that we were able to do it in time to be of any practical value. When this Committee was first appointed, we were asked if we could do it, but we found that we were not able. We supplied the Committee with all the information we could in regard to the different trades, but we could not ourselves go into any attempt to find out the exact number of the unemployed. Then there is another matter that has received a good deal of consideration from several parties, and that is with regard to farm colonies. Of course I know it never has been enthusiastically gone into in Glasgow. I may say, however, that there are very many influential gentlemen in Glasgow who are very much inclined to think that something should be done in this direction, and they are prepared, in fact, to buy a farm at any time that they would get sufficient encouragement to enable them to make an attempt to solve this difficulty by these means along with others. I think something might come of it if fairly tried.

8312. Do you mean a colony more or less of a penal kind to which men of the tramp description should be sent, or do you mean a colony to which hard-working, respectable working men, who are accidentally out of employment, might be sent?—I dare say it would be more of a penal character, in the first instance, at any rate.

8313. You have no strong opinion on that subject yourself?—No.

8314. Do you think that the working men of Glasgow, so far as you know them, look upon a scheme of that sort with favour?—I hardly dare to say that.

8315. There would be some difficulty in the case of men with families, would there not?—There would.

8316. Do you find a great repugnance on the part of respectable working men to take any relief in any form from the Poor Law authorities?—Well, yes; that has been a very general deterrent to many persons applying for parochial relief. So far as my recollection goes, in Glasgow, in connection with relief funds, many of the workmen have at all times had very strong objections to being subject to the investigations of the Charity Organisation Society. Still, I believe on the last occasion it was done with less offence to their feelings than at any other previous time. I think the work of the police was quite as successful, if not more so, than that of any of the other parties had been.

8317. Apart from the dislike to that sort of inquisition, do you think there is a special dislike to the Poor Law organisation being used?—I know there is, and of course I know very well there were hundreds of men unemployed at the time who might easily have applied for relief,

Chairman—continued.

but did not do it because they thought they could tide over without making any application.

8318. Have you any reason to think that the fact of its invalidating their position as citizens with regard to the vote, has had the effect of deterring them from applying for relief?—I think that would have a certain effect.

8319. But you do not attach much importance to that particular point in Scotland?—No; I do not want to say anything about the evidence which Mr. Motion gave at the last sitting, but I think his evidence was rather of a parochial character; I thought his answers showed he looked at the whole thing from a parochial inspector's point of view.

8320. Of course, that was very natural?—I do not deny that at all; but, at the same time, it is very natural for the working men to resent, and I know they do very deeply resent in Glasgow, the evidence given by Mr. Motion with regard to some of the things he said. They do not believe, for example, for a single moment that all the men that applied for relief during the time of depression were loafers. Mr. Motion's evidence went to show that, in his opinion, they were nearly all loafers. We do not doubt there were men to whom the term loafer might be applied, but I do not think they came from the loafer class to such an extent as Mr. Motion suggested.

8321. You think he pushed it too far?—Yes, I think he just looked at it from the parochial point of view.

8322. Have you any further proposals to make?—Nothing more. The evidence of the Lord Provost has rather taken away what I had to say.

8323. You confirm the opinion of the Lord Provost that a large city like Glasgow, at all events, with a generous community and a more or less a wealthy community, is able to deal, without any extraneous assistance from the State or any other quarter, with any distress that is likely to arise?—I believe they are quite able to feed the people in such times of distress as they did this year, and to do even more; but still, I do not think that that is a settlement of the difficulty at all.

8324. You would rather attack the disease than the result of it?—Yes, if we could by any possibility get at it, because I do not think that merely feeding the people is attacking the disease at all.

8325. In the case of communities smaller than Glasgow, in Berwickshire, for instance, or Lanarkshire, or Renfrewshire, in smaller communities, where there may not be so much wealth on the part of some of the inhabitants, and which may be affected by the decadence of some single trade and plunged into distress on that ground, do you think you can look to the same source for relief as in the case of Glasgow, or would it be necessary to give them power to rate for the purpose, or in some other way to provide them with the means of dealing with the distress?—Of course there are difficulties that come in there, but I believe in most of the localities they could overtake those difficulties as they did at Glasgow. I know they did at Pollockshaws, which, as you are aware, is very closely identified with Glasgow.

8326. It is almost a suburb of Glasgow?—It is almost a suburb; it is three miles from Glasgow. I know at the time of the late depression in the cold weather the Pollockshaws people were quite able to deal very effectively with the trouble.

8327. But they also probably had subscriptions or assistance from wealthy inhabitants?—There are very few places where there are not some people who have more money than I daresay they should have.

8328. Does that complete what you wish to say before questions are put to you by honourable Members?—I do not remember anything more at the moment that I wish to add.

Mr. *Logan.*

8329. You said that many of the trades unions in Glasgow have given pay to their men during the time that they were out of employment?—They always do so. They gave it at this time, not because of the exceptional distress, but because it is part of their government and rules. They pay at all times money to their unemployed members.

8330. Did you notice that the Lord Provost in his evidence said that, in the Table which he gave, something like two-thirds of the men who applied for relief were labourers?—Yes, I noticed that for myself.

8331. Have the labourers in Glasgow trade unions?—Yes, they have trade unions; but the unions do not pay idle benefit.

8332. Is that because they are unable to do so?—It is just because they have never put in the money; you cannot pay the idle benefit unless you pay in first to enable you to do so.

8333. Why do they not do the same as the other unions?—It is a very difficult question. The fact is that it is a new society and has only been very recently organised. I do not think they have had full time to learn the exact advantages that would come from it. But it is well known in Glasgow, and the secretary of the labourers' trade told me so himself, that for two months at the time his men did nothing whatever—they were idle for two months entirely, and it was very natural that those men should apply for relief. I do not think they were loafers at all who applied in that way.

8334. Do you think if the labourers got better wages they would also be able to put by, as the masons do, to provide for the slack time?—I believe the labourers as a class are just as respectable as the masons are. Of course there is a difference of nationality very much, but they are just as keen to save as any other portion of the community if they had the means. But, as I said at the beginning, I think it is attempting too much to fancy that men with such small wages can lay anything by for a future time.

8335. What do the labourers earn?—A great many are paid at the rate of 5*d.* or 5½*d.* an hour in Glasgow.

8336. And you contend they cannot save out of that?—There is another consideration to be borne in mind. If they were constantly employed

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

ployed with that standard rate of wages, I think they could save; but you must understand that the labourers' trade is one in which the work is very often interrupted by the weather.

8337. You spoke about the depopulation of the rural districts in Scotland; can you tell the Committee why the men leave the rural districts?—They do not find employment there.

8338. You think it is not on account of the wages there?—Of course, the wages are small; but they do not find employment. The introduction of machinery has had a certain effect, and the use of machinery in harvesting and at other times.

8339. One member of the Committee elicited a statement from a former witness to the effect that in some rural parts of Scotland the agricultural labourers or ploughmen receive as much as 22*s.* a week with a house; is that in accordance with your experience?—That certainly must be a very great mistake. I could not pretend to speak with authority; but I do not think there are any labourers in any agricultural district that I have heard of who have any such pay as that.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

8340. Could you state what the usual pay was for a ploughman in the neighbourhood of Glasgow?—No. I do not know anything about that.

Mr. *Logan.*

8341. If they get that pay, can you see any reason why these men should come in from the country districts; because I personally cannot understand why men who get 22*s.* in the country should come into Glasgow?—You do not need to believe that, because it is not true.

8342. Your contention is that it is the smallness of the wage that a man gets in the country that drives him into the town?—Yes; I maintain that. If the working men in the country had 22*s.* a week and a free house they would never think of coming to Glasgow to fight for a guinea a week.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8343. I understand you are secretary of the Glasgow Trades Council?—Yes.

8344. What does that body represent; does it represent all the unions?—It represents all the unions who are sensible enough to avail themselves of being connected with it.

8345. What are the principal unions your Trades Council represent?—It represents the ironmoulders and the engineers, and in fact most of the trades in Glasgow are represented on it. There are some that are not, but very few; 104 different trade societies are represented on the Trades Council just now.

8346. Have you any labourers' unions in Glasgow?—Yes; there are two labourers' unions, what is termed the out-door labourers and the dock labourers. They are both connected with the council.

8347. As regards the bulk of this question of the unemployed, it chiefly affects the less skilled class of workers, does it not?—Of course, there are more of them; but, taking the men in regard to the numbers in the other trades, I do not know but what it affects some of the other trades more. For example, in trades like bottle blowers, tobacco pipe makers, or stoneware throwers, I believe that there are more idle amongst those trades in regard to the number than there are amongst labourers.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

8348. That would be owing to some special causes and changes that have taken place in those trades, I suppose?—There is a good deal in that. Foreign competition comes in there very strongly.

8349. Leaving aside any special depression in any particular industry, and looking to the main industries that are constantly going on in about the same volume, the chief difficulty is with regard to labourers, and the less skilled class of work, is it not?—Yes, it is more prominent there, because of there being a greater number of them, so that you can see it more easily.

8350. You also have to consider, have you not, a class that comes at the bottom; the thriftless and idle class; they all swell the number of the unemployed, do they not?—Yes. We do not recognise any members of our council as thriftless.

8351. No, I am speaking of the whole number of the unemployed; have you given the Committee any estimate of what the total number of unemployed in Glasgow was last winter, counting all those who had no work and wanted relief?—No, I could not give you anything like an exact figure.

8352. You could say whether it was 1,000 or 10,000?—One thousand would go nowhere; some of the trades themselves had a thousand idle.

8353. Did it go into tens of thousands?—I would not like to specify the number; but I certainly do believe, and a great many people in Glasgow believe, that there were a great many more than 10,000.

8354. When I spoke of the thriftless and idle, I was not throwing any reflection on your council, but I was referring to the whole number of unemployed; among this 10,000, or whatever number it may be, there would be a certain number of skilled workmen and a certain number of labourers, and there would be at the bottom a certain number of idle and lazy people who never do more than they can help; there always are such people, are there not?—There are, I am sorry to say.

8355. The hard-working artisan, the man who is careful and thrifty, find these people rather difficult always, does he not?—Yes; that is true enough.

8356. The bulk, I suppose, of the unemployed would consist of labourers?—Yes.

8357. What is your view, as a working man, as to what should be done for these labourers out of work?—I have suggested that the hours of labour are too long, for one thing.

8358. That is rather going to another field; but supposing there are no changes in legislation, and supposing next winter there are still 10,000 or more out of work in Glasgow, what do you think we could do to help them; what is your idea as a working man?—I would not like to give an answer to that question, because I could not

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

do so satisfactorily to myself, or anybody, I believe.

8359. You have not thought enough through the subject to be able to help us?—I have thought plenty upon it, but I have not arrived at any satisfactory conclusion.

8360. At present you are dealing with them in Glasgow by charitable means?—Yes.

8361. Your view is that that is not an adequate remedy for the evil?—No; it just keeps them in life.

8362. You differ from the Lord Provost's view in not thinking that that is a sufficient remedy?—I do not think it is. It is sufficient to keep them living, but it is not making any preparation for making things better.

8363. Is it your view that some sort of work, if possible, should be provided for them?—Yes, if it could be got; but if it is only to displace other labour, I do not see what good that would do.

8364. If the work given were the type of work that labourers usually have, ground work or something of that kind, it would not meet the case of the skilled workman at all, would it?—Not at all.

8365. How far do you think the case of the skilled workmen in Glasgow has been met by the unemployed benefit given by the unions?—It has only been met to a certain extent; because, of course, there are a great many men not connected with a union who receive no benefit from the unemployed fund.

8366. I understood you to say that those funds had run out this winter?—No; they are only available for members of the union and not for others.

8367. I understand that; but I gathered from what you said that there had been a stoppage of the unemployed pay this winter, was that so?—No.

8368. The unions that do give unemployed benefit have been paying it through this winter?—Yes.

8369. That deals adequately with the unemployed among their members?—It enables them to go on.

8370. That is all we can hope to do?—Yes, quite so.

8371. What is the contribution to the unemployed fund, is it 6*d.* a week?—Some societies pay more than others; some pay as much as 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, and some pay 1*s.*

8372. Is that for unemployed benefit?—For all the benefits.

8373. But I am asking as to unemployed benefit; in many societies you can separate what is paid for unemployed benefit from the other; do you know what it is for unemployed benefit?—I do not know exactly the sum they pay for unemployed benefit.

8374. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers have had the system going on for 40 years?—Yes, and they have different benefits.

8375. They pay 6*d.*, do they not?—They pay altogether about 1*s.*

8376. Is it not 6*d.* for the unemployed benefit now?—I do not know what it is for the unemployed benefit.

8377. Does not your trades council discuss this question?—We hear it occasionally mentioned, but I do not bear it upon my memory.

8378. Has not the Trades Council seriously tackled this question of the unemployed yet even from the trades union point of view?—It is not that; they find themselves helpless to do anything.

8379. You would agree, would you not, that the very best method of meeting this point, so far as the skilled workmen are concerned, is to insure themselves against want of employment by paying a weekly contribution to a fund of that sort?—Certainly, there is no doubt of that.

8380. As regards the skilled labour of the country, do you not think that if Parliament could in some way or other encourage the formation of a fund of this sort to which workmen would contribute, that would be very helpful towards meeting that part of the difficulty?—I do not know whether the men would care about acquiescing in that.

8381. You think there are many would not be willing to pay the contributions?—I think so, I do not think they would think that was getting out of the difficulty.

8382. Have you not found amongst the best working men that there is this spirit with regard to the matter, that they will not ask for relief, but they would meet the emergency out of their own savings; that they would put by something while they are in work to meet the time when they are out of work; is there not that spirit among them?—Yes, but I do not think any great portion of them would care about being compelled by the Government, or any other body, to do that.

8383. If some facilities were provided by the Government that would make it easy for the workmen to pay, say, 6*d.* a week, do you not think that a great many would take advantage of that?—I really could not answer that question.

8384. At all events, they would look upon it favourably, would they not?—They would consider it, but I could not say what they would do.

8385. As regards the other part of the problem, namely, the labourers and the less skilled people out of work, and the class of people who are very often in low water, and who could not afford to subscribe, is there not an opinion among the working men in Glasgow that the suggestion of, not exactly labour colonies, but labour in connection with such an establishment during the winter months, would give a good way out of the difficulty?—Yes, if you could find work for them.

8386. At all events, supposing that a town council or any other authority desired to take land, and as an experiment, to set the unemployed upon it, do you think the Government ought to step in and stop them from doing so?—I do not think they would.

8387. Do you think such experiments should be encouraged?—I think anything is worth trying in order to see if we can do some good in the way of remedying what we have been suffering under for such a length of time.

8388. You admit that there is at the bottom of the scale a lazy and incorrigible class that ought

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

ought to be dealt with?—There is that, I suppose, in all classes of the community.

8389. Do you know how they deal with that class of people in Belgium?—No.

8390. Supposing that Parliament were to enact that any man who was incorrigibly idle might be sent for two or three, or four or five years to a labour settlement, where he should be obliged to work for that time, do you think the feeling of the workmen would be to support Parliament in any action of that kind?—I have never heard that discussed by working men.

8391. As a matter of fact, working men, as a class, are ashamed, are they not, of the idle and lazy class who hang upon their skirts and who discredit them?—There is no doubt about that.

8392. If men of that class could be sentenced to two or three, or four or five years of hard work at a labour settlement would it not be a good thing from the point of view of the rest, the thrifty men?—I do not say but what it would.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie.*

8393. The Lord Provost, in his evidence, stated that there was no distress arising from want of employment in Glasgow previous to the frost setting in this last winter; does that statement correspond with your knowledge?—I think I have stated in the beginning of my evidence that that was not according to my knowledge.

8394. Mr. Motion replied to a question put by the honourable Member for Govan to the effect that the want of employment was caused by men tippling at night and not being able to go to work in the morning; is that the cause of the want of employment, in your opinion?—I intended to have taken some notice of that part of Mr. Motion's evidence, but it slipped out of my mind. I do not think it was a fair assumption at all to suggest that there are any appreciable number who have ever lost their work for that reason at all. I may say for myself, as a working man and belonging to a trade that is not remarkable for being very steady (I am a baker), I never scarcely knew a man who lost his work directly because he would not rise in the morning because he was drunk the night before.

8395. Supposing some one does lose his work through being drunk at night and not going out in the morning, is there not always someone available to take his place?—I am sorry to say in our own trade, for every man who did that there would be 20 men to take his place without the slightest difficulty.

8396. So that drunkenness is not a cause of want of employment; it may throw one man out of work, but that only makes room for some other man?—That is so.

8397. What hours do the bakers work in Glasgow and the West of Scotland generally?—The hours at the present time are not very excessive. I believe, in what may be termed the family trades, that is to say, those where they do not supply the shops, but supply mostly families, they work between 10 and 11 hours (in many cases 10½); and in what we call the machinery shops, there are very few of them at the present time work more than about nine hours, and very few of them even that.

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

8398. How many bakers have you out of work in Glasgow and the West of Scotland?—The baking trade is getting very peculiar in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. There are a great many bakers in Glasgow who work only half a day. There are a great many idle in the baking trade at present; but I could not say how many.

8399. I understand your point with regard to the eight hours question to be that an eight hours day would absorb a proportion at least of those who are now out of work?—Certainly.

8400. It has been stated in evidence from Glasgow, and I think you more or less endorsed the opinion this morning, that the coal strike was largely responsible for the distress that prevailed this last winter?—Yes.

8401. Were not all the shipbuilding trades of the Clyde depressed for months before the coal strike was entered upon?—Yes, they were; but they were just beginning to rally and the coal strike acted very disastrously on them for some time.

8402. Do you remember what month the coal strike was in?—It was in the summer, about July or August, I think.

8403. So that five months had elapsed from the coal strike ending before the frost set in?—Yes.

8404. Do you not think the evil effects of the strike had passed away by that time?—To a certain extent certainly they had, but there were still a great many of the workers who had been suffering and had scarcely recovered themselves.

8405. My point was, that supposing there had been no coal strike, there still would have been a very large number of men out of work in Glasgow?—I quite believe that.

8406 What proportion of those out of work belonged to the shipbuilding trade, taking all sections of it?—I could not tell exactly the number. There were in the beginning of the year in some of the shipyards as many as 25 per cent. idle at Greenock and Port Glasgow; I do not know so exactly about Glasgow.

8407. You make special inquiries in your capacity as labour correspondent to the Board of Trade, and therefore you are in a position to give more or less reliable evidence. Shipbuilding has improved of late, has it not?—Yes.

8408. Have you still a number of men out of work in Glasgow?—There are still men out of work in Glasgow connected with the shipbuilding trade. I believe I may say the shipwrights are beginning to be very well employed now, but the others are still unemployed.

8409. Do you find that men who have passed middle age have considerable difficulty in finding work either in the shipyards or in the workshops connected with the shipbuilding trade?—I do not know so much about them in that trade, but, judging from our own trade, I believe that would be so; I know the difficulty in our trade is immensely increased where a man gets on in years.

8410. Have you heard as a matter of common report that the same thing is true of the shipbuilding and engineering trades?—I certainly have.

8411. Do you find amongst the trade unionists

Mr. *Keir-Hardie*—continued.

of Glasgow (who are the best section of workers there and elsewhere) any feeling in favour of some provision being made for these men who are thus displaced in the labour market; or, to put my question in another way: Is not the burden on the funds of the trade unions becoming unbearable through having to pay these men out-of-work benefit and superannuation?—It is getting very heavy, no doubt.

8412. Would not the trade unionists of Glasgow, speaking from your knowledge of them, generally favour a scheme whereby these men could be sent to useful work and provide themselves with the necessaries of life?—Certainly, if it could be found, that is quite evident.

8413. Not in the form of a penal settlement, but in the form of a colony, where the men would be as free when at work there as they are outside?—Yes, if it could be done.

8414. Anything like a penal settlement for these men would be resented bitterly, would it not, by the working classes of Glasgow?—Yes, I think it would.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

8415. Do I understand that your evidence relates entirely to Glasgow?—I also touched incidentally upon Motherwell.

8416. You give evidence, practically, as to Glasgow?—Yes.

8417. There I understand the labour market is overstocked?—Yes.

8418. There are too many men?—There are too many men.

8419. That I understand you to say is largely caused by the migration from outside. Is it not the fact that a good many of the men who come into Glasgow come from the Highlands?—There are a great number of Highlandmen in Glasgow.

8420. A certain proportion come from Ireland, do they not?—We have the Irish always with us.

8421. Is there any migration from Ireland in addition to those whom you have always with you?—I do not see anything different now; we have always had that migration going on since ever I knew Glasgow; that is for nearly 50 years.

Chairman.

8422. Do you know at all how many Irishmen there are in Glasgow?—No, that is a matter of history; anybody can ascertain the number, but I really do not know the number.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

8423. Your answer is, that you have always that migration going on?—Yes.

8424. There is that migration as well as the migration from the Highlands and the migration from the country districts; I presume that migration consists mostly of young men?—Most of them; there are some old men too.

8425. Are they skilled men; do they work at a trade or are they labourers?—They would include both: I have known a considerable number of joiners come from the Highlands, and men of that kind.

8426. Are they mostly married men or single?—I could not answer that question; there would be both single and married men amongst them.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

8427. Cannot you form an idea as to which they would be for the most part?—No.

8428. Do you think they come with any jobs in front of them, or do they come on the chance of picking up jobs?—I think they come on the chance of picking up jobs.

8429. With the hope of getting better wages?—Yes.

8430. Am I to understand they are largely tradesmen?—There are a considerable number of them tradesmen, and a great number are not.

8431. At all events, a very substantial number of them are, I understand, carpenters, joiners, and so on?—I say a number of them are; I do not say a very substantial number.

8432. I ask your opinion. Would you say it is not a substantial number, but a very small proportion?—I believe more come to keep spirit shops than come to be joiners.

8433. Do they, in due time, swell the ranks of the unemployed?—They would be just like other portions of the community, they would have their vicissitudes, I suppose.

8434. Do I understand you to tell the Committee that there are more who come in to keep spirit shops than who come in to work at their trades?—No, I say more come to keep spirit shops than what are joiners.

8435. That is not my question; I want to know if a very large number of those who come into Glasgow are not men who are not what we call labourers, but who are tradesmen: joiners, masons, bricklayers, workers in iron, smiths, or something of that kind?—I am quite prepared to say I believe what you say is quite true, but I could not give you the relative number at all.

8436. But I think you have given me fairly to understand that the majority (I do not say the large majority) of those who come in are tradesmen?—Those I have known of them.

8437. Those men would get better wages as tradesmen in the country, would they not, than they would if they were cultivating the land?—I could not answer that question.

8438. You do not know what the wages would be in the country?—I have no idea of the wages in the Highlands whatever.

8439. I am not confining myself to the Highlands, but I am speaking of all those men who come into Glasgow. A large number, you say, are tradesmen; if they remained in the country they would be better off working as tradesmen than they would if they tried to cultivate the land, which I understand is one of your remedies?—Yes, I believe they would make more wages by working at their own business.

8440. The difficulty, so far as they are concerned, would not be solved by sending them back to cultivate the land at a profit. You said at a profit, I think, did you not?—I did not mention anything about profit at all.

8441. At any rate, the difficulty in their case would not be solved by sending them back to cultivate the land, would it?—We have not power to send them back, unless they would go of their own accord.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

8442. I understood you to say that the cultivation of land was one of the cures for the unemployed?—Quite so.

8443. I put it to you that it is the fact, as I understand you, that a large number of those who come into the towns and fail to find employment there, or have dropped out of employment, would be more profitably employed at their own trades than in trying to cultivate the land; now let me put one more question with regard to the cultivation of land: you instance Berwickshire (which I believe is not contiguous to Glasgow) as a county where more land could be profitably cultivated?—That was not the point I was making about Berwickshire at all. My point was, that I knew that place best, and I knew of the displacement of the people from the soil there through my knowledge of the place.

8444. That leads me a step further; you were not speaking generally, but you had one place in your mind which you knew when you said that?—Yes.

8445. Is that land under grass now, or what is done with it: I mean the land which you said might be profitably cultivated?—It is in all kinds of culture, and some is under no culture at all; some of it would be heather.

8446. What is the nature of the soil?—I could not pretend to go into the merits of the soil; I am not a farmer.

8447. You do not know what the soil is?—No.

8448. It is simply land at present under heather; and for all you know it may be whin, or gravel, or anything else underneath?—I believe it is quite fit to be cultivated if it was attempted.

8449. You say you believe it is fit to be cultivated; do you know anything of the facts; do you know what amount it would cost to break up an acre of that land?—I do not know anything about that.

8450. The opinion you have expressed is just generalization?—Just so; I said so from the first.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8451. Are you a native of Glasgow?—No.

8452. What is your native county?—Berwickshire.

8453. You came into Glasgow; what induced you to leave Berwickshire and come to Glasgow?—I was working in Edinburgh long before I came to Glasgow.

8454. You were one of those who came from the country into the town: you came to Edinburgh?—Just so.

8455. But did you not say that you thought something ought to be done to prevent people coming from the country into the town?—Yes; but that does not prevent my coming in.

8456. You think the law ought to be altered after you came in?—I did not think of it at all from that point of view.

8457. Having come into the town, you do not want to be sent back, I presume?—No.

8458. You only wish this rule to apply to other people?—There was no such grip of distress in those days as there is now.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

8459. You said something about foreign immigration; you think that is an evil?—Yes, I think it is an evil to have people coming in without any ostensible means of supporting themselves until they get work, and taking work at any price. I think it hurts many of the trades in Glasgow.

8460. A great number of people leave this country every year to emigrate, do they not?—Yes.

8461. Do you know that many more people go out of the country than come in?—Yes; but they are not allowed to land if they have not some means to support themselves; they are sent back.

8462. Do you think that everybody who leaves the country has money?—As I understand it, if the Americans think they have not the means to support themselves till they can get work, they are sent back.

8463. Is it not the fact that a great many of those who leave this country are practically without means, and that more leave the country than come in?—I daresay the Americans must miss them, for, as I understand, they do not allow them to land unless they have means.

8464. Is it the fact that an immense number more emigrate from this country than immigrate?—I do not know.

8465. I can tell you it is a fact. If this evil of foreign immigration, as you call it, were done away with, would it not be a greater evil if we could not emigrate any of our surplus population; you say there is a surplus population, do you not?—Yes.

8466. Do you not think it desirable that it should be encouraged to go to the colonies and other parts?—Yes; but I do not look upon the colonies as being places in the same condition as this country in that respect. I think there is plenty of room in the colonies for anybody that you like to send.

8467. The colonies do not think so, do they?—I do not know.

8468. Their position is very much like your own, is it not; when you get to Glasgow you do not want any more people to come in?—I think it is only the paupers they object to. I think they have no objection to able-bodied men being sent to America or Australia, or any other place that I know of.

8469. May I take it that you would not object to able-bodied men coming into this country?—Not if they were able to support themselves till they could get work, and would work at a fair rate of wages.

8470. You do not mind them competing?—Not if they compete under fair terms.

8471. Then you do not object to their coming in?—I do not object if they are able to keep themselves and not become paupers just at once, and so impoverish other people.

8472. Provided they are not paupers you do not object to their coming in to compete with labour?—I could not do that.

8473. Do I understand you do not object?—I do not object.

8474. You said something about mining royalties being higher in this country than elsewhere?—Yes.

8475. I gather

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

8475. I gather that you think that is a cause of the reduction of labour?—I think the amount of difference between the price of a ton of material here and in Belgium just makes all the difference against the producer here.

8476. You said one was 6*s.* 3*d.* and the other 2*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes, I made that statement from seeing it so stated; I did not verify it.

8477. Do you know what the wages are for the same quantity of material?—No.

8478. Is it not the fact that the wages here are very much larger than in Belgium?—In some places, I believe, there is a difference.

8479. Are they not much higher in this country than in Belgium?—I think they are.

8480. Is it not that more than sufficient to make up the difference?—That makes it worse.

8481. Still it is the difference of wages that largely enters into it, is it not?—Yes, no doubt.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

8482. As I understand, you believe that the influx of population from the rural districts into the town is a fruitful cause of the distress that exists?—I think it is a fruitful cause; the people coming in and competing with those who are here already; that must be quite evident.

8483. Does it tend to reduce the wages in the towns?—I did not say that, but I fancy it would have a tendency that way.

8484. To any great extent, do you think?—I really could not answer that question. It has a tendency to throw people out.

8485. You believe one of the chief remedies would be the cultivation of all cultivatable land?—I mention that as one among the other remedies. I think it is a thing worthy of consideration to try whether anything could be done. I do not put it forth as a perfect cure.

8486. Is it not the fact that land cannot be cultivated now, at all events, to grow corn at a profit?—No; I do not believe that is so.

8487. Do you believe that it is the importation of cheap food commodities from abroad which prevents people from cultivating the land at the present time?—It would have a tendency that way; but I think the ground in this country could be made to pay yet, and a great deal of it is paying.

8488. Even with produce at the present prices?—Yes, even at the present prices.

8489. With regard to the pauper aliens, it is the fact, is it not, that nobody is allowed to land in America unless he has 30 dollars in his possession?—He must have something in his possession. I do not know how much.

8490. I gather one of your remedies would be the reduction of the hours of labour to eight hours a day?—Certainly; or less, if possible.

8491. Is it not the fact that at the present time our markets are flooded with cheap commodities of every kind from abroad?—Yes, and also prison-made goods of all kinds.

8492. Would it not further handicap the manufacturers in this country if the hours of labour were reduced from what they are at the present time?—I do not know. I think if they are diligent with all the appliances they have the workers here could make up for that.

Mr. *Whiteley*—continued.

8493. Although at the present time we are almost beaten in nearly all our home markets by foreign iron and glass, and other commodities?—I do not know that.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

8494. How long have you been resident in Glasgow?—Since 1850.

8495. For 45 years?—I have been in the neighbourhood of Glasgow all that time.

8496. Is it not the case that Glasgow has been enormously developed during that period?—You can scarcely have any idea of the development unless you know it.

8497. Is it not the case that the industries of Glasgow have enormously increased during that period?—Certain of them, especially for instance shipping.

8498. And that a large number of new industries have been started, and developed in that period in Glasgow?—There is no doubt of that at all. It is also to be remembered that others of them have died out.

8499. Does that apply to any other except the cotton trade?—It applies to the cotton trade specially.

8500. Does it apply to any other trade?—There are some small trades that have gone out of existence nearly altogether.

8501. I may put it this way: the aggregate amount of employment generally in different industries in Glasgow is enormously larger than it was when you first went to Glasgow, is it not?—Certainly.

8502. At the time you first went to Glasgow, was there as large a population of Irish and Highlanders among those with whom you came in contact in the working classes, as there is now?—I do not know of any difference with regard to that.

8503. I may take it then that while the population generally has very largely increased the ratio of the Highland and Irish population in Glasgow is about the same?—Just about the same. Of course there are a great many men now of Irish parentage that are not counted as Irish at all, they are born in the country.

8504. You gave us to understand that the working population of Glasgow had been largely recruited from the neighbouring counties?—Yes.

8505. Could you tell me what countries in the neighbourhood of Glasgow you think the agriculturing population has come from?—No, I could not specify them, I believe all the different counties have yielded a certain percentage of workmen into Glasgow from the different countries.

8506. Are we to understand from that that you think the labourers employed in the country districts round Glasgow have themselves left labour there, and come into Glasgow, or that members of their families have come in?—I think there is less labour in the country districts than there was.

8507. Do you think that statement is supported by the census returns, comparing the

year

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

year 1871, 1881, and 1891?—I have known country places at both censuses, and the places I know have become less.

8508. In the neighbourhood of Glasgow?—I am not speaking about Glasgow particularly. I do not know any place round Glasgow that has decreased.

8509. In none of the counties round Glasgow?—I do not think so.

8510. So that the agricultural population which was employed, say 20 or 30 years ago, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow has not decreased in your opinion?—That is scarcely a fair way to put it, because there are very few places round Glasgow that have not had other industries introduced into their midst besides the agriculture of the district.

8511. Could you give us any information as to what you think the ordinary wage of a day labourer in the counties in the neighbourhood of Glasgow is at present?—As I have said already, the payment to labourers who are in trade unions is 5*d.*, or 5½*d.*, or 6*d.* an hour; a great many receive 6*d.* But I also mentioned that they are engaged on work that they cannot do in wet weather, and they very seldom have full wages.

8512. But there is another class of day labourer who works all through the year, such as people working upon the land employed by farmers, farm servants, and so on?—They would be much the same, I suspect.

8513. Could you give the Committee any idea as to what their wages are?—No, I do not know their wages.

8514. With regard to the employment of labour upon the land, is it not the fact that in the west of Scotland every year a considerable number of labourers come over from Ireland during the summer months, and work upon the land, going back in the autumn months?—I believe there is a certain percentage; but I do not think there are nearly so many come to work in the harvest-time as there used to be. There used to be a great many hundred of Irish people come over for the harvest; but that is almost unknown now.

8515. You are very familiar, no doubt, with what goes on in the potato harvest in the country districts; is it not the case that a very large number of those who are employed round Glasgow in the fields at the potato harvest come from Ireland?—I could not say that, because I notice that a great many of the people employed in lifting the potatoes are women.

8516. That does not prevent them being Irish?—I do not know; but I expect they come from the neighbouring towns, such as Renfrew, Govan, and all those places. I see the farmers driving them out to the fields in the morning.

8517. You are not aware where they come from, as a matter of fact?—No.

8518. Then you rather suggested to the Committee that one way of meeting this influx of the agricultural population (which you suggest comes in and increases the number of unemployed in Glasgow) would be to draw the people back to the land; are you aware whether any efforts have been made in the various counties round Glasgow in the way of offering allotments and small holdings, and what use has been made of those offers?—I am not aware of any such inducement having been offered.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

8519. In no single case?—In no single case, so far as I am aware.

8520. It is not within your knowledge to take the county of Renfrew in which I am specially interested, that they have more than once advertised all the advantages that are offered under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, and that as a matter of fact they have not had a single *bonâ fide* applicant from the working classes?—I was not aware of that.

Mr. *Mather.*

8521. You are familiar, I presume, with the plan adopted by the Municipality of Glasgow for the relief of distress last winter?—Yes.

8522. The Lord Provost described the plan to us?—I did not go into it, because the Lord Provost described it so well.

8523. Are you of opinion that any large number of the unemployed working classes objected to appeal for relief to that fund from fear of losing their self-respect or independence?—I heard of such instances, but I never met with any of them.

8524. Are you of opinion that the Lord Provost's plan of dealing with exceptional distress is quite sufficient for Glasgow, namely, that the methods adopted last year should be repeated whenever there is exceptional distress, and in the absence of that exceptional distress nothing need be done except what already exists in the city?—I would scarcely like to say that; I have said already that I believe the plan pursued this time was, after it began, quite sufficient to keep the people from starving.

8525. You think all the well-conducted working classes would go to that source of relief without any hesitation?—I would not be prepared to say that. I believe that had it not been for scruples of the kind you mention a great many more might have applied than did.

8526. The Lord Provost said that he did not think many men were deterred from coming to that fund in consequence of such feeling?—It may be, but I know there were thousands of unemployed who did not apply for relief; I do not pretend to say what the reason was. But all I say is, that they did not apply.

8527. Would those thousands of unemployed, of whom you speak, be out of need; would they be living upon their own savings?—I have no doubt in some cases they would.

8528. Have you any reason to believe that a large number of unemployed people in a condition of great need and great suffering did not apply to the fund of the municipality because of the fear of losing their self-respect?—No, I have no knowledge that that was so.

8529. Are you of opinion that there is much to be expected still in preventing this distress at all times of which you have spoken if habits of prudence, sobriety, thrift, and industry were more practised by the working classes of Glasgow?—In my opinion the working classes might

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

might certainly make a better use of their means.

8530. You think there is room for improvement?—Yes, by ordinary prudence and taking care of their money.

8531. Do you think that is the only solution to prevent the distress?—Yes, but I do not go away with the idea which some people seem to have, that the working classes on their present wages can possibly lay by much money to provide for times of distress.

8532. You do not agree with the Lord Provost that if working men saved in proportion to their earnings they might have sufficient to tide over times of distress?—I think I know more about that than the Lord Provost.

8533. You do not endorse what he said on that point?—Not exactly. I believe he was expressing the best opinion he could according to his lights, but the Lord Provost has never been in the position of a working man himself and felt the difficulty of keeping a house above his head, as the working man feels it.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8534. You stated at the beginning of your evidence that in the months of January and February certain unions paid away large sums of money to members out of employment, but that the chief cause of the want of employment was the severity of the weather?—Yes, in a great many instances that was so; it was an exceptional winter for weather.

8535. May I ask, are you, at the present time, still continuing to pay men who are out of employment?—Of course those trades that pay idle aliment are paying it now just the same as ever; the weather has no connection with the payment of that aliment. The engineers and iron-moulders and trades of that kind pay this money whenever they have unemployed men.

8536. Is there much of that being done just now?—Yes, there is a great amount of it.

8537. Among those artisans?—Yes.

8538. You stated, in answer to the Chairman, that the reason there were so many unemployed was that there were too many men?—Yes, that is the great reason, I think.

8539. In your view, a legalised eight hours a day would employ a great many of those men?—Yes, we think so.

8540. Is it not the fact that, owing to the coal strike last year, a considerable amount of work left Glasgow, and the district of Glasgow, on account of so many places being closed for want of fuel?—I do not know of my own personal knowledge that such was the case, but that was reported at the time.

8541. Many of the ironworks particularly, and many of the shipbuilding yards and cognate trades were obliged to close their places, and, of course, many of their customers went elsewhere for material?—Most likely they would.

8542. They have now got over it, have they not?—Yes, the orders are coming in well now.

8543. You stated that the reason why so many people come into Glasgow was on account of the number of labourers coming in from the country districts who could not find employment in the country, and that necessarily caused a

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

larger amount of labour to be at hand than was necessary for the requirements of the city. Do I understand you to state that there will not be now so many Highland people as there used to be?—We do not hear so much about them, but there may be as many; I do not know the number exactly.

8544. Do you not think that Glasgow, being so situated that it is easy for west Highland people to come there, especially for the families of crofters, young men and young women who cannot find employment on the crofts, and who have no other means of getting employment, they would naturally come into the city in order to find a means of living?—Yes, I think so. I included those among the numbers that come in.

8545. Speaking for Govan, I know there are a great many Highland people in the district of Govan; so many, indeed, that I think there is both a Free Church and Established Church with a Highland congregation?—Yes, there are a great number of Highlanders in Govan.

8546. So far as the Highlanders are concerned, if anything was done to give the people an opportunity of living upon the land, it would cure that almost yearly migration to Glasgow that takes place, would it not?—I think it would have a tendency in that direction. We know very well that Highlanders are very much attached to the soil if they can find a living there at all, but in very many districts they have been driven off.

8547. But I suppose you will agree with me that in any case whatever might be done in order to overcome the difficulty of the unemployed in a large city like Glasgow and the neighbourhood, you would always have a large number of indolent people who would not work if they could help it, human nature being what it is?—I am very sorry to say that there is always such a redundance of men in Glasgow, that if they were all anxious to get labour they would push somebody else out.

Mr. *John Burns.*

8548. I gather from you that in your opinion a general reduction of the working day would be one of the best remedies for the unemployed?—Yes, I think so.

8549. Does your experience in Glasgow lead you to believe that remedy is far from being exhausted?—I think so.

8550. I notice according to the Lord Provost's return which I have in my hand that there were, for instance, a large number of bakers who received relief?—I do not think there was a large number.

8551. I mean a large number relatively. That is a trade that is notoriously overworked, is it not?—Yes, and notoriously overstocked, too.

8552. Do you think if the men's hours were reduced, even in Glasgow, the 14 bakers who applied for relief could be easily absorbed into the baking trade by a slight reduction in the length of the hours?—There is great room for that; if the hours were reduced there could be no doubt there would be more men needed.

8553. If the hours of the baking trade in Glasgow were reduced even to nine hours per day (as apart from eight hours) all the bakers who

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

who applied for relief would be absorbed, would they not?—A great many would.

8554. Glasgow would absorb the 14 bakers, surely?—Yes, but there were more bakers idle in Glasgow than that.

8555. I am speaking of those who applied for relief?—Yes; we have idle bakers coming into Glasgow from all parts of Scotland; Glasgow is the great place to which they all run.

8556. Supposing the hours in the baking trade all over Scotland were reduced to nine hours per day, the unemployed bakers all over Scotland would be able to secure employment in their own trade, would they not?—Yes; I am perfectly certain of that.

8557. With a margin for other trades?—If other places in Scotland secured an eight hours day, that influx into Glasgow would be quite stopped.

8558. And without reducing wages?—There would be no reduction of wages; we would get wages up.

8559. Your experience, I presume, is that the best way to raise wages is to reduce the hours?—Exactly.

8560. You were asked some questions about foreign competition; do you think that if you had a shortening of the working-day in those trades not liable to foreign competition you would be able to get rid of many of the unemployed by absorbing them into the ranks of their own trade?—Yes, I think so.

8561. Such as railway work and tramway work?—Yes.

8562. And such trades as baking, general dock work, and many other trades with notoriously long hours?—Yes, that is my opinion.

8563. Is it your experience in Glasgow that the well-known extension of municipal employment by the municipality has tended to steady, and to make more regular the employment of unskilled labour?—I think so.

8564. And to that extent it is to be encouraged?—Yes, I think it should be encouraged.

8565. I gather from you that you are not particularly keen in favour of labour colonies?—No; there does not seem to be any great desire for them. I think myself that they would be a good thing if they could be taken up with spirit and gone into fairly.

8566. Simply in the way of experiment?—Yes, in the way of experiment in the meantime.

8567. If I gather your opinion correctly, instead of establishing labour colonies, you would rather prevent the rush of people from the agricultural districts in Scotland to the towns by improving the conditions under which agriculture could be now carried out?—Yes; that would be far more in consonance with my ideas than labour colonies.

8568. You think generally that would be a considerable palliation of the unemployed difficulty in towns?—Yes, if it could be done.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

8569. May I take it, you would rather do that than take out-of-work skilled artisans back to agricultural land to be employed upon work for which they are not specially well qualified?—Quite so.

8570. You do not think, for instance, that an out-of-work baker in Glasgow would make a particularly good hedger or ditcher?—No; but I think there are very few people but what can do work on the land of one kind or another.

8571. You mean the easier kind of employment?—Yes; bakers are a very handy class, and could soon turn their hand to anything.

8572. May I take it from you that you would rather the conditions of agriculture were so reorganised as to prevent the rush to the towns altogether?—That is my idea, if it could be done.

8573. Are you aware that a great number of the men who applied to the Mayor's fund in Glasgow came from those trades which are peculiarly subjected to long hours. Take, for instance, carters, there were a great many carters applied for relief, were they not?—A great number.

8574. Do you think that the hours of carters generally throughout Scotland might be reduced?—I think the length of the hours of carters in Scotland is a disgrace.

8575. You think it would be better to reduce the hours that carters are employed rather than to start labour colonies all over the country for unemployed carters?—I think so.

8576. And you think the results would be more economical?—Yes, and more immediate.

8577. And the home associations of the men would not be broken up?—Quite so.

8578. I find also that a great many engineers applied to the Lord Provost's Relief Fund?—So I see.

8579. In Glasgow, is it the fact that the engineering trade is peculiarly subjected to overtime?—I believe it is.

8580. Do you not think that in making their employment more regular by the abolition of overtime there would be room for a great many of the men who applied for relief?—It would be one of the greatest means of stopping the necessity of applying for relief that could be tried at all, I believe.

8581. Am I to gather from you, as a practical and experienced trades unionist of long standing, that the remedy you most approve of for immediate benefit to the unemployed is, that in trades where overtime is worked it should be abolished?—Yes.

8582. And in work where the conditions are casual and intermittent they should be made steady and regular?—Yes.

8583. And that generally the reduction of the working hours of all would be better than any experiment, however well meant, or however sentimentally advocated; is that your view?—Yes, that is my view of the matter.

Mr. Henry George Willink, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

8584. You are Chairman of the Bradfield Board of Guardians, and of the Rural District Council, and were formerly a member of the Paddington Board of Guardians?—Yes, that is so.

8585. You, therefore, have considerable knowledge of the Bradfield Union?—I have been Chairman since the death of the late Chairman, in February 1892.

8586. What is the population of the union?—Eighteen thousand and seventeen, to be accurate.

8587. And the number of parishes?—Thirty parishes.

8588. And the acreage?—Sixty-two thousand six hundred and fifty acres.

8589. And the rateable value?—£.136,660.

8590. Are there any large towns in the union?—No.

8591. Are the villages scattered or aggregated?—They are mostly scattered villages, as is very much the case in Berkshire, I believe.

8592. And generally the district is one with a scattered population and small parishes, is it?—There is only one parish in it with a population of over 2,000, and only five with a population of over 1,000 each.

8593. What are the occupations of the labouring classes in the district?—They are chiefly agricultural. There is a good deal of woodland also, and heath country, and there are one or two large brewing firms, and a good deal of brickmaking; there is a good deal of clay there, and there are two or three large corn-mills, and then there is the usual amount of small shopkeeping, and so forth.

8594. Are there any large resident landowners who take an interest in the people round them; are you well provided with that luxury?—Yes, we are. That varies in different parishes; there are some parishes where there are very few, and there are some where there are, I think, rather more than usual. There are one or two very large owners. Mr. Benyon is a large landowner.

8595. Can you say anything of the range of farm wages?—That is a very difficult matter to give an exact statement about. I have a table on that subject, a copy of which, I think, you have before you; I do not know how far you would wish me to try and state it.

8596. I think it will be useful if you put it in, or I can put it in. (*The document was handed in.*) Can you say what the drift of it is?—The different classes of labour make it difficult to generalise, but I think you might say that the drift of it is to show that wages range from 10*s.* to 12*s.*, or 14*s.*, or even 15*s.*, nominally in cash, per week.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8597. When you say "nominally in cash," you mean actually in cash?—Yes, actually in cash, nominally as wages. There are other advantages. Of course this is not confined to our neighbourhood.

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

8598. Advantages, such as what?—Such as a cottage at a low rent very often, especially in the case of the large landowners, who have let men have a cottage at a rent which does not at all represent its full market value.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

8599. At what rent?—Two shillings or eighteenpence a week. Eighteenpence is a very common rent indeed in the case of Mr. Benyon's cottages.

Chairman.

8600. Nothing like the amount which would cover the expense of erecting the cottage?—No; eighteenpence does not cover the expense. There is a good garden generally. Then there is the money which can be earned on piecework and harvest money if there is no Michaelmas money paid; the Michaelmas money varying from 2*l.* to 3*l.* at Michaelmas. I have been told, and I believe it is pretty safe to take it, that a man who nominally is actually getting 12*s.* or 13*s.* a week will be getting nearly 15*s.*, 16*s.*, or even 17*s.* a week if you take everything into account at the end of the year. If all his takings were added up and his cottage allowed for he would be found to be earning as much as that.

8601. What classes of men does that apply to, carters and stockmen?—Yes, that would apply to them, the first-class farm labourers, but not to the under carters, or to the ordinary field hands; they would not get quite so high a wage.

8602. And the wages in the trades, at what rate do they run?—The building wages work out from a maximum of, say, 36*s.* 8*d.* per week for the stonemasons and plasterers, down to about 18*s.* 4*d.* and 18*s.* 6*d.* for the bricklayers' labourers and plumbers' labourers.

8603. The higher rates that you quote being about 8*d.* an hour?—About 8*d.* an hour; and the other down to 4*d.* and 4½*d.* Then it is to be reckoned that the wood and forestry and coppice work men would earn up to 14*s.* or 16*s.* a week, or something like that.

8604. Then the women earn something?—Yes; 6*s.* a week is practically the wage the women get on the farm; there is not much women's work done, and they work shorter hours, as a rule.

8605. With regard to the cottage rents, you have said that some of the larger proprietors, those who can afford to deal more generously with the people around them, give the cottages at a very low rent; but there are others, I suppose, who have to exact the full rent?—There are other small proprietors, who have bought the cottages, who have to do so. Many of the cottages are small squatter cottages, which were built before the Enclosure Acts were fully applied, and they are very bad tumble-down, miserable things, and even some of those run at rents of two shillings to half-a-crown.

8606. Without any land?—There is generally some garden ground with it, no doubt; sometimes

Chairman—continued.

times the quantity is very small, and sometimes it is better.

8607. With regard to the Poor Law administration of the union; on what principle have you acted in it?—The principle has been to reduce out-relief gradually, since 1871; the reform began about 1871, and it has now practically resulted in there being almost no out-relief given; no permanent out-relief, except to the old cases. For many years there has been no permanent out-relief given except to old cases.

8608. Old and quite disabled persons?—Yes; when I say "old," I do not mean old in point of age, but cases on the old list. Of course there are cases where people are not able to be moved, who cannot come into the workhouse, and in that case the relief has to be out-door relief; we get a certain small percentage of that, but it is very small.

8609. And has the in-door-relief increased proportionately, or what has happened with regard to it?—The in-door relief has diminished quite as strikingly.

8610. It has diminished?—Yes. This table which I referred to shows it very strikingly. On the 1st January 1871, there were 999 out-door paupers on the books of the union and 259 in-door paupers; 259 in the house; and on the 1st January 1895, there were 27 out-door paupers and 116 in the house.

8611. Can you give the percentage of population for the two periods?—The percentage of population was one in 13 at the earlier date, in 1871.

8612. Of the total number of paupers?—Yes.

8613. Both in and out?—Yes; out of every 13 one was a pauper; and at the present time, at least in January, it was one in 143.

Chairman.

1614. Has there been an increase in the aggregate population since that time?—Yes, there has been a large increase.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8615. The diminution has taken place notwithstanding the increase of population?—Yes, notwithstanding the increase of population.

Chairman.

8616. Can you make other comparisons between those two periods, in other respects?—It is quite possible to make a comparison in money also.

8617. There was an accidental circumstance in 1889, I see from this table, by the transfer of part of the union to another union?—Yes, that is so; but for that the increase would have been even more marked in numbers, the population I mean; as it is, it rises from 15,800 to 18,000.

8618. With regard to the expenditure, can you compare that?—The figures in 1871 (or rather it was on the 1st January, so it would be the year 1870) were for Poor Law expenditure, not including pauper lunatics (it varies from what you have down in my Précis there, that was the total Poor Law, but this is with allowances made and everything) 9,748*l.*; and during 1893 it was 1,508*l.* I do not give you 1894, sir, because we have had so much to do with the Local Government Act in 1894, and that has given us so much extra work that we have not got it out yet.

8619. Can you compare the rate in the pound?—Yes; we state it at 2*s.* 0½*d.* in 1871 and 4*d.* only in 1893. The cost per head of population, which was 13*s.* 8½*d.* in 1871, we compute at 2*s.* 6*d.* in 1893.

Chairman—continued.

8620. Is the expenditure you have been speaking of the whole of the Poor Law expenditure?—The figures which I have just given you make the allowance which is referred to in the note; it is the whole, I think.

8621. Does it include the amount expended on union officials through the county rate?—There has never been any contribution from the county rate. The following contributions from the Imperial Exchequer should, however, be taken into account, as the money was applied by the Guardians to the Poor Law purposes for which it was paid to them, viz.:—

	Lunatics.	Union Officers.
1871	£—	£268
1893	497	1,278

8622. You put in diagrams showing curves representing the weekly and yearly pauperism of the union?—Yes. I have constructed those. I keep them hanging in the board-room, kept up to date pretty nearly, so that we see how we are going on.

8623. Have you any observations you wish to make or anything to point out to the Committee on these diagrams?—The diagrams prove, I think, that our system, although it is upon a definite principle, is not a hard cast-iron system, as it is often said to be, because you will see that there are cases in which we are obliged to give, and think it right to give, out-relief; and you will see that the out-relief line goes up and down to meet those extreme cases.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8624. Are you speaking of out-door now?—Yes, I am speaking of out-door now.

8625. The odd thing appears to be that the out-door relief goes up just at the period when trade improves?—That is the yearly return; that is one return taken on the 1st of January, and it is just a little bit of a chance what you hit on the 1st of January. I would rather refer to the weekly diagrams, which do not go so far back, but are more complete.

Chairman.

8626. What would you state as the principles of the administration that produce these results?—The principle was practically what I have already stated; that is, that out-relief is only given in temporary cases of sudden and urgent necessity. The annual report states it in this form: "Out-relief is strictly limited to temporary cases of sickness or accident, and to widows during the first month of their widowhood only; although, sometimes, but very rarely, a case is, or becomes, practically permanent, because the condition of the recipient does not admit of his or her removal to the workhouse." It is always given on loan; that is to say, it is understood when it is given that if the circumstances of the applicant, in the opinion of the board, will permit it, we should require it to be paid when possible; and, as a matter of fact, the amount of money repaid either by relations or by applicants during the year varies, I may say, from 200*l.* to 150*l.*; we get back that much.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

8627. What percentage is that on the amount lent?—I have not worked it out.

8628. What is the amount?—Take this last year, 1893; 1,508*l.* was the total paid, and 160*l.* is the total repaid. It is not at all large, but of course you understand that the 1,508*l.* includes all the union officers salaries, and everything, and it is not easy to get back those.

Chairman.

8629. Do you know, is that a usual provision in the case of administrative bodies, such as yours?—No, I do not think it is very usual. I think Brixworth does it, or did it. The Local Government Board was once applied to to issue an order that should be universally the case, and they declined to do it; I believe the reason being that they thought it was better left to individual boards of guardians to settle the principles upon which they administered their own relief.

8630. Do you find it well regarded among your administrees?—Do you mean the recipients?

8631. Yes. Does public opinion support you in treating these grants as loans?—I cannot say that they like it; I do not think that they do. It is not often disputed; I have known disputes.

8632. Is it supported by the public opinion of the ratepayers?—Yes, I think so. I think I may safely say that.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

8633. Do you ever enforce it at law?—Oh, yes, we have done so, but very seldom. It very seldom comes to that. We do not require it. Where we are not perfectly satisfied that there is ability to repay it; I mean we do not at all try to get blood out of a stone; we do not wish to try to do anything like that; it is only when we are satisfied that there is ability to repay, that we should require it.

8634. May I further ask if the system of loan has been continued since 1871; was it in practice in 1871?—No, I believe it was not.

8635. Can you tell us when it began?—I am afraid I cannot; it was long before I came there.

Chairman.

8636. You have full powers to take this course, I take it?—I believe so.

8637. That is to say, to make these advances in the form of a loan?—It is not the case of a loan of ratepayers' money in most of the cases, if I may say so.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8638. Whose money is it then?—It is strictly the ratepayers'; but if a person comes into the workhouse, or his or her child is taken into the workhouse, or if a person is sent to a lunatic asylum, the charge accrues, though they do not receive the money in their pocket; it is only that they get the benefit of the relief; and a great deal of this money which I am speaking of comes back for pauper lunatic relief.

8639. In payment of the charge taken at the time?—Yes.

Chairman.

8640. You would regard it rather as a recovery of the ratepayers' money?—It is the recovery of the ratepayers' money; it is not money lent.

Mr. *Mather.*

8641. You charge them, therefore, for the care you take of them, is that what you mean?—Yes, as far as we can get it. I am glad to say we have some cases of relations paying voluntarily who are not legally bound to do so.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

8642. I am afraid I have misunderstood. I rather gathered that the out-door relief in the case of urgent necessity was given on the understanding that it would be repaid if the applicant subsequently was able to repay it?—That would be so; yes.

8643. Have there been cases in which you have actually enforced the payment?—I do not remember any case.

8644. I do not mean enforce it in a court of law, but actually getting it back by some means or other?—I do not remember any such case of out-door relief.

8645. That is what I want particularly to ascertain?—You see we give so little out-door relief; we only give it in extremely urgent cases.

8646. Then I may take it really that your practice as regards the loan does not extend to out-door relief?—Well, I do not think you may put it quite so strongly as that; it would if we thought we could get it; it is all given on loan, or in a special case we should enter it "not given on loan." It is understood to be given on loan, and it is so with our medical relief.

Chairman.

8647. But you think it a wholesome thing that those who receive it should understand that it is rather as a favour than as a right that they get it as it were; that they get it as a loan, and not as a free gift?—Yes, we think so. We find that very often when an application is made, if the relieving officer explains to the applicant that the relief will be given on loan and will have to be repaid if possible, the applicant says:—"Very well then, I would rather not have it." That has happened several times.

8648. Now turning to in-door relief. What principles do you apply to that?—The same principle; it is given on loan on the same terms; and in the workhouse, especially as regards the children and young women, we take the greatest care we can to keep them away from the other paupers, to give them a good training, and to get them out in the world when they are old enough to go; but I am thankful to say we have so few in the workhouse altogether that it becomes a very small question with us.

8649. Is it the case, supposing a family are driven into the workhouse by some severity, that you make a charge upon them when they get into a better position for the maintenance they received?—I think my former answer would cover

Chairman—continued.

cover that; I do not recollect its ever having happened in a case like that, because I do not think that their circumstances have ever admitted of their repaying; we should not do it unless there were a very clear case; and in the case of a family coming into the workhouse, it is extremely improbable that their circumstances ever would admit of repayment; I mean they have accepted the workhouse test.

8650. You do not consider the workhouse test as working off the liability to repay if they are in a position to do so?—No; quite so; and perhaps I may put it in this way; that it is not so much from the family who come into the workhouse that we should expect to get the relief repaid, but from relations who ought to support them at home; for instance, we have got now in the workhouse an old woman who has a son who is in very fair circumstances; he is a man of very violent temper; a very rough customer he was to tackle; when he came before the board he positively and flatly refused to pay anything whatever towards the support of his mother in the house; he would not keep her, and we had to take her into the house; because, of course, we were responsible for her life. We had to summon him. He vowed that nothing should persuade him to pay, but he has since been steadily paying. That was only under the ordinary powers of recovery.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8651. You got an order against him?—We got an order against him. That is a case where the money was given on loan, and not given as a gift. We were recovering under the ordinary power of guardians, as I understand, to recover relief within six months after the date of its giving. You cannot go back for arrears after six months, I think. That is the rule.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8652. But that is rather recovering a charge?—Perhaps it is, if you would rather put it in that way; I am quite content. It is only that we use the powers we have already.

Chairman.

8653. Have you conceived the case put by an honourable Member here of a man, whether with or without a family, who was driven by stress of circumstances into the workhouse, afterwards going out and obtaining good employment, who became well enough off to repay; would you enforce upon him repayment of the cost of his maintenance while he was in the workhouse?—I think it is very improbable; unless he got extremely good employment we should not deal hardly with such a man.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8654. Suppose he had got good employment; could you enforce it?—I think so. Why not, sir?

8655. I am not a witness?—I beg your pardon.

8656. I want to know if there is power to enforce it?—I think there is; I have no doubt of it.

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

8657. Supposing I was destitute and went into the workhouse for a month and subsequently got into a good position (somebody left me a fortune, say) would you have the power to recover from me?—I think there is no doubt about it.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8658. Is it the case that if you find out afterwards that anybody has got money you would claim the cost of their maintenance so far as the money would go?—Yes.

8659. For instance, supposing you found out that he had got a savings bank account, you would claim it from that?—Yes, within the limits of the law. We must not claim arrears beyond six months.

Chairman.

8660. Is not that a different case?—That is a man who practically palms himself off on the public as a pauper when he is not a pauper?—Yes.

8661. The other case is the case of a man who is a pauper for six weeks, or two months, and afterwards gets into a good position, or a decent position; do you think you could recover from him the value of his maintenance?—I believe we could; I hope the Committee will not think we are made of stone; that we should do it in a hard way.

8662. Oh, no, we do not assume at all that you would be hard-hearted, or skinflinted, or cruel in the administration of the matter; but have you power to do it?—I believe so, on that ground, that you may what I call recover relief up to six months limit of arrears.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

8663. Are the Local Government Board aware of your practice?—Oh, yes.

8664. And have they not interfered with it?—Not at all.

Chairman.

8665. You have a workhouse with sufficient accommodation, have you?—Quite. There were 259 as I have said in the workhouse in 1871, and we now have only from 100 to 150 according to the season; we may run up to 150. I believe the house will accommodate 224. I am told so.

8666. You have an infirmary?—We have an infirmary.

8667. Detached from the workhouse?—Detached; yes, well detached.

8668. A garden and cultivated ground?—We have a garden and cultivated ground; we have four acres of garden and about five acres of meadow.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

8669. Do you have trained nurses?—We have two trained nurses in the infirmary; one of them is a trained certificated woman; the other is a man who has gone through a course of hospital training; he is a male sick attendant, paid.

Chairman.

8670. May I ask what do you do with your farm?—We put the old inmates to work on it (that is one of the objects of the farm) and we

Chairman—continued.

get a certain amount of vegetables for the supply of the house. We keep two cows and a certain number of pigs the produce of which is all consumed in the house; but it gives the old agricultural men just the kind of work that they would be having to do at their own homes; they potter about in the garden doing a little hoeing, gardening, weeding, and things of that sort.

8671. It is a healthy occupation for them if it is nothing else?—Yes.

8672. How do you treat the children?—It is all subject to the orthodox classification of ages and sexes. The children go to the village school. We have a tailor and industrial trainer in the house who teaches them; there is a male industrial trainer; he teaches the boys tailoring, and sometimes we have had a man in to teach them bootmaking. The girls are taught the usual household work and sewing; they wear the ordinary dress of children of their own sex when they go out to school; and they have a very good playground.

8673. Are they healthy?—Extremely healthy considering the class from which they are drawn and the circumstances of their family originally. Considering that one has to deal with a class like that, I think they are extremely healthy.

8674. Let me ask with regard to your tramp-wards, how do you manage them?—We have two tramp-wards for males, containing altogether 13 different compartments, and one for females.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8675. Separate?—Separate.

Chairman.

8676. The tramps have to do some work?—They have to do some work. Down to the beginning of 1890 the work used to be picking oakum, for both males and females, but there was rather a large increase in tramps about that time, or some two or three years before then, and it was thought advisable to change the task; it was before I was on the Board even, before I was chairman anyhow; I was not on the Board I think. They changed the task for men to pounding stones. Instead of picking 4 lbs. of unbeaten oakum they were to pound eight gallons of stones.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

8677. Does that mean break?—They pound them with a bar; it is not like stone-breaking on a road, but reducing the stone to a powder.

8678. What is it used for after that?—It is used in mortar, as a sort of sand. The number of tramps fell off in a very marked way.

Chairman.

8679. When this new kind of labour was introduced?—Yes. We do not set any great store by it; it is only an instance partly to explain why we have so very few tramps, as you will see on my paper.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8680. Is that what began the cubicle system of treatment?—No, the cubicle system was in force before then.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

8681. You have not the Gloucestershire system of tramp tickets?—No; I have always heard it called the Berkshire system; it has never been used in Berkshire, but we have not got it, if it is the same.

Chairman.

8682. You can put in a Table showing the effect upon the number of tramps of your new system of working, I think?—Yes, I can. (*The document was handed in.*)

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

8683. Can you summarise it briefly?—Yes, it is summarised.

Chairman.

8684. What is the gist of that, briefly?—I can give you the number of tramps for the last five years.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

8685. Is there a marked increase, a marked decrease, or a marked anything?—A marked decrease.

Chairman.

8686. Since 1890 what are the numbers?—Since 1890, 1,233 tramps; 1891, 470; 1892, 308 (those were years ending Michaelmas, but they were 12 months); 1893 (the year January to December) 221; and 1894, 184. We frequently have a week without tramps at all.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

8687. To what do you attribute this great decrease?—Partly to the change in task and partly to the fact that I think we are very favourably situated. We lie off the main road; we are three miles off the Bath road, and only about six miles out of Reading; and I think rather than go three miles off the road to come to us, where it is not pleasant, they will go into the town which is six miles off.

Chairman.

8688. That is as true of 1890 as of now, is it not?—I said it is something which they do not like.

8689. And is there any chance that the diminution of tramps in your wards is due to their being driven by you to more lenient wards elsewhere?—I think it is quite possible.

8690. So that you again may be the cause of a loss to some other place?—That is so. There was a very kind lady in the district who never turned away a tramp; she died about the same time; it was well known; there were always tramps coming to her at Bradfield. I tried to get the date to give to you.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8691. Did that good lady live to a good age?—I cannot tell you; I never saw her.

Chairman.

8692. Now, coming down to this last winter, what has been the experience of your district during it?—Well, shortly, that we had no exceptional distress at all.

8693. What

Chairman—continued.

8693. What circumstances had you that might affect employment; you had the hard winter that everybody else had, I suppose?—We had the hard winter; and before the hard winter, over the whole of the Kennett Valley, and near Reading, we had very bad floods, very extensive floods indeed, which lasted some weeks; to take it altogether, two or three weeks.

8694. Were many of the agricultural labourers turned off?—There were not many turned off, not the regular hands; the usual number of men were turned off, I suppose, who generally are turned off in winter, not having been taken on as regular hands; for the regular hands the farmers find things that they can do; they set them to do other work, such as hedging and ditching in another part of the farm, and so forth. I am told there was not much turning off of the regular hands.

8695. This sort of thing happens, I suppose, every winter, more or less?—We have had some flooding nearly every year, I think, since I have lived in the country, and frost, of course.

8696. And there are woodlands and other sources of employment which help you in these cases, are there not?—Yes; I believe the woodlands have been always very useful in the winter for this reason.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

8697. Not in the very depth of frost?—Not perhaps in the very depth of frost.

Chairman.

8698. On the whole do you think the usual number of men were employed in the winter?—I think there were more men out of work; there were in my own parish I am pretty sure.

8699. But there was no sign really of what might be called exceptional distress?—No, I think not; the landlords gave as much extra employment as they could find.

8700. Let me ask you as to this, which is really the main question we are dealing with on the general question of the best means of dealing with exceptional distress, if and when it does arise. What have you to tell us about that; you have had a varied experience, I think?—I had some little experience in London when I lived in London at one of the Committees of the Charity Organization Society. It was about the time of the Trafalgar Square excitement when there were so many men out of work and they were hanging about Trafalgar Square. Mr. Kitto, Captain Gretton, and the Charity Organization Society between them undertook to sift a number of cases and go into them with a view to finding out whether any of them were fit for employment, for emigration, or for any other helping; they were referred to two committees, and my committee was one of the committees.

8701. Will you tell the Committee please what suggestions you would make generally about the treatment of distress. Perhaps, first of all, you would prefer to take country districts and town districts separately?—As I say, I have never seen a case arise in the country and I do not know for certain how we could meet it but my impression is that we should find the workhouse test certainly sufficient in times of ordinary distress.

Chairman—continued.

8702. In the country districts?—Yes; and I think it would have to be a very bad distress which the workhouse test could not deal with in the country.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8703. Would you just explain. How does the workhouse test deal with distress?—We should offer the workhouse to anybody who applied, and if he did not accept it we should consider he was not in such distress as to warrant our giving him money out of the rates.

8704. You mean, of course, that your rates would be sufficient to meet the distress?—The rates would have to be sufficient to meet it.

Chairman.

8705. So that in-door relief would be sufficient for it?—In-door relief would be sufficient for it. That is the way I should say we should probably deal with it.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8706. Suppose the accommodation of the workhouse was not large enough?—Then, if it was really not large enough, and could not be made large enough by temporary arrangements, I suppose we should have to go to to a labour test, which would be carried on, so far as we could arrange for it, inside the workhouse precincts.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8707. That has never occurred, has it?—It has never occurred with us; it is not within the knowledge of any man now living, I think.

Chairman.

8708. What do you say to relief works as they are generally known?—I do not think they would be of any permanent benefit in such a country as that in which I live. Whatever they might be elsewhere I do not believe in them anywhere; I do not think in a rural district such as ours there is the least possibility of their being advantageous.

8709. Will you say why you do not believe in them?—I think they would only draw together, like the benevolent lady I was talking of, a number of people who are always anxious to get something to do. There are plenty of tramps who would be very glad to be put on to relief works instead of stone pounding (I think we could collect them together very well), and the *bonâ fide* unemployed, if there were such, would, I think, be rendered permanently unemployed, instead of being able to get back into the regular rut of labour work.

8710. You think it would interfere with the natural healing process that goes on when a mischief of that sort arises; a natural re-adjustment of labour in different districts?—Yes, I think so.

8711. To what would you ascribe, in most cases, the distress arising in country districts?—Well, it might be a kind of permanent want of employment which recurs regularly every winter, which one is accustomed to meet, and which ought to be met rather by laying by in the summer for the needs of the winter. There are plenty of trades which are always out of work more or less in winter when the hard weather comes on; building men cannot get anything to do; they get very good wages in consequence; or it may be of course from hard weather interfering, such as

Chairman—continued.

we have had this winter with some of the farm work, and in those cases I cannot see that relief works will really tide the men well over it, because they have got to get back into work as soon as ever the need is gone, and you do not always find the work for them ; farmers do not like to keep on men who will leave them at a moment's notice.

8712. Therefore improved habits of foresight and character, you think, are more likely to have effect?—I think so.

8713. Of course it might be due to a real and solid disturbance of the labour market?—Yes.

8714. Now with regard to the case of towns? —I still think the workhouse test is the best way of dealing with it, and if the workhouse test is not sufficient if the workhouse was full, and it would be impossible to make other arrangements, then, I suppose, it must be the labour test inside the workhouse, if possible ; or there is what is known, I believe, as a "Whitechapel Order," which means the offering of a workhouse order to the man when he applies, coupled with the offer to take care that the wife and children are properly relieved by out-door relief in their own home without breaking up the home. Legally the guardians cannot give the man relief without taking in the wife and children, unless they have leave to make such orders as that. I believe that has been found to work well, but that is not within my own personal knowledge.

8715. Now do you find and do you believe in the existence of a great reluctance on the part of decent working men accidentally, from no fault of their own, thrown out of employment from one cause or another, to accept help from the Poor Law authorities?—Whether out-door or in-door you mean?—Yes.

8716. Yes?—I think there is great reluctance to accept in-door relief; I do not think there is very great reluctance to accept out-door relief. I think it is a very creditable reluctance indeed; I should be very sorry to minimise it.

8717. Do you not think there is a feeling of degradation in their minds as to receiving even out-door relief from what may be called the Poor authorities?—I think there is a growing feeling of that kind in our own Union ; I think men do not apply ; we certainly do not get applicants.

8718. It is a very healthy and creditable feeling if it exists?—Very ; and one which we try to do all we can to foster.

8719. Is it your experience that it does exist to a large extent?—Yes, I think it does, I think there are signs of it.

8720. Then relief given in that shape has the effect of causing the man to lose his vote, has it not?—Yes.

8721. Do you think that has a material effect upon his disposition of mind?—I have never come across any definite instance myself; I only know what I have read in the newspapers, and general statements ; I have never come across it personally.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8722. Might I supplement that. You think that with a very little relaxation the feeling of objection to coming for out-door relief would very soon wear off?—I think so.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

8723. You do not think it is very keen at present?—No, I do not think it is very keen. People seem to think there is a distinction between in-door relief and out-door relief, that the in-door relief is disgraceful, but that the out-door relief is not so disgraceful. I myself think that that is an entirely imaginary distinction.

8724. Still you think that any relaxation would tend to do away with the great feeling of objection to out-door relief?—Yes, I do.

Chairman.

8725. To pursue that a little further ; there are some people who think that, while all the present restrictions should be maintained against ordinary out-door relief in ordinary circumstances, they should be suspended or modified, including the restriction connected with the vote, or the franchise, when there is an exceptional amount of distress arising from some disturbance of trade, or general want of employment, so that a man is forced to receive public relief in some form or another although his want of employment is not due to his own fault. Many people think that a distinction can be drawn between these two cases, and that relaxations could be allowed in the latter case which are not allowed in the former. Do you think that that would have a demoralising effect? —I am afraid it would ; I am afraid it would be the small end of the wedge.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8726. You are not in favour of relaxation?—No, I am not, distinctly not.

Chairman.

8727. You have given us your opinion on relief works in country districts, would you apply those same considerations to relief works in town districts?—Yes, entirely. I think I have made it as clear as I can in that respect also.

8728. Now, to come to another proposal, the proposal of the farm, or labour colony, to meet the case of a large number of unemployed men in some big centre of population ; what is your view of that?—I do not think it would answer. That brings one rather near the other subject does it not?

8729. No, not the foreign question. We will stop short of the foreign case and have you on that again if you will allow us; but on the face of it, putting foreign examples aside, treating it not as being an expert in the matter of foreign colonies, but merely on your Poor Law experience in this country; would you be disposed to look favourably upon a scheme of farm colonies? —For town cases I distinctly should not. I think that the farm colony would be intended, as I have always understood the descriptions of it, to deal with men who are unfitted for farm work. The ordinary townsman, from what I have seen of him and from what I have heard of him, is not well fitted for taking up agricultural work, such as he would be required to do on a farm colony. I have talked with farmers about it in the country and I know their feeling is very strong to the effect that in the very few cases they have known of a man who is a townsman coming to farm

Chairman—continued.

farm work, he does not make a good agricultural labourer; they do not believe in him at all. They have known cases of men who have been countrymen, men who have gone into towns and have then come back from the town to the country, and taken up the work where they left it, so to speak, and have made satisfactory labourers again, but they do not think it would be possible to make good use of town material.

Mr. *Jackson.*

8730. I suppose the man, even in a case like that, would only come back when he was a damaged article, would he?—I should think that is probable too.

8731. The fact that a man would come in from the country, spend a portion of his time in the town, and then go back into the country, implies failure from some cause or other, does it not?—Yes, it does. His suitability, however, for the country work might be the very thing which made him unsuitable for town work; he might not have that kind of experience which would fit him for it.

Mr. *Jackson*—continued.

Chairman.

8732. You have not, yourself, investigated any of the farm colonies that have been attempted in England?—No, I have not.

8733. Of course the farm colony would seem, on the face of it, to involve the man being taken away from his family in most cases, would it not?—Yes; it is proposed in some cases, I believe, to take the family too.

8734. It would be a very large colony if every man took his family?—Quite so.

Tuesday, 14*th May* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Billson.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Bousfield.	Mr. Mather.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Heneage.	Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.	Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	Mr. John Wilson (Govan).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. HENRY GEORGE WILLINK, re-called; and further Examined.

Chairman.

8735. I HAVE now to ask you some questions as to the knowledge you have of labour colonies in foreign countries; I think you have visited both the Dutch and the Belgian labour colonies, have you not?—I have; the Dutch colonies I visited in Easter 1888, and the Belgian colonies in October 1890.

8736. You have printed the results of your inquiries, I think?—Yes. My report on the Dutch colonies was printed and published separately by Messrs. Kegan, Paul and Co., and my report on the Belgian colonies was published in the "Charity Organization Review," of January 1891.

8737. Are both of those papers referred to in the Report by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade on the Unemployed?—Not that I am aware of.

8738. If you look at the footnote on page 308 of the Report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade on the Unemployed you will see that you were the authority referred to?—I was not aware of it.

8739. You cannot tell how far the summary of information on the subject in that Blue Book is an accurate representation of your conclusions?—I cannot; I have not seen the book.

8740. Then we had better take your evidence independently. Will you tell us about the Dutch home labour colonies first?—I should like to say, before beginning to do so, if I may, that my report on the Dutch colonies I sent to the director of the Dutch free colony, who looked through it and practically passed it; and I sent my report on the Belgian colonies in the same way to the director of the Belgian colonies, who also, with some small modification which I embodied, passed it; so that my reports have in both cases been seen by some authority on the point.

8741. Will you first deal with the Dutch labour colonies?—In the first instance, both the free colonies and the beggar colonies were the idea of a Dutch general, General Van den Bosch, who, having seen a great deal of colonial

Chairman—continued.

life in the Dutch colonies abroad, just after the close of the Great War conceived the idea that the large numbers of the poor and unemployed classes in Holland might be satisfactorily dealt with by settling them upon the land. He seems to have thought that if an ordinary savage, without any of the tools and appliances of modern civilisation, could support himself, much more could the ordinary poor man in civilised Europe, with such help as a society could give him, support himself. It seemed to me, when I went into the question, that such an experiment, if it was to be tried, started under very favourable conditions in Holland; it had at the head this skilled, enthusiastic officer of great experience; it had a great deal of enthusiasm in the country; the King and the Royal Family took it up; and the land was not at all expensive; so far as I could make out it cost from 4*l.* to 1*l.* an acre for the freehold; it seems to have varied in different parts.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8742. It was most heather land, was it not?—It was mostly heather land. Then, again, the Dutch character would seem to be particularly fitted to take up and carry through such an experiment. The neighbouring inhabitants were doing well on similar land; at all events they were getting along very fairly. And the State was prepared to back it up, and did, as a matter of fact, back up the experiment. The colonies are situated in the north-eastern part of the Netherlands, and, as I say, they were of two kinds: what are called free colonies and the beggar colonies. The free colonies were founded the first; they were founded in 1818. They came to consist of about 4,000 acres, and to comprise about 1,800 inhabitants. It was not very long before they reached that total, and I need not, I think, dwell upon the initial stages. They were founded for the benefit of practically three classes: (1) the families or households, consisting of six or more persons; (2) boarders; and (3) orphans. The mode of taking a family in was this: Holland was plotted out into a number of

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

of districts (*afdeelingen*), and the district to which the family belonged had to pay a sum of money amounting to about 140*l.*, which would give the district the right to have in the colony a family for ever.

Chairman.

8743. Where did the district find that money?—In voluntary subscriptions. For double that sum they had the right to have two families. A yearly subscription of 60 guilders, which is about five pounds, would give the right, as long as the subscription went on, to have one boarder at the colony; and a yearly subscription of 45 guilders, which would be rather less than four pounds, would give the right to have one orphan at the colony as long as the subscription continued. Taking the first class, the family class, they were started off with a house to live in, about eight acres of land, and a certain amount of furniture and clothing, and stock: two cows, or one cow and 10 sheep.

8744. Was that provided out of the 140 *l.*?—Yes. I think some of the subscription money must have been spent in building the houses, because the house is only put down to cost 41*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and that seems a very small sum to build a house with; and, as the colony had large sums of money provided otherwise than by these subscriptions, no doubt it must have done something in that respect. The principle was to set before this family class from the outset the prospect of each family becoming practically the owners, within the regulations, of the piece of land on which the head of the family was placed. He began as a labourer working for wages; part of his wages were set aside to repay a certain amount credited to him as a loan when he began; and when he had paid off the loan, which was about 20*l.*, as far as I can recollect, which he was expected to do in about 16 years, he would then be in the position of being free from debt, and he would be raised to the position of a free farmer. A free farmer was a man entitled to retain for himself (subject to the rent he paid) whatever profit he could make on his land in the colony; but until he was a free farmer he remained a labourer. As regards the second class I have mentioned, the boarder class, they consisted of single persons who were sent to the colonies on payment of a certain yearly sum, and there boarded with colonists willing to receive them. As regards the third class, the class of orphans, they were orphan children who were placed out with the families.

8745. Do you know on what grounds those people were selected?—They were selected on the ground of poverty, and I may say, almost destitution.

8746. And of deserving character?—Yes; inquiry was made into their characters.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8747. You are speaking now, I understand, of the free colonies, and not of the beggar colonies?—So far, I am speaking of free colonies and not of beggar colonies. That state of things went on without much alteration until about the great reform of 1859; but several things happened in between which perhaps I had better refer to.

Chairman.

8748. Did they go on taking in new people to an extent of beyond the original 4,000 acres?—The 4,000 acres was the extreme amount to which they came to grow ultimately, but it was reached within a very few years from the foundation. The colony was founded in 1818, and at the end of 1821 they had attained the full size of 4,000 acres, so that I did not think it necessary to give the details.

8749. So that since 1821 it has not been really in that aspect in the nature of a colony at all?—There has been no extension. Of course families have occasionally gone away, and their place has been taken by others; but there has been very often, especially of late years, some difficulty in getting the vacancies filled up. The rule of the society was that if a district was in arrear with its subscriptions for its boarders, or did not find its 140*l.*, it should have no right of presentation, and no other district might pay the money for it, so that they lost their interest; they had no right to present anybody, and could not awaken interest in their subscribers. As a matter of fact, it was found that it was difficult to keep the numbers up.

8750. The beggar colonies were on a different footing, were they not?—The beggar colonies were on a different footing. They were in the original scheme, but the first colony was not founded until 1820. By 1888 the population in the beggar colonies had come to consist of about 3,500. They were founded for able-bodied persons who were convicted of begging, which was and is a punishable offence in Holland; for poor persons entering voluntarily; for old soldiers' families (it was stipulated from the first that the families of old soldiers who had fought in the wars should be entitled to go in there); and for orphans. These colonies were very expensive, the labour was very inefficient, and I think the financial difficulties of the first stage of the colonies were very largely attributable to the drawback of having the beggar colonies hanging round the neck of the free colonies.

8751. Those *pensionnaires* were not subjected to the same conditions with regard to the 140*l.*, and so on, as the others, were they?—No; and they had no prospect of owning anything at all. They had a certain pay, very small; but they had no prospect of keeping any profit, or of farming the land on their own account at all.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8752. It was a sort of punishment, I suppose?—It was a sort of punishment; they were forced to remain there.

Chairman.

8753. That was not so in the case of an old soldier, I suppose?—No, he was not obliged to remain; but the larger proportion of the population at these colonies, so far as I understand (at any rate, when I was there it was very much the larger proportion), consisted of those who were sent there for begging.

8754. They did not take any other criminals?—No; it was only for begging that the men were sent there.

8755. Will you continue what you were saying about these colonies?—By 1834 the finances of

Chairman—continued.

the society had got into a very backward state. They had been obliged to borrow large sums of money from the State and they were not able to make both ends meet, and a Royal Commission was appointed, which inquired into the condition of the society and recommended that it should be dissolved, or that, at all events, the two colonies should be separated. That was not done. About that time, or rather before that time, in 1829, Count Arrivabene made an inspection and a report on the state of the colonies, which was embodied in an account published in 1835 by Mr. Nassau Senior, which gives an extremely interesting and fully detailed account of both the free and beggar colonies as at that date; and Sir George Nicholls, of the Poor Law Board, visited Holland and Belgium in 1838, and gives a short account in the report that he wrote also.

8756. There was a charge with regard to the colonies in 1859, was there not?—Yes. Before 1859 Sir John MacNeill visited both colonies, and reported very fully in a report which is to be found in the Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Supervision for the Relief of the Poor (Scotland). I am not sure that I could do better than give you some points from his report. But perhaps, before I do that, I might read this passage from Count Arrivabene's report which comes earlier in point of date. It is quoted at page 11 of my report. He says, "The nature of these institutions" (that is, speaking of both the free and the beggar colonies) "appears to have been imperfectly understood in England. They are, in fact, large agricultural workhouses; and superior to the previous workhouses only so far as they may be less expensive, or, without being oppressive, objects of greater aversion. It is scarcely possible that they can be less expensive. The employing persons taken indiscriminately from other occupations and trades, almost all of them the victims of idleness and misconduct and little urged by the stimulus of individual interest in farming the worst land of the country, land so worthless that the fee simple of it is worth only 24*s.* an acre" (it will be remembered that I said it varied from 4*l.* to 1*l*, and my basis for that was that I found that the society paid 4,600*l.* for 1,200 acres), "at an expense for outfit, exclusively of the value of the land, of more than 130*l.* per family, and under the management of a joint stock company of more than 20,000 members" (those are the subscribing members) "cannot but be a ruinous speculation. Nor does the institution appear to have repressed pauperism by the disagreeableness of the terms on which it offers relief." (In that case he is speaking of the beggar colonies.) "We have seen, on the contrary, that it has not prevented its steady increase." Probably one of the greatest causes of the colonies not answering the expectations formed was that the labour of the colonists had been expected to be much more efficient than it turned out to be; and that led to even less being asked and received from the State than the State would possibly have been willing to give, and which might have pulled them through if given at the beginning. The discipline of the free colonies as well as that of the beggar colonies was at first very unsatisfactory. Many of these

Chairman—continued.

things have been remedied since, so that it is only as matters of history that I mention them, and I hope you will stop me if I go into too much detail. But, perhaps, I might give a summary as far as I can of Sir John MacNeill's Report.

8757. Would that be superseded by your own observations at a later date?—Of course the whole management was changed a great deal in 1859; but his report would show the kind of difficulties through which these colonies did go, and through which a colony of this kind is likely to go.

8758. It would perhaps be more instructive to the Committee if we knew what you found when you visited the colonies, and what the condition of them has been more recently; Sir John MacNeill is a great authority; but his information relates to 30 years ago?—That is true. My object in quoting his report in my paper and mentioning it now, is this: This society, when it began its operations, began with just the kind of object in view which anybody, I suppose, would have now in beginning a similar experiment in this country; and therefore even its mistakes are not without their lessons; so that whether, when I visited it, I approved of the system or disapproved of it, the fact would remain that that experiment had led to these faults, which were afterwards remedied to some extent, no doubt.

8759. Could you give us shortly the results of Sir John MacNeill's report?—Sir John MacNeill sums up at the end of his report the results that, in his opinion, might then be deduced from the experience of the free and pauper colonies, as follows: You will find them quoted at page 18 of my report:—"(1st.) Indigent families can rarely be made self-sustaining by providing them with houses, land, and all that is necessary for its cultivation, and for their own maintenance, until they are able to support themselves. (2nd.) Children brought up in the families of persons who are maintained by charity, though well educated in excellent schools, rarely become self-sustaining if there are means of subsistence provided by public or private charity on which they can fall back. (3rd.) Of all the branches of secular education for the working classes, the most important, both to the community and to the individual, is that which teaches self-reliance. (4th.) Paupers, even when able-bodied, cannot be made to contribute to their own support by employing them in agricultural labour on land belonging to the body which undertakes to maintain them, but, on the contrary, the attempt so to diminish the cost of maintaining them tends to augment it. (5th.) Paupers can be more advantageously employed in manufactures and handicrafts than in agricultural labour, but it is doubtful whether the price obtained in the market for the produce of their industry, after deducting expenses, will diminish the charge for their maintenance. (6th.) The combination of agricultural labour with manufactures and handicrafts leads to similar results. (7th.) The moral effects of the system pursued in the pauper colonies of Holland do not appear to be more satisfactory than those obtained from the systems adopted in other countries." That was his summary after his inspection

Chairman—continued.

spection. I have forgotten to say that one of the most marked features, both in the free and the beggar colonies, was that, whereas the society intended at the beginning to make them agricultural, they found that the class of men who were sent to them, coming as they did almost entirely from towns, were not suited so well for agricultural pursuits, except possibly for the simplest form of digging. Some of them were good at just the merest hand work. They were accordingly led in the first place to spend a good deal in supervision, which supervision led to instruction. It also led to the starting of other occupations, manufactures of one kind or another, which again led to supervision, and again to instruction; it led to the foundation of schools, forestry schools and manufacturing schools of all kinds, so that the expense went on multiplying and multiplying year by year in proportion as they got away from the original idea. That certainly, in the case of the beggar colonies, was one of the great difficulties, because they found themselves encumbered with a large quantity of products which they had to dispose of. They did dispose of it, in fact, to the State, at a price above the market rate, which was very good for the society, but was not particularly sound financing; so, at least, Sir John MacNeill thought, and other people better qualified to judge than I am.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8760. All that you have been speaking of was before 1859?—Yes, that is before 1859. But they still manufacture a good deal. Perhaps I might give the Committee the leading changes which have been made as regards the free colonies since 1859. In the first place, there are now many more free farmers in proportion to labourers than there used to be. In 1859 the number of free farmers was only 176, and the number of labourers was 2,400; in 1860 the number of free farmers was 1,098, while the number of labourers was 1,630; in 1865 the number of free farmers was 1,298, and the number of labourers 820; and in 1870 the number of free farmers was 1,313, and the number of labourers 530.

8761. These figures rather indicate what would be the natural outcome of the system in process of time; for it takes so many years, you say, for a labourer to become a free farmer?—Yes, I think that partly accounts for it; but I am told they also set themselves to work to try and bring that about. The difficulty of making the men do the agricultural work well was partly met by starting six large model farms, belonging to the society, and worked by the society officials, employing the labourers upon them; so that they were in the nature of instructional farms as well. Then in the next place the principal non-farming work was formerly weaving, which was carried on for the Government at a loss. This has been discontinued, and other better manufactures substituted. Then, again, a forestry department, to which I alluded just now, has also been introduced and organized. There are about 1,000 acres of forest. Further changes are that the colonists are now allowed to keep all they earn (formerly the balance over a certain sum belonged to the society); a token coinage, which did obtain, has been discontinued; more piece-work is done instead of time-work; and the work is better done in consequence, and the tone of the colonies, and the discipline of them, is much better. When we were there we were very pleased indeed with the apparent tone of the colonies; the men did not seem to be loafing, idle kind of men. They were respectful people, and decently turned out; their houses were neat and the land looked decently farmed, and altogether, on the face of it, it looked like a fairly prosperous concern.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

Chairman.

8762. Let me ask you this: Supposing one went over there to-day, one would find the free farmer established with his family, working his little farm; in what respect would he differ from an ordinary farmer owning his own land, or holding it on any other kind of tenure; he would simply be a farmer permanently settled there, would he not?—That is all.

8763. He may have been originally, or his father before him may have been, in destitution when brought there; but his condition now is that of an established farmer, is it not?—An established farmer, who has been established in the first instance by charitable aid, and who now has an extremely kind landlord, to whom he does not always pay all his rent. That, however, is not confined, I fancy, to these farmers now-a-days.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8764. Would the present men be descendants of the original men, or new men?—They never send men away. If a man chooses to go away his place is vacated and filled up.

Chairman.

8765. When a man dies, does his son succeed?—Yes, he has the right to do so.

8766. Then would they be largely descendants of the original men?—Yes, I believe so, very largely.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

8767. I understand you to say that there are very few additions in the course of years?—Very few. The annual turnover, so to speak, that is, the number of new families, when we were there, was something like five. There was all this large machinery at work.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8768. Then this system is not now playing anything more than an insignificant part in dealing with the question of poverty in Holland?—That is what I thought at the time when I was there, and I put that very strongly to the director and the president, and the answer they made, which is in the director's letter at the end of my Report, is that I dwell too much upon that side of the question, and forget that it is a charitable concern; and they regard every family at the colony as a family that is being well helped by that charitable system. There are, however, very few new families brought in; so that it is doing little to solve the question.

Mr. *Mather.*

8769. It is more like an orphanage?—Yes.

8770. Is it not like a workhouse?—No, the beggar colonies take more that position. We were speaking of the free colonies, when I said the turnover was very small. In the beggar colonies, on the other hand, the turnover is very great, because they are always having men sent there by the magistrates.

Chairman.

8771. As to the management and condition of the free colonies, what was the impression you formed; did you think they were well managed?—They were thoroughly well managed. I thought the director was a very practical, hard-headed, sensible man, and the whole place seemed to be very well managed.

8772. Is there a demand for admission to the free colonies?—I was told it was difficult to get people to come. I was told that the idea had come to obtain that there was some sort of disgrace in it. How that came about I do not know.

8773. With regard to the beggar colonies, would you tell the Committee what your impression was from what you saw of them?—I should like to say I saw only one of those colonies, and that rather the smaller one. I saw the original beggar colony at a place called Ommerschans, which is now being vacated, or which by now probably must have been vacated. I may say that I wrote to Holland when I was summoned to give evidence before this Committee in order to try and bring my information up to date; but I am sorry to say I have received no answer. I did not see the second colony, the larger half of the beggar colonies as they existed in 1888, which is called Veenhuisen. The Ommerschans colony certainly on the face of it did not recommend itself to me; it did not seem to me to be very well managed. Of course the people there were a very inferior class of inhabitants to the class in the free colonies which we had just been visiting. They were obviously very inefficient workmen; it was much more like the ordinary workhouse labour which one sees in England. Sir John MacNeill in his time said that it took 15 colonists to do the work of one good labourer. I quoted that to the director of the colony and asked him what he thought of it, and he said "Well, it is about the case now." So that, so far as inducing habits of labour goes, the beggar colonies were not succeeding.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

8774. Can you tell us about what the numbers were in that colony when you visited it?—There were about 400.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8775. Those men do not stop there permanently, do they, as they do at the free colony; they come and go, I suppose?—They come and go.

Chairman.

8776. Do they come and go and come back, do you know?—They come and go, and come back. The tendency to return is very marked indeed. You will see a Table at page 31 giving details with regard to that.

Chairman—continued.

8777. I see some were there even up to the fifteenth or twentieth time?—Yes. Mr. Herbert V. Mills' story about the head gardener at Veenhuisen, which is told in his book, "Poverty and the State," gives a striking instance in point. He was very much impressed by the colonies in a contrary sense to that in which I was impressed; but even he tells the story of the head gardener at Veenhuisen, who is one of the most useful men there, that when his time was out he used to beg from a policeman in order to be sent back again.

8778. He went through the form of committing an offence in order to be sent back?—Yes. But, of course, one cannot argue from an individual case like that. However, this Table of figures, on page 31 of my Report, is very significant in itself.

8779. Generally speaking, did you form an opinion as to the applicability of either system to this country?—Yes. I thought they were neither applicable to this country; and I may say that the director of the free colonies, who knows this country pretty well (he lived in Scotland for a good many years, and he speaks English very well indeed), thought, from his knowledge of his own system, and from his knowledge of the beggar colony system, that they would not be really of any use to this country. The impression that remained on my mind, after visiting the beggar colony and doing my best to get at the back history of it from reading reports and books, was that the Government would have been extremely glad to have done away with it if they were not committed to it; but there the things were, and they could hardly give them up.

8780. At all events, there is no disposition to extend the system or to create a new colony?—No, I think I may safely say that. That is one of the questions I asked when I wrote to Holland the other day, but I have had no answer.

8781. Is there any fault found with these colonies in Holland on the ground of their competing with the outside agriculturists in the market?—I do not think that is so in the case of the free colonies.

8782. With the benefit of public charity or public funds in one form or another, they are able, I presume, to compete to the disadvantage of the outside farmer?—They consume their own productions to such a large extent that I do not remember that striking us very much. The manufactures, of course, did compete, especially in the case of the beggar colonies, the manufactures competed a great deal there; there was a considerable output of manufactured articles from the beggar colonies.

8783. There would be some noise about that if we attempted it here, I suppose?—I should think so, probably.

8784. As regards the cost of these colonies, I understand that the sources of support are public subscription and some State aid?—Those were the original sources entirely. In 1859 the beggar colonies were separated definitely from the society, and were taken over by the State. The

Chairman—continued.

The State took them in part satisfaction of the debt to the State, and the State has the complete management now of the beggar colonies. The free colonies alone are managed by the society.

8785. The beggar colonies are paid for by the State?—They are now paid for by the State.

8786. What do you consider the success of the free colonies (so far as success has followed them), has been due to?—I suppose I should say to the fact that they have had good directors and have had good officials working with them, and that the districts have been pretty careful in their choice of families, and have not sent families that were not likely to succeed, and these men with the money advantages that they get, and the instruction, and being taken away from old surroundings, I suppose, have had a better chance than they would have had if they had tried to settle in the country on their own account. But, as I say, they do not manage to pay all their rent. I found it very difficult to get at the bottom of the financial question, and I do not think I succeeded in doing so; but in order to test the position of the free farmers, I particularly inquired on these two points: whether, as a matter of fact, the rents were well paid, and whether there was any sign of putting money away. In reply, I was told quite distinctly (and figures were supplied to me), that the rents were not fully paid, but that every year there were always some arrears of rent, and that there was no sign of saving to any great extent; it generally took the form of keeping another pig; there was no money laid by. So that I do not suppose that these men, with all their advantages, have been really doing much better than the outside farmers on similar lands just outside.

8787. It is an essential part of the system of free colonies, is it not, that the residence should be permanent?—Yes; they are not sent away.

8788. So that there is a very small output or input of subjects?—Yes, that is the essential part of it; they cling to that now, and that always has been so.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8789. There is nothing to induce them to go?—There is nothing to induce them to go.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8790. Apparently there is something to induce them to stay?—I was told that of late years there has often been a difficulty in filling up vacancies.

Chairman.

8791. As regards the numbers in their families, families in Holland are, as a rule, larger than in many other parts of the Continent, are they not?—I am not quite sure I could speak about that.

8792. While you acknowledge the success, up to a certain point, of free colonies, the beggar colonies, you say, cannot get along at all without considerable expense and without assistance from the State?—Yes, without large assistance from the State.

8793. They are compulsory in their constitution, are they not?—They are essentially compulsory in their constitution.

8794. Did you find that they were at all deterrent in their action upon begging; has this system had any effect in stopping begging or stopping the offences it is directed against?—Yes, I should say it has. You hardly ever see a beggar about in the streets; but I suppose it would be comparatively easy to bring that about; for if begging was always followed by imprisonment in this country, we should not see so many beggars either.

8795. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Dutch colonies before we turn to the Belgian colonies?—I think not.

8796. Now, as to the Belgian labour colonies, when did you visit them?—I visited them in October 1890; but I may say I did not go into the matter with regard to them nearly so minutely as I did in the case of the Dutch colonies. I happened to be at Antwerp for a conference that was sitting there, and the conference authorities arranged for an excursion on one day to the Labour Colony at Merxplas, and I naturally chose that particular excursion. The Director of the colony supplied us with a printed statement of the history of the management of the colonies, and I took that as the groundwork of my report; and I wrote into it everything I observed myself, and had it looked over by the Director.

8797. The Director found no fault with it?—What little alterations he made I embodied in the report, so that it is practically what he said.

8798. Where are the colonies situated?—They are situated at the north-east of Antwerp.

8799. If I recollect rightly, that is the same moorland heathery country as in the case of the Dutch colonies?—It is very much the same kind of country I should say.

8800. Can you say anything as to the origin of these colonies?—They survive out of a number of old *Depôts de Mendicité.* These were the provincial *Depôts de Mendicité* in the country in 1830, and there were certain colonies of a society rather like the Dutch society, the *Société de Bienfaisance.* They have all been closed now except those at Hoogstraeten and Merxplas.

8801. Then is there also a free colony at Wortel?—There are no inhabitants at Wortel; it is only ground where the inhabitants of other colonies go to work, at least it was so in 1890. The size of these three together amounts to about 950 acres.

8802. What is the population?—The population is about 4,000; it is rather larger in winter. They have accommodation for about 4,900.

8803. How is that population brought together; what is the compelling force?—The compelling force is that they are brought by the decision of the police courts under the law of March the 6th, 1866.

8804. So that they are penal institutions?—They are in the nature of penal institutions.

8805. For what class of people are they provided?—Every able-bodied person above 14 years of age found in a state of vagabondage must be arrested and brought before a police magistrate. If found begging he may be arrested, and, if arrested, must be brought before a magistrate, and may be punished with from one

Chairman—continued.

to seven days' imprisonment, and from 15 days to six months' state of subjection to Government disposal. They send them to these colonies in the course of their Government disposal. Then every non-able-bodied person or every person under 14 years of age found begging or in a state of vagabondage may be arrested and brought before a magistrate, and in this latter case the period of subjection to Government disposal may be extended to two years; so that two years is the maximum period and 15 days the minimum period.

8806. Do any people come in voluntarily to these colonies?—There are also some who come in voluntarily, "indigents," which I translate as "paupers"; although I do not suppose it answers to our technical word "pauper." "The colonies receive paupers ('indigents') who choose to offer themselves, provided that they are furnished with the necessary authority from the burgomaster and aldermen of their place of settlement." "Such voluntary inmates may be discharged after one month, if it is their first admission, and after six months, or one year at the most, if they have returned within 12 months after their last preceding discharge." So that even the voluntary inmates when once in are only allowed to go out subject to that rule.

8807. Is the place enclosed or shut in in any way?—There is no wall round the outside. I do not think it is enclosed. They have a number of soldiers there. It is a small military post. When I was there they had 140 soldiers and officers there, simply in order to keep discipline, and to prevent the colonists running away. But the colonists do not very often run away; the authorities look after them too sharply.

8808. Are these colonies self-supporting in any way?—No; they do not make both ends meet; that I was clearly told. The daily cost is fixed every year by order of the Government, the amount the communes are to contribute is fixed, and they pay so much per head per day.

8809. For each man, according to his residence?—Yes; and according to whether he is able-bodied or not able-bodied.

8810. Could you say what the cost so charged usually is?—What I found was that it was 65 centimes a day for an able-bodied and 85 centimes for an un-able-bodied or infirm person. That was the rate at the time when I was there.

8811. Do you know if that is supposed to cover the cost of keeping them; it is a small amount, is it not?—It is small; but then, of course, there is whatever they can make besides.

8812. Do you regard these penal institutions as being either deterrent on the one hand, or reformatory on the other?—I was given to understand that they were not so; but of course I could only judge from what I was told. I had no back figures to go upon in that case; but I was told it was certainly not so. The men certainly came back to the colony over and over again. If I remember rightly, one of the officials to whom I spoke told me that when 86 men were brought in at one time to the place, and he directed those who had never been there before to stand up, out of the 86 only six moved.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

8813. Are they all mendicants?—Mendicants or vagrants; the classification is very careful and very well done.

Chairman.

8814. Is it your impression that the colonies were well managed?—The discipline was extremely good. The people worked much better than they did at the Dutch beggar colonies; they were evidently kept up to the mark much more.

8815. The conditions were altogether more stringent?—Much more so.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8816. They seem to like it, as they come back?—They do come back. I suppose vagabondage is rather a difficult habit to shake off.

Chairman.

8817. Again let me ask you, as I asked about the Dutch system, what do you think of the application of this system to this country; do you think it feasible?—I think if it were applied it would not apply to the kind of unemployed cases which, I presume, your Committee are principally considering. It might do for beggars and vagrants, but there is nothing particularly cheap in it, and I do not think it can really compare with our ordinary workhouse system.

8818. If public opinion in England is prepared to go the length of supporting a law that beggars are to be punished by this kind of detention, there might be some chance of success for such institutions?—I think so. Certainly they do show that they keep the people out of the way; and the sexes being separate, there are certain advantages from that course also.

8819. But, as you say, it does not touch the case we are dealing with, of the usually well-employed and laborious man, who, through some circumstances not directly affecting himself or arising from his own conduct, cannot obtain labour and therefore falls into distress?—It seemed to me as if it would not touch that case. I cannot see how it could be applied for that purpose.

8820. Do you think any State labour farms are likely to be of use in that respect?—I do not. I imagine the unemployed question which the Committee is considering arises chiefly in regard to town people and operatives, and that kind of people, who are not fitted for agricultural pursuits, as a rule, and that any labour farm would probably follow the history of the Dutch labour farms in this respect: that manufactures would have to be started, or some other kind of occupation found besides agricultural work, and it would drift away from being a labour farm into being a State manufacturing industry, which some people think is advisable, but I do not.

8821. But is there any sense in which you think labour farms might be of use?—The only way it has ever occurred to me in which they might be utilised was that if private individuals choose to start such labour farms as a mere training-ground through which to pass men or families in order to render them fit for emigration to other countries, where their agricultural training

Chairman—continued.

training would come in useful, then, with carefully-selected characters, it is possible people might be made fit for emigration, and likely to succeed as emigrants, who otherwise would not succeed. But from what I saw from the cases that came before me on the occasion I mentioned in my former evidence, I think there are very few such instances among unemployed cases which are likely to turn out well in that way. That, however, is the only way in which, so far as I can see, labour farms might be utilised.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8822. They have not worked in that way abroad, have they?—Not at all; because they have gone on a permanent line. It would be an entirely different thing from the free colonies of the Dutch.

Chairman.

8823. Any such experiments as you speak of you would leave to private enterprise and not to the State?—Yes, I would. I do not think it is within the duty of the State to undertake or support such experiments. They can only hope to succeed by re-creating the very energy and self-reliance, the loss of which has probably caused the need.

Mr. *Mather.*

8824. Your experience of the Dutch colonies, judging from your evidence, would lead you to conclude that they were institutions established in Holland by public charity in lieu of a national workhouse system or Poor Law such as we have in England?—You are speaking of the beggar colonies, I suppose.

8825. I am referring to the whole scheme. The free colonies, of course, arise out of the beggar colonies to a certain extent?—Yes, or rather it is the other way.

8826. From the nature of these colonies, judging from your description which is given in greater length in your book, it is obvious that in Holland there is no Poor Law system, there are no workhouses, and, I should judge, few orphanages; in this charitable, philanthropic movement on the part of a certain society they have gathered together the means to mitigate the conditions of life to the halt, the lame, the blind, the depraved, and the vagabond class, and to give an opportunity to such as may rise out of such classes of gaining a decent livelihood?—The free colonies do possibly raise a man, if he was not doing well before. When he gets into a free colony he has a chance of raising himself from the position of a labourer to the position of a farmer. The beggar colonies deal more with the class you speak about; that is to say, they take people who have altogether failed; but I do not think they raise them.

8827. They are more like our workhouses?—They are more like our workhouses.

8828. But, in addition to the workhouse occupations that we pursue here, they have these land-tillage and out-door occupations connected with the colony?—Yes, they take able-bodied people, of course.

8829. If in Holland they had the same workhouse system or Poor Law system as we have, these beggar colonies would naturally have never been started, would they?—I should think not.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

8830. You made a somewhat emphatic statement, during your evidence, that manufactures seem to be a necessary feature in the colony; or you intimated that, unless manufactures could be started amongst these people, and manufactures which necessarily compete with the outside market, the colony could not be made to pay out of the land itself?—I did.

8831. Of course you are aware that the land selected in Holland for these colonies is extremely poor land?—Yes.

8832. It was an arid desert practically, to begin with; and you give us, in your Appendix XI., the value of the products of such land after some years of cultivation?—Yes.

8833. If I understand you rightly, you consider that the yield from the land of the colonists at the present time is a very poor yield compared with any equal area of land in England of an ordinary character?—I will not say I have expressed any definite opinion about that. The test was that the farmers did not succeed in making enough money to pay their rents.

8834. I have made a calculation from the figures you give in Appendix IX.; I see you say that the average yield per hectare was, in the case of beans, 16 hectolitres; I suppose a hectolitre is about 2¾ bushels?—Yes.

8835. And a hectare is about 2½ acres?—Yes.

8836. Then that would represent 18 bushels per acre as the yield of their land?—Yes; that is so.

8837. Is it too much to expect that ordinary English land would give 30 bushels per acre of the same crop, beans?—I would rather not express an opinion about a farming point.

8838. In barley also you give the results as 23 hectolitres to the hectare, or about 25 bushels to the acre reduced to English measure?—Yes.

8839. I suppose English land would produce about 38 bushels to the acre, between 35 and 38?—I daresay you are correct.

8840. You do not mean to say that the land of these free colonies, or any of the land they use for this purpose, is land at all equal to ordinary English land?—No.

8841. So that, so far as the product of the labour can be estimated, whatever the labour might be (good, bad, or indifferent), the result, when working on very poor land, could not possibly be as good as when working upon the land which we have to deal with in England generally?—Of course the prices in 1888 were not the same.

8842. The Hadleigh Colony, in Essex, had an idea of starting manufactures when they began, and they rather largely spent their money in putting down plant for manufactures, and the consequence was that they lost about 4,000*l.* in one year; but when they stopped them, as they have done in the last year or two, and devoted their labour to agriculture, they have turned their loss into a profit; are you aware of that fact?—I was not aware of it.

8843. You gave rather a positive statement about manufactures being necessary to make these

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

places pay, and you said that the manufactures have to be sold in the open market, therefore competing with the ordinary workmen of the country; I only want to point out that in the case of the only experiment in England that we have at all on similar lines for the vagrant and criminal class (that is the class at Hadleigh Farm; the Submerged Tenth as it is called), the labour was found to be most profitable when devoted solely to agriculture; are you aware of the facts in regard to the Hadleigh experiment?—I have heard a good deal about it. I do not wish to give any evidence about it. I believe the condition of the colony is subject to a good deal of qualification as to figures; the cost of supervision, &c.

8844. You have referred to a letter sent to you by the Director of the Dutch Free Colonies after having read your article upon the colonies?—Yes.

8845. May I call your attention to the fact that he, in criticising your article, says that you "too much overlook the fact that this is an institution of philanthropical character; it would not, indeed, be difficult to modify the present system in such a manner as to show a profit. Certainly the society could cease to support aged and infirm colonists," and so on; he somewhat doubts your conclusion as to the colony having proved a failure altogether, and reminds you that the colony was established not for the purpose of making any profit, but for using the contributions of a certain charitable society to help a certain number of people?—That is the part of his letter which I referred to in my former evidence. I have never said it was a failure. I only said it did not make such a yearly output as to give us any reason for supposing it could deal with big questions as we have to deal with here.

8846. He also calls your attention to the fact that in Holland they have very extraordinary expenses, in consequence of the nature of their institutions, for the erection of schools and churches, and so on; so that they were not establishing the colony for the purpose of farming only, but really to supply the wants of the indigent population of the whole colony; that is the conclusion, I think, that he puts before you?—He refers to a number of points.

8847. So that in no sense of the word is the colony regarded, by the Director at all events, as anything but a means of supplying workhouse life with the test of labour through agriculture instead of the test which we employ in this country?—I do not think the free colonies were ever meant to be like the workhouse. I think it was more as the Director puts it, a philanthropic institution. There was no question of test at all; it was intended to be a charitable society, and that it claims still to be.

8848. The society continues, I presume, in full vigour at the present time?—I believe so; but, as I say, I have received no answer to my recent letter.

8849. But you are aware, no doubt, that other reports have been issued about the colonies since your visit in 1888, even so recently as 1893?—I have heard so.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8850. You consider that these colonies, as I understand, are no cure for the unemployed problem here?—I think not.

8851. To carry them out large State grants are necessary, are they not?—I think the history of the Dutch colonies proves that is so.

8852. And nothing could be done without large State grants?—Large grants from some quarter or another.

8853. Do I understand, in your judgment, they have failed as a means of raising the people that work on them?—The free colonies have certainly raised those who have worked on them; but it is by reason of their permanent nature.

8854. Have they made the people more independent?—I should fancy they have; because I believe they were people who were in great want when they were presented to these particular livings, so to speak.

8855. Have they made them able to fight the battle of life themselves without all this machinery?—It is very difficult to say. Of course they are not called upon to do so.

8856. Anyhow, as regards the beggar colonies, the Dutch scheme has not done so?—No; nor in the free colonies have the farmers there succeeded in doing what the farmers outside are doing every day, namely, standing on their own feet.

8857. That is to say, they have not made them independent men?—No.

8858. They have been very costly, have they not?—They have been very costly.

8859. The labour in many cases, I understand, has cost 15 times its proper cost?—That was in the beggar colonies.

8860. Then they have hardly promoted thrift?—No; there seems to be no sign of that at all.

8861. Can you say that they have really reformed the characters of the men, and made them into ideal citizens?—In the case of the beggar colonies I should say certainly not. In the case of the free colonies they are inmates of a charitable institution, and they seem to be a very self-respecting, respectable sort of people; but there they are; they are provided for to that extent.

8862. Really and truly, the philanthropic idea of making the men absolutely independent has not been realised?—No.

8863. Do you recommend this sort of system in any way to this country?—No, I do not.

8864. You think it would not be of use?—I do not think it would. That is my own opinion.

8865. You would not wish certainly to see it tried with State funds?—Certainly not with State funds.

8866. If it were tried at all, even by private means, you think it would be a doubtful experiment?—I think so.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

8867. These farms do not take in the whole of the pauper class of Holland, do they?—No, by no means.

8868. Do they take in the unemployed class?—The beggar colony farms certainly do, so far as the unemployed might pass through the police courts as beggars or as vagrants.

8869. Have they any task allotted to them as to

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

to the amount of work they have to do every day?—Yes, they are subject to very strict discipline in the colonies when they get there.

8870. That discipline is instituted by the Government?—Yes.

8871. Now, do you suppose that any private enterprise adopting a system of that kind could succeed, without the intervention of a strong government to enforce discipline?—I think it would be very difficult indeed.

8872. I see the cost is about 62*l.* a-head per annum; does that include women and children?—Are you speaking of beggar colonies?

8873. I am speaking of what you call free colonies. I gather from this Blue Book that you state that the annual outlay, exclusive of interest, is about 739 gulden; that is the amount given in this Blue Book as being the amount in 1891?—I may say I have not seen anything of the Dutch colonies since 1888. I was not there in 1891.

8874. Are there any foreigners in these beggar colonies?—I cannot tell you, I do not know.

8875. Are they confined to the Dutch nationality?—I do not think they are confined to the Dutch nationality. I suppose if a foreigner was taken up for begging he would be sent to the beggars' colony.

8876. Are they allowed to work at any other trade but farming?—Yes.

8877. Do they work at any other trade?—Yes.

8878. What trades do they work at?—In Appendix XIII. of my report is a list of the products of manufactures from the Dutch beggar colonies in 1885, which I think would answer your question. They turn out linen, cotton, calico, woollen and sacking goods, and a whole number of things.

8879. How do they dispose of those goods?—They were disposed of to a large extent to the Government.

8880. They are not allowed, I suppose, to sell them on their own account in the big towns?—No. I think not.

8881. Does the population of these labour colonies increase in bad times?—The free colonies remain very stationary. As regards the beggar colonies I have got no means of giving you the figures over a period of years, and therefore I cannot tell you.

8882. I think you told Mr. Bartley just now that you did not think that this system would in any way meet the unemployed difficulty in this country?—Quite so.

8883. You say there is strict discipline in the Dutch beggar colonies; are drinks allowed in the colonies?—I think not, but I am not quite certain. The discipline I was thinking of was that they have different description of punishment. I see there are punishments for indulging in drink, so I suppose sometimes they got it whether they were allowed it or not. I do not think they were allowed drink.

8884. What I wanted to arrive at was this: I wanted to know whether any restriction was placed on the colonists as to whether they would be permitted to get any quantity of drink of various kinds?—Certainly, speaking to the best of my recollection, I think the regulations would not allow them to have drink.

8885. Are the colonies carried on on the principle of temperance?—Yes, I think so; I think I am clear about that. I have before me here the diet, and there is no mention whatever of any intoxicant.

8886. And yet you say some men were fined and punished for drinking?—I suppose they got the drink smuggled in; it must have been managed in that way.

8887. Can you tell the Committee whether these colonies are managed on total abstinence principles?—I believe they are. I cannot give you the information more clearly than I have.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

8888. The principle of your union, I gather, is to give no permanent outdoor relief at all, except to the old and infirm?—Except to those who are not capable of being moved to the workhouse.

8889. In fact, you only give it to those to whom you cannot give indoor relief on account of physical infirmity?—That is the principle.

8890. May I ask how much you give in the case of outdoor relief?—It depends entirely upon the case. We always go upon the principle that when we give it we give enough. I have known relief given to as high an amount as 12*s.* a week.

8891. Was that a single case?—It was the case of a family. It was a case where a man had met with an accident and could not be moved and could not follow his ordinary avocation.

8892. Was that a permanent case?—No; it went on for about three months, I think.

8893. I am asking about these permanent cases of relief to the old; can you tell me what the amount would be in such a case?—I know of one case where we are giving relief to the value of 4*s.* 6*d.*, and a nurse at 7*s.* a week.

8894. That is relief partly in money and partly in kind?—Yes, in that case we are giving relief to the value, including the nurse, of 11*s.* 6*d.* a week to that one woman.

8895. Have you no voluntary association for providing nurses?—Some parishes have and some have not. I think that particular parish has not. But in this particular instance, from the nature of the case, there has to be a resident nurse in the house with the woman.

8896. Had you much change in the constitution of your board at the last election?—Yes, a good deal. We had, I think, 10 or 12 new members.

8897. Was the question of out-relief in any way made a test question at the election?—It was in some parishes.

8898. What was the result in those parishes?—In certainly one or two parishes the members of the old board were not returned on that particular ground; but in many cases, where I believe it was also fought, they were returned, and as a matter of fact we have now on the board, I think, a majority, if it came to voting, of something like 25 or 26 in favour of the existing policy of the board.

8899. But, at all events, there are a certain number

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

number of electors in your union who are not entirely in accord with the policy of the board in that respect?—Yes; I think there is every sign that it is telling gradually and by degrees upon the habits of the people. But there always will be, I am afraid, people who would like to get out-relief if they could.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

8900. You expressed the view that these penal colonies hardly touch the question of the unemployed?—I did.

8901. Just let me draw your attention to one point; your own district, in which you are chairman of the board of guardians, is a rural district, is it not?—It is.

8902. In the urban districts, is it not the fact that considerable difficulty arises in dealing with those out of employment from the fact that the incorrigibly lazy, and idle and worthless, are more or less mixed up in the question with those who would work if they could, but who have not any work to do?—Yes, I believe so.

8903. And if we had in this country the same system of dealing with tramps and beggars, and incorrigibly lazy persons throughout the year, so far we should deal with a certain number who otherwise, when pressure from want of employment came, would swell the volume of those who were seeking for relief?—Do you mean dealing with them in the sense of a test?

8904. No, I mean if throughout the year we had in operation such a system as is in operation in Belgium and in Holland, of dealing with all tramps and beggars and incorrigibly idle persons who are left to prey on society in some form or other, we should so far get rid to a large extent of a portion of the population who now in times of want of employment help to swell the number of unemployed and make it more difficult to deal with the question?—No doubt it is quite true that if you get them shut up they would not be there to swell the numbers of the unemployed.

8905. You have said that the result of this system so far as you saw it in Holland was that there were no beggars to be seen in the streets?—Yes.

8906. Would that include the class of tramps do you think?—I should say so. They seemed to be very free from that class of person in Holland.

8907. A person tramping about the country from place to place such as we have here, living on charity, would in Holland be arrested and sent to a penal colony, I take it?—Yes; if he was found begging he would.

8908. There are a certain number who according to your figures come voluntarily to these colonies?—Yes.

8909. Does that really show that this system has no deterrent effect, do you think?—Of course you may put it either way. You may say you always are getting the very people you want to get, and therefore it is a success; or you may say that because you are always getting them, therefore you are not improving their condition.

8910. There are a certain class of idle and worthless persons, are there not, who, rather than earn a living by any efforts of their own, would even prefer to be in a prison, much more a workhouse or a labour colony; you know that there are such people in this country?—I believe there are. I am glad to say we have very few of those in Bradfield.

8911. Still we know there are certain persons who are willing to commit some offences against the law with the object of spending their days in prison when they have come out of prison?—I have understood so.

8912. But that would hardly show, would it, that the prison was not, after all, a deterrent to a large part of the community; you follow what I mean?—Yes.

8913. When you come to look to see what the results of these penal colonies are, do you not think it is rather a question of statistics; is it not a question of the proportion of tramps and beggars to the total population; is not that the fair way of looking at it?—No doubt that would be a very interesting line to follow up.

8914. I suppose there are no such statistics available?—I am afraid I have not got them.

8915. You may perhaps be able to tell us what the total accommodation in the Dutch penal colonies is at any one time?—I think I can give you that.

8916. I see at page 31 of your book it appears that in December 1885 there were 3,253 beggars and vagrants in the two colonies you mention there?—Yes.

8917. Are those the two penal colonies?—Yes.

8918. Those two colonies exhaust the 4,000 and odd acres you spoke of?—Yes. I was looking at page 27, where you will see this passage, "At Ommerschans at the time of our visit there were about 400 souls only. In January 1886 there were about 1,400. The transfer from Ommerschans to Veenhuizen will be completed in about two years. At Veenhuizen there were then" (that was in January 1886) "in the three colonies about 2,020; so that it works out at very much the same total, taking the two together; that is to say, 3,420 in January, as against 3,253 in December.

8919. I do not know if you could go further and give us any idea of the number of people dealt with there in the course of the year?—I am afraid I could not give that.

8920. For what sort of terms are these beggars and mendicants sentenced?—You will find at the foot of page 27 a translation of the two articles in the new penal law of March 1881, under which they are sentenced; under Article 432, "Public beggary is punished by imprisonment of 12 days at the utmost."

8921. That imprisonment of 12 days does not refer to being sent to a penal settlement; it refers to imprisonment in a gaol, does it not?—Yes, it refers to imprisonment in a gaol. Then Article 434: "If at the time of the committing of one of the offences named in the two former articles a year has not elapsed since the delinquent was sentenced irrevocably (in last instance) for one of those offences, the punishment can be increased by one-third, and the delinquent, if capable to work, be condemned to be placed in a Government working house for at the most three years."

The

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

The "working house" there referred to, I understand from the translator of this passage, is the same as the beggar colony.

8922. Then three years is the maximum?—That is the maximum.

8923. Have you any idea of what sentences are given; I suppose they do not send a man there for a week?—No; the sentences are longer than that.

8924. I see on page 27, at the bottom, you say "the period of their stay varies from six months to three years"?—That is so.

8925. Now we may go, perhaps, one step further: taking the figures you gave us of 3,252 as the number being there on one day, if the period is from six months to three years, there would perhaps be from 5,000 to 6,000 dealt with in the course of the year; it would not be more than that probably?—No, it looks something like that.

8926. What is the population of Holland?—I am afraid I cannot tell you that at the moment.

8927. After all, as regards the general effect on Holland, the proportion of the number of beggars dealt with in these colonies, as compared with the total population of Holland, is an important matter in considering the relative success of these colonies, is it not?—I suppose it is; I do not know how you are going to determine the proportion of beggars in this country; you would have to get a series of years to show whether it was increasing or diminishing.

8928. I was coming to that; I would like to ask you could not you give us a little better idea than you have done hitherto of the part which these beggar colonies play in the complete system, whatever it is, in Holland for dealing with the poor and the idle; you have given it as a separate thing; I want to know how it works as an integral part of whatever system there is in Holland, and what part it plays in that system?—There are worse cases, which go on from these beggar colonies to other places of restraint. For instance, you will find at Hoorn there is a place of restraint for beggars who are sent there from these colonies as a punishment. They are practically the same class of men, but the worst kind of that class. I am afraid I cannot give you more information about it than what is given in my Report.

8929. Perhaps you a little misunderstand my question. Supposing a person in Holland is starving, is there any State or municipal system by which he could get relief?—I have been told he gets relief through the ministers of religion.

8930. Has he any right to it?—I believe he has a claim to it as charity. I have asked my relations in Holland that very question. I have not gone into it as a matter of looking it up in books of authority, but I have talked to my own relations on the subject, and I have been told that if a man was in need and in danger of starvation in their particular neighbourhood, if he went to the ministers of religion of his own particular denomination they would be bound to see to it; and I am told that they do.

8931. You say there is a kind of Poor Law system in Holland which is worked by the clergy?—That is what I understand, but of course without any workhouse, and only as a matter of charitable relief; how they get over the difficulty of begging, and why it is that the man is not sent off to a beggar colony for begging, I do not understand.

8932. How does that system work. Supposing there is a man permanently disabled without means, somehow or other, I understand from you he would have, on applying to the clergy, say, a weekly allowance?—Yes.

8933. How would that money be raised?—I fancy it comes from charitable subscriptions, or money in the hands of the clergy; but I would rather not be pressed much about that point, because I am afraid I should give evidence that you ought not to rely upon as being very accurate. It is some years since I talked to my people about it, and my memory may be inaccurate.

8934. You are chairman of a board of guardians, and you have condemned this system of penal colonies in Holland, and I put it to you whether, to judge it fairly, you must not look at it as part of the whole system, whatever it may be in Holland, of dealing with the poor?—Yes; that, I think, is very fair.

8935. We have a certain class of unemployed in England who are called tramps, and are dealt with as tramps; let me put, with regard to our treatment of them, two or three questions that were put with regard to the Belgian system. Do you think our English system with tramps reforms them?—No.

8936. Do you think that it makes them more thrifty?—No.

8937. Do you think it has been a financial success?—No, I do not.

8938. Again, ought you not, as an element in judging of the cost of the system, to compare how much per head is spent in Holland in poor relief, with the corresponding figure that is spent in England in poor relief?—Yes.

8939. Those figures you cannot give?—You will see Sir John MacNeill's statement on that point if you will turn to page 17: "A Dutchman" (Sir John MacNeill concluded) "was made a colonist and kept a pauper at the rate of about 6*l.* 10*s.* a year; a Scotchman, if the difference of living in the two countries were taken into account, would be made a colonist and kept a pauper at the rate of about 8*l.* 10*s.* a year."

8940. Is that through the Poor Law in Scotland?—No, that would be if they established colonies in Scotland. "With no colonies," he says, "the Scotch pauper costs less than that sum."

8941. Ought we not to look at the thing as a whole. Here in England we have a certain system of Poor Law. Can you say what it costs altogether in England if you take the whole of the poor rates throughout the country?—I would rather not make a guess at it.

8942. That is an element that really ought to be considered, is it not, if you are to make a real comparison of the systems as regards their efficiency?—Yes. If you are to compare the two systems as regards their efficiency in dealing with the beggar classes, I think you are pursuing a very right and wise line, if I may say so; because

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

because there is no doubt if public opinion would back up a law in England authorising the authorities to deal with the beggar classes in England on lines something like those adopted in Holland, you would get rid of a great deal of public scandal and beggars, and a great many objectionable persons would disappear from view who would be treated more or less well, and more or less economically in institutions to which they would go, and it might show a good result, a not more expensive result, or perhaps even a less expensive result, than the present system. But whether one would be justified in trying to get such a law passed, or could get it passed, is another point.

8943. Public opinion is a thing we shall have to deal with, and I hope we shall help to form it a little by our conclusions. But let me ask you, as chairman of a board of guardians, and knowing the Dutch and Belgian systems, is it not your view that our Poor Law system would be improved if we had the means of dealing with tramps and beggars and the incorrigibly idle by sentencing them in some way to some penal sort of work for a year or two, or three years, or whatever the time might be, in a somewhat similar way to what is done in Holland and Belgium?—I do not think you would improve your tramp or your vagrant. It is true we do not improve them now, as it is. I do not think we have succeeded at present.

8944. But looking at it from the point of view of the rest of the country, other than tramps and vagrants, would it not be an improvement?—I should not be prepared to go the length of thinking that we ought to punish people because they are poor, for that is what it would really come to: you would take these people and put restraint upon them because they were poor.

8945. No, not because they were poor, but because they were idle and refused to work?—There you come to the difficulty of ascertaining whether they were refusing to work; you simply find that they are not at work.

8946. That, of course, is a practical difficulty?—If you could be sure you had found a man who was idle because he would be idle, then, I think, you would almost have solved the whole problem.

8947. Then it comes to this, that if it were possible to select the idle class from the class of those who would work, you think they might be dealt with by means of some penal work imposed upon them?—Yes; if the man was out of employment simply from his own choice and not because he could not get employment, I would go so far as that; but I am afraid that is a large "if."

Mr. *Lawrence.*

8948. I suppose the financial failure of both the free and beggar colonies was founded on the idea, which did not prove to be correct, that when the labour had fully developed the ground, the ground would be an adequate asset to meet the expense?—I think that was the idea.

8949. That really is not found to be the case?—Apparently not.

8950. It is the case, is it not, that about

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

80 acres are required for 40 or 50 men in the beggar colonies?—Yes; I think that is right.

8951. And in the Dutch colonies and in the Belgian colonies you have to have horse patrols and other means of keeping the people on the ground?—Yes. There is much less supervision required in the Dutch colonies from what I saw than in the Belgian.

8952. But there are rewards for the recovery of fugitives in Holland; are there not?—Yes, it is so.

8953. So that if in England we passed an Act to forbid people tramping, and if we confined them on a model farm of this character, the chances are we should have to go in for the same methods of detention?—Yes.

8954. In nine years, I understand, only 41 families were affected by the free labour colonies?—Yes.

8955. You have stated that there is difficulty in adding to their number; have you stated to the Committee the advantages which the free labour colonists started with already?—I do not think I gave them very fully.

8956. Is it not the case that the free labour colonists started with a low rent and no interest charged on arrears?—That is so.

8957. And with an outfit, with cows and manure, &c., on easy terms?—Yes.

8958. And work to be had in the society's workshops in bad times?—Yes.

8959. Cheap doctoring and education, besides instruction and superintendence gratis, and the general indulgences granted by a friendly landlord?—Yes, that is so.

8960. Your information now is that practically this favoured class has great difficulty in adding to its numbers; it is practically stagnating in its social advance?—Yes, that is so.

8961. I suppose that the psychological failure was owing to the fact that a competence was secured to all, and extra diligence brought no adequate aid to stimulate further diligence?—Yes. That is specially true of the beggar colonies.

8962. I believe in the beggar colonies they actually give medals for good work?—They did. I think that is discontinued now. That was under the old system.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

8963. I want to ask you a question or two about your evidence last week with regard to your mode of giving relief in the Bradfield Union; you told us, as I understood, that in every case you granted relief by way of loan and not by way of absolute gift?—That is our practice.

8964. Do you inform the applicant that the relief is given on those terms?—Yes, we do.

8965. I believe you are the only board of guardians that carries that practice to that extreme?—I did not know we were.

8966. Can you give me the name of any other board of guardians that acts as you do in the matter?—I thought that Brixworth did, but I am not certain of it.

8967. You are probably aware that the Poor Law Act of 1834 gives you power to do this, subject

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

subject to an order made by the central board?—Yes, I believe that is so.

8968. The central board has made such an order, and accompanied the order with an instructional letter. I want to ask you whether your attention has been called to the following words in that instructional letter?—Would you kindly give me the date of the letter you refer to?

8969. It was circulated when the prohibitory order was issued. It is dated 1852, but it is not out of date, because it is quoted in current text books on the subject. I am quoting from the original document. The words of the instructional letter are as follows: "The power of lending is only to be exercised where the guardians think fit to do something less than absolutely give the relief applied for in cases where the application is lawful. In such cases, and in such only, they may lend it; and such loans should never be made without being in due time strictly recovered." My question is, whether you carry out the terms of that instructional letter, and whether you do strictly recover those loans?—I am bound to say we do not always recover the loan. The applicant is informed at the date of application that relief, if given, will be given on loan; but as a matter of fact, if these circumstances are such that we do not think we can recover it, we do not enforce it.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

8970. As a matter of fact, you only get back a mere fraction of what you ought to get back in this matter?—Yes.

8971. Then does it not follow you are not complying with the instructional letter of the central board by which you are bound?—I should like to have another opportunity of looking into it. I may say I found this practice in force when I joined the board. It has never been called in question before, either by the auditors or in any other shape or form, and it is a new point to me that any doubt should be expressed as to the legality of it. We have found no difficulty in enforcing payment when we thought it was a proper case to enforce it.

8972. Does not it appear to you, now that I have read the words of the letter, that you are not complying with the instructional letter?—It seems to me, so far as I followed the words, that our fault is rather that we do not enforce the payments more than we do.

8973. Do not the words I read rather imply that you are only to grant money by way of loan when there is a reasonable prospect of recovering the loan, and that you are not to grant it by way of loan in all cases indiscriminately?—You may put it in that way, no doubt; but I should like to have an opportunity of looking into it.

Friday, 17*th May* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. Whiteley.
Mr John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. WILLIAM MATHER (a Member of the Committee), Examined.

Chairman.

8974. YOU are a Member of this House and of this Committee, and you are desirous of giving evidence before the Committee?—I am.

8975. I believe you wish to make a preliminary statement?—Yes, I desire to make a general statement before the scheme which I am about to put before the Committee is examined in detail; because I think I need to offer to the Committee some justification for the temerity I have displayed in venturing, as a manufacturer in one of the great industrial districts of the country, to trespass, as it were, upon questions relating to farming and agriculture. But I hope to show, in the statement I shall make, that there is a distinct relation between the two questions so far as the subject is concerned with which we have to deal in this Committee; and I hope my colleagues will feel, when I have made my general statement, that at least I have some slight *locus standi* on the question.

My object in submitting this scheme is to afford to our Committee the opportunity of examining into the merits of farm colonies as a means of employment (*a*) of a *temporary* character for those working men, the bread-winners of families, whose regular work from any cause may have been suspended, and who have been in search of fresh employment without success, whose savings have been spent, and whose homes would next have to be sacrificed and their goods pawned or sold; (*b*) of a *permanent* character, for those who have been displaced, without hope of restitution, in the ever-changing conditions of labour in the manufacturing industries, from the trades and occupations they have always followed.

It is necessary to take a view over the field of manufacturing industry before anyone can judge of the necessity for these proposals; and I will ask the Committee to permit me to make a general statement on the subject of employment. My experience as an employer of labour in Lancashire in one of the staple trades of the country, viz., that of engineering in various branches, has brought me into relation with many industries in which machinery is used, and has convinced me that severe hardships are suffered by a considerable number of well-conducted and eager working men, whatever the general prosperity in trade may be, while in times of great depression that number swells to a serious magnitude. The savings of such men and the resources of friendly societies and trade unions afford relief for a time, by a process the most wasteful that can be conceived of. No return can be made by the man spending from his own savings or from the savings of his fellow-workmen in the mutual help societies. He eats the bread of idleness, unwillingly and with humiliation. His whole life and character place him above the class who readily apply to the guardians for help, though he may, of all, be most entitled to benefit by the laws which were designed to help honest, diligent, but unfortunate men. He will not accept aid from the public or from charity. After receiving and exhausting what he may be entitled to from his former thrift, he proceeds to realise what simple possessions his home may contain, and he, his wife, and children, sink deeper and deeper into abject poverty.

Chairman—continued.

Now, this class of persons I have known all my life. They increase rapidly at times from various causes, and again diminish in number. The introduction of machinery in processes formerly performed by hand will, at least temporarily, displace men; and though improved machinery generally leads to cheaper production, followed by increased demand, and consequently affords in the long run new channels for more labour in the aggregate; yet, for a while, there is enforced idleness among the men displaced, and occupations have to be sought for, often in vain, by the first sufferers from a change which in the end may be a benefit to the community as a whole.

Another

Chairman—continued.

Another cause of displacement is in the inability of some men to readily adapt themselves to new methods of doing work. They may be slow of thought, and, though diligent and painstaking, they will not compare with some men of natural intelligence, though the latter may be objectionable in character and habits. When changes from any cause have to be made, the least resourceful and skilful are the first to feel it. Such men may be said to have missed their vocation. Manual labour has its tastes and proclivities. When an occupation accords with the natural taste of a man, he becomes skilful without conscious effort; when it is discordant, the utmost effort and self-coercion will not make a rapid and dexterous worker. I have had constant experience of this. I have no doubt whatever that thousands of men are now employed in manufactures who would be happier and more successful in agriculture, and *vice versâ*.

But the displacement of labour follows from a still more important cause, and one which will inevitably increase. Our manufactures themselves, under the competition of intellect and international rivalry, are ever changing, and changing at shorter intervals. A whole district is affected by a change of fashion in the world's garments. A successful novelty in the working up of raw material will denude a whole district of employment; and if such novelties are produced in a foreign country, as not infrequently happens, there is no possibility of our workpeople rushing to where the demand is, as they might from one district to another in our own country. Many examples of this have occurred. The town of Bradford was almost built up by the great alpaca and the allied trades many years ago; but not long ago a complete stagnation set in with most Bradford goods, and the production of novelties by Germany and France left Bradford actually stranded in idleness. This, however, was remedied by the courage and enterprise of its citizens. But re-construction and re-absorption are long processes in such cases, and meanwhile the manufacturing districts suffer terribly from want of work on the part of those who form the very pith and marrow of our industrial classes, and who, from their very nature, cannot, and will not, be paupers. We have had evidence before this Committee of this in another form in the case of the tinplate industry of South Wales.

All trades in this country have been subject in the past, and I think will be more subject in the future, to these contingencies. They are not inconsistent with real progress and general prosperity; for our own knowledge, education, taste, and enterprise will doubtless keep pace with other countries, now that we are well equipped with the means of using more of science and art in our industries. But even our own success in beating our neighbours will not diminish the changes of occupation and displacement of labour. It may not be that less labour in the aggregate will be required, say, from decade to decade, as increasing population absorbs more manufactures; but it may well be that in each manufactured thing less labour will be needed. Indeed, the novelties that attract the markets of the world are generally the result of cheapness

Chairman—continued.

with effectiveness; and the constant effect of invention is to arrive at this. To this end, economy of labour-cost is the first desideratum, not economy by reducing wages per man but by reducing labour as a whole; and the higher the wages per man the more this may be done. It gives a great incentive to mechanical devices, in the working of which the wages of the few persons needed may be largely increased with economy of result, owing to the increased intelligence demanded to work machinery that saves manual labour. We have seen this in a remarkable degree in the textile trades. Formerly a Blackburn weaver would work one loom at low wages; now he will work four looms and earn much higher wages. But much higher qualities are needed in the weaver; alertness, deftness, and forethought are rendered necessary by the high speed of weaving with more perfect machinery. Immensely more material is worked up into goods with immensely less labour, though the cost per weaver is much higher. And so on through all the trades, these changes are constant and will ever increase, displacing and curtailing labour, though adding to the gains of those who adapt themselves readily to work appliances which demand higher intelligence. In the iron and steel trades the same process is going on.

These changes are impossible of prevention, and lie in the very nature of things. But the sufferings, more or less of a temporary character, from these changes are unnecessarily intensified by abnormal movements from another source. While we are increasingly using our natural resources in this country in the form of minerals in our manufactures, we are decreasing in the use of our greatest natural resource, the land. Agricultural industry is decaying, and the population which ought to be occupied in cultivating to higher uses and greater increase the resources of nature, is streaming steadily to the manufacturing districts, there to intensify all the difficulties of employment, if it be not indeed the one great cause of those difficulties. The perennial source of employment and wealth, the land, is robbed of the labour whereby alone its fruits can be realised; while the labour required for manufacturing our mineral resources, and the other imported raw materials that we can profitably use in our manufactures, is far in excess of the demand. On the one hand, in our manufactures we are meeting the increasing competition of other nations, which compels us to economise labour at every point, not by diminishing the wages of individuals, but by reducing the number of workers; while, on the other hand, we are gradually forcing the population of the country to crowd our towns and manufacturing industries with labour that can only find employment by displacing the labour already there. If it were not for this anomaly, this subversion of natural law, our manufacturing industries of themselves, notwithstanding their fluctuations and their changes of methods, might absorb the population which grows with them. To find room and employment in the towns for those born in the country districts as well, is an impossibility.

It has been suggested that if the hours of labour for each man were to be reduced, more

Chairman—continued.

men would be employed, and consequently the manufacturing districts could carry, in comparative contentment, all the labour which is offered. If this were true, it would be only a temporary palliative. But the experience I have gained in reducing the hours at my own Works to what is called the eight hours day, makes even this doubtful. It has proved that an eight hours day is the day in which a man works at his best and produces most, because he feels continued zest in his work. It is natural to an honest and true man to love work. In all ranks of society, the honest, true, manly men love work. A man who does not love work, whether peer or peasant, is not a fully-developed man, mentally and morally. With shorter hours, therefore, there would be no guarantee for more men being needed, except to replace, by occasional night shifts in times of extraordinary pressure, overtime, which, under an eight hours day, cannot exist. It must always be borne in mind that there is the ever present possibility of substituting mechanism for men; and I have not the slightest doubt that in the future constant efforts will be made to employ less labour by increasing mechanical contrivances to supplant men, making the wage amount of these fewer number who remain a matter of comparative indifference; for only the picked and specially intelligent would be selected. In a universal eight hours day, or 48 hours week, however desirable in itself, there is no hope of permanent relief for the want of employment caused by the unnatural accumulation of working men in the manufacturing districts from the agricultural districts. It is not improbable that the opposite effect would be produced. But it is most desirable to work the shorter hours for other reasons altogether. Health and leisure on the one hand, and more enjoyable labour on the other, are in themselves most valuable and necessary. Once let employers and employed feel, by examples of this, that such boons may be acquired without diminishing production or reducing wages, and voluntary adoption of the shorter day will follow in all trades. This would, however, leave the ever-increasing volume of labour untouched.

But were the agricultural industries in as high a state of development as the manufacturing, a vast amount of labour would find employment, to the benefit of both. At the present time we have the reverse of this. For, although our manufacturers have profited by scientific methods, great energy, business capacity, and enterprise, they lose the advantage of much home demand for their manufactures owing to the gradual decrease in the yield of the land, and the absence therefrom of a large population of consumers who should exchange the fruits of their labours for the products of the manufacturing districts. And not only so, but this population burdens these districts with multitudes of men who are unproductive themselves, and who lessen the value of the productions of others. These are the conclusions which I have formed after many years' experience in the manufacturing districts as an employer.

It will not be disputed that our manufacturing industries are highly organised and developed. Of late years, through technical education and

Chairman—continued.

the spur of increasing competition, a continuous effort has been made to extend still further this development. The raw materials employed are worked up with a vigilant eye to their economy as to quantity and the excellence of the manufactured products.

Let us apply the test of criticism to the use of the raw material, namely, the land, in what should be the sister industry of agriculture. The contrast is immeasurable, and the spectacle deplorable. Take the Reports of the Royal Commissioners on Agriculture, Messrs. Wilson Fox, Hunter Pringle, Henry Rew, Jabez Turner, Aubrey Spencer, and Dr. Fream. They testify to general ruin and decay even in the best agricultural districts of the country. If our systems and methods of manufacturing the raw materials required in any branch of industry had remained where they were even 25 years ago, ruin and decay would have been stamped upon every manufacturing district, such as is now recorded in the agricultural districts. If, on the other hand, the same spirit of knowledge, enterprise, energy, intelligence, and co-operation had been displayed in the agricultural as in the manufacturing industries, there is no room for doubt that the yield of the land and the labour on the land would have been increased, tending to afford employment for labour from the towns instead of gorging the towns with labour from the country. Moreover, the whole nation would have been richer; for Nature would have responded to the hand of man and yielded greater increase to the general store.

Much has been written and spoken on the subject of colonies on the land. Prejudice, together with proofs of failure in some experiments, undoubtedly exist. But the condition of agriculture in England to-day affords altogether fresh elements in the question for us. The most favourable conditions exist for the revival of agricultural industry on new lines, which, while meeting to a large extent the employment of a class unable to live by work in our towns, would bring to agriculture the forces it needs to improve its position.

The proposals which I have submitted are not based on mere theory, or the imagination of benevolent persons. They are the result of investigations into many experiments under varied conditions, though differing from all hitherto existing in the selection of a class of the unemployed, which, being superior to the pauper class or casual workers so familiar to the guardians of the poor, are debarred on that account from accepting relief on like terms, either in the form of doles from the charity organisations, or through the workhouse system. The literature on this subject proves how largely the public mind is possessed with the idea that farm colonies have become a necessity. Expert agriculturists, scientific and practical, have expressed favourable views on the subject.

Benevolence and philanthropy have no part in the scheme submitted. Attempts to deal with so large a problem by private societies supported by subscriptions of benevolent persons would necessarily give the character of a charitable institution to the enterprise. To leave the question

to

Chairman—continued.

to speculative investors would be to leave it untouched, for no investors could afford to give the initial steps to prove what may be done. Their capital can only be used in enterprises which may be reasonably expected to yield speedy profitable results. However good the security, some immediate return is looked for, though it may be very small, before capitalists will enter upon such an enterprise. But where both the philanthropist would fail, and the capitalist decline to invest for profit, the State may enter to take the initial steps to promote the common weal, provided that the security for its capital be reasonably guaranteed against loss. In the vast sums of money expended by the State on national education, the common weal is advanced without any possibility of the capital being repaid, or even secured, except in the increasing power which knowledge gives to the people to add to the wealth and well-being of the nation as a whole. Public authorities spend from the rates millions a year in the aggregate to support the poor and destitute (as we have seen by the evidence given before this Committee), simply to save society from the effects that would arise from a large class of abject persons in misery and want, whatever may be the cause. None of this capital is ever repaid, nor is it in any sense ever indirectly productive, as education is. It is a continual drain upon the resources of the classes who are less unfortunate or depraved.

Any plan which would convert this waste of money and labour into productive uses, must be a great boon as well as a great economy to the nation. The scheme submitted is not intended to primarily affect the conditions of this lowest pauper class; but indirectly it will tend to reduce it, and in so far it will save the waste now prevailing.

I suggest that the State should take the initiative, if the object is desirable in itself; because from no other source can the means be provided. The State does not seek profit. It looks for, and must provide for, security of its loans, or for property, which shall belong to the nation, giving a return in some form or other, as in education, for the benefit of the nation.

On these grounds I think it may be shown that the proposal to invest the money of the State in the initial step to prevent the continued decay of the land on the one hand, and the accumulation of unemployed labour on the other, is justifiable from the purely economic point of view. I say the initial step, because, owing to the condition of agriculture and land ownership at the present time in England, there is reason to believe that no purchase of land by the State need be repeated after the first moderate investment to prove the economic value of the enterprise. Judging from the Reports of the Commissioners, landowners abound who would be glad to accept such a rental in perpetuity for some portion of their land as that which the State would receive as interest, after the land was brought to a high state of cultivation. Confidence can only be inspired on business grounds by examples of success and practical experience. No tentative

Chairman—continued.

experiment can prove anything. Risks would be incurred by inadequate means, and no means could be adequate which required immediate returns. The State alone can afford to wait for the returns; for it alone can afford the means to provide the skill and knowledge to direct the culture of the land on new lines by the labour which is waiting employment, and which, if guided and assisted, can be profitably used.

But should the State not be inclined to undertake even the slightest risk for its capital invested in the initial step, the plan suggested in the scheme, by which the Poor Law authorities would undertake to cover any deficiencies, would obviate the difficulty. These authorities could not fail to be benefited even by the experiment. They are by law and common consent committed to the provision of maintenance for destitute persons, and, as we know, at enormous cost of a wholly unproductive character. They could not fail to benefit by the result, if even a limited number of such persons sustained themselves, who otherwise would have a right to claim maintenance without any adequate return. No deficit on a farm-training colony, such as is proposed, could exceed the cost to the guardians if the persons working there had to be sustained in the usual way; while, on the other hand, the guardians would immensely benefit, if it were proved that such employment would tend to relieve the rates altogether as regards such persons, and open the channel of profitable employment to larger numbers even of the well-conducted and respectable poorer classes.

The establishment and control of these colonies I propose to vest in county councils, because they are large and responsible bodies of widely representative character, accustomed to large affairs. They are charged already by the State with great functions. In the education necessary to industrial pursuits, they have the control and supervision of large funds. In this work they possess the power to invite the co-operation on their committees of management of citizens expert in the subject. The magnitude of the benefits involved by the success of such proposals for restoring the land to a condition in which it may yield the maximum increase, and may absorb largely the labour of a rapidly increasing population, would call forth the zeal and devotion of many capable men and women. The co-operation of such forces as the State, the county councils, the Poor Law authorities, and the well-conducted unemployed working classes, together with the aid of special knowledge and practical experience to direct the labour, would at least bring to bear on agriculture advantages hitherto unknown, and an adequate trial would certainly be of national interest.

It has been urged during the investigations of our Committee that increased products from the land would compete with those now in the market, and thus interfere with the labour already employed. But the enormous quantity of farm products imported each year from abroad, which, exclusive of bread stuffs, may be taken as at least 50,000,000 sterling, is sufficient proof that such farm products are not supplied by home

Chairman—continued.

production. The labour and land of other countries are employed to produce what our land and labour, properly used and directed, is equally fitted for. We have not largely produced such products, because the system of big farms and grain crops, and the absence of hand tillage, have been the prevailing custom. This system has proved unprofitable, and in some places disastrous, in competition with the great corn-growing countries to which we have access by water carriage. But not only do we now import such corn crops, but little has been done to cultivate the land by the hand tillage necessary to produce the great variety of products which that method of cultivation alone can deal with successfully, and which are much more profitable than the crops which require little labour. Yet the labour is lying idle in our congested manufacturing districts. The best of the agricultural labour has left the land for want of proper occupation there, and only the least capable is left behind to make agriculture more difficult. One of the agents of a large landed proprietor said to Mr. Wilson Fox: "If the Commissioners are anxious to help the landed interest, this can only be done by finding money at a very cheap rate and putting labourers on the land. . . . Landlords are anxious enough to find the land; but what is the good when working men cannot get on it?"

It has been further stated during our inquiry that the supply from abroad of so many millions worth of dairy produce, and the like products of hand labour, is no loss to us, because we export things in exchange and we pay for them in our manufactures. It is true we supply with some of our manufactures other countries from which we obtain large supplies of food products. But it would be a great fallacy to assume that we supply our manufactures *because* they send us agricultural products. They take our manufactures because they are the cheapest for them; we take their products because, under our free trade policy of unrestricted and unfettered trade, they are cheapest for us. We do not avoid growing such products for ourselves *because* they buy our manufactures. Our land would not be left out of cultivation if we could produce eggs, butter, cheese, bacon, fruit, flax, and other products in quantity and cheapness sufficient to supply our needs. And we certainly should not put it out of cultivation that we might take more from abroad in exchange for our manufactures. Holland would buy from us her locomotive engines and machinery if they were the best and cheapest, whether she sent us eggs or not. We should buy her eggs if they were the cheapest, whether she took our machinery or not. The greater the exchange of products between two countries of that which each produces best and cheapest, the better for both; but neither would stop an industry of any kind for which she was well circumstanced for home uses, because the other country bought largely of the other industries. Unhappily, in England, we import great quantities of certain products for which our own land and labour are admirably adapted, but which we cannot now raise owing to agricultural capital being absorbed in profitless agriculture of another kind. Meanwhile, labour languishes and land lies unproductive, even of the crops for which the capital was originally invested.

Chairman—continued.

For these reasons I ask the consideration of the Committee for the scheme, on the ground that while it proposes to offer the means of employment for a certain portion of the unemployed working classes, it will also tend to promote a system of agriculture which may arrest the decay of what should be our greatest industry.

It is necessary, I think, that this Committee should give some judgment on this question; because, more or less, the scheme represents a very large amount of public feeling outside the House of Commons. Societies have been formed for encouraging these views, and for the establishment of colonies for the utilisation of hand labour. This Committee, it appears to me, will perform one of its most important functions if it can throw light on this question. If, on the one hand, it proves that all such schemes are unworthy of the attention, even of the benevolent people of the country, or if, on the other hand, it can show that the whole or any part of it is a possible remedy for the present state of agriculture, and the accumulation of labour in our manufacturing districts, I think it will have been of great advantage to the country that we should have considered it.

8976. You have given a very full account of the general principles upon which your scheme is founded, and the considerations which have led you to frame and adopt it. Dealing with it in detail, do you make any discrimination between different classes of unemployed? — Certainly. The basis of my scheme is, that such a training colony, as is here described, should be in the first instance occupied by that portion of the working classes described as the well-conducted, respectable, but very poor working classes, who are gradually sinking into a state of abject poverty, and who feel that they cannot appeal to charity or to guardians under the present system.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8977. How would you find them out?—That is provided for by a department of the Poor Law authority in any town or district having the means of coming into contact with these people by the application of the people themselves when they are in that state. Those who desire work only, and who refuse to take relief from the guardians either in money or in kind, and who have spent their own savings and only want work in order that they may earn more money to keep themselves until their trade would revive, might go to such a department of the Poor Law authority, and there, without losing their self respect, ascertain the conditions upon which they could get employment upon the farm labour colony.

Chairman.

8978. I understand from you that you distinguish between those of the unemployed who are temporarily unemployed and who perhaps have no experience of work on the land, and on the

Chairman—continued.

the other hand those who being out of place, either through being absolutely displaced or finding themselves not successful in the industry that they have followed, may seek to be permanently placed upon the land?—Quite so. Part I. of this scheme relates to the means by which all such persons would be introduced to the land; and all would have to go through this training, whether they were persons who desired to occupy the land as a permanent living in the future or not. Primarily the Poor Law authorities would only find accommodation, so far as their means extended, for the persons actually needing work and needing sustenance. That would be the first class of persons the guardians would deal with; and, of course, for some time to come it would be the only class probably that would be affected by this scheme.

8979. How do you designate the kind of colonies to which such persons would be sent?—The Farm Training Colony, which is dealt with in Part I.

8980. Will you say what you mean by a farm training colony?—You will find the description of those colonies begins at paragraph 12 of my scheme on page 3. In Sections 1 to 4 you have the scheme described for the introduction of those persons requiring work and desiring to work, in order that they may be sustained during their temporary difficulties. The description is fully given there of what the procedure would be.

8981. You refer to the paper which I hold in my hand, headed "Draft Scheme to provide Work for the Unemployed Classes"?—Yes.

8982. Will you put that in, in order that it may be before us, and may be printed in the Appendix?—Yes. (*The same was handed in—vide* Appendix.) The land which would be acquired by the means described in the body of this scheme would, of course, be that upon which the people who desired work would be employed. The land of the colony would be under the control, as I have described, of a committee of the county council, and it would be under the management of a skilled agriculturist and practical farmer with scientific knowledge, who would take the direction of all the labourers sent down to the colony for employment in the form of hand tillage. The application of the land to those products which would be of the greatest advantage and the greatest value for the carrying out of this scheme would be at his discretion, and he would direct the labour of every working man who came there, after having put him to a certain test as to the physical power he had to perform any work at all (to some extent the man might be tested by an inquiry on the part of the Poor Law authority before he was sent down to the farm), and, having judged as to the employment which each particular man could best follow on the farm, he would direct his labour in the most profitable manner. The farm, as described in this scheme, is to consist of two classes of land: one a cultivated portion of land, and the other semi-cultivated land, or land under pasture, or land which has gone out of cultivation for some years. There would be on such land a great deal of rough work, in every such training colony, for the labour that was in no

Chairman—continued.

sense skilled, the labour being divided according to its qualities; and there would be labour on the cultivated portion for, it may be, agricultural labourers who were out of work, or for such men sent down by the Poor Law authorities who might be most fitted for that part of the farm cultivation.

8983. Do you think you will often find those two classes of land in juxtaposition?—I find from the Reports, which I have very carefully studied, of the Sub-Commissioners who have been inquiring for the Royal Commission on Agriculture, that there is unhappily too much possibility of acquiring this kind of land. There is, of course, cultivated land everywhere, and there is just a boundary somewhere between the cultivated and uncultivated land. The sites for these colonies would have to be selected where those two conditions existed; and I think there is no difficulty whatever in finding in some parts, and in fact in many parts, of the country the conditions named, namely, land under fair cultivation, which could be obtained at a very low price, and contiguous land which was in a state of starvation or absolute waste.

8984. By "uncultivated land" do you mean what is called derelict land; land that has been once cultivated, but is not cultivated now because it does not pay to do it; or do you mean absolutely unenclosed moor land, or marsh land, or some land of that sort?—I do not think it is necessary to limit the choice to moor land and marsh. I believe, judging solely from the Reports, which I have very carefully studied, from the Commissioners on Agriculture, much land exists which is becoming derelict, and which might again be brought under cultivation, and form part of the land which this scheme deals with, so that the conditions of the scheme would be fulfilled, viz., that there should be one portion of land which is fertile and fruitful, and another portion of land which requires to be brought into a fertile and fruitful condition. In that respect this scheme differs from all other trials which have been made in the support of this class of men upon the land; because generally it has been assumed that these men can support themselves at once out of waste and uncultivated land (which, I believe, is impossible); whereas by putting them upon land which is already yielding something, plus an equal area of land which requires to be brought into that condition, the colony is sustained by the food produced by the cultivated land, upon which there are a few skilled farm labourers under the management I have described; and on the uncultivated land these fresh uninitiated labourers would be employed on work in which they would earn sufficient to maintain themselves out of the fruits of the cultivated portion of the land. I may say, in relation to the question which you have put and to which I have generally replied, I shall have expert evidence to offer. Mr. Harold Moore, who, as an estate agent and land surveyor, knows well the character of the country, at any rate for very many miles round London and in the Midland Counties, will be able to give you specific examples of land of the character which I have described.

Chairman—continued.

8985. So much as to the kind of land required; will you now say how you would proceed with the formation of such a colony?—I would now call attention to paragraph 14 on page 5, which sets forth that "to such a colony the Poor Law authorities might send men of the unemployed working classes who seek for relief through employment only. These men would have to undertake to remain and work on the colony for a definite period, during which they would be mainly employed upon the land, and would receive their maintenance in return for their labour. That period should be not less than a month; and no man taken on to a colony should be allowed to quit it without giving a week's notice, unless he can satisfy the manager of the colony that he has the offer of a definite and immediate engagement in some industrial occupation. Of course, on their admission to the colony, their physical capability for hard outdoor work and agricultural labour will be tested." I should like to call attention to the point in that statement that these colonies ought to be entirely free. They should be places where there is no necessary obligation on the part of the men who go there to remain beyond such reasonable time as men and women now remain under the ordinary terms of employment in any kind of work known either in agriculture or in manufacturing industries. They would be simply seeking work, and they would get work given to them under the conditions stated there as to the length of time they were to remain. If an immediate situation were offered to a man who was temporarily unemployed, the manager of the Colony would use his discretion as to allowing him to take that situation at his ordinary employment. But in the absence of any such special circumstances, some undertaking as to the length of the man's continued occupation on the farm is essential. Just as all of us now employ men and women under certain conditions, so in this case it is proposed to require a week's notice. That is what I call perfectly free employment. There is to be no punitive or penal feature about these farms at all. The man has to go and do the work allotted to him, and he lives under the conditions prepared for him. The work would be very hard, and no man would probably remain there longer than was absolutely necessary to keep him during the little while he or his friends were looking for a situation for him at his own trade; and consequently there would be a shifting population through this Farm Training Colony. Those men who cared to go to the hard work for the purpose of preparing themselves to take part in the second section of this scheme (namely, the Small Farms Settlements section of it) would pass through the Farm Training Colony with the distinct purpose of passing from the uncultivated on to the cultivated land, and getting to understand farming operations, with the distinct view of living upon the land altogether, and taking advantage of the opportunities offered under the second portion of this scheme.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

8986. What is to happen if the man will not stop the month?—Precisely what happens if any one of our servants or workmen or people we employ, who having undertaken to fill a situation, after a week is never seen again; that man, of course, has debarred himself absolutely from the privilege of having this means of employment; he simply is recorded on the books of the Poor Law authorities, and such a person would sink down to the Submerged Tenth, with whom this scheme has nothing whatever to do. This is a scheme not for the Submerged Tenth; it is not for the pauper class, for the indigent, the depraved, or the drunken; but it is a scheme to find employment for a class which has often been referred to, and described before this Committee as the unemployed classes who will not take charity, and will not come under the provisions laid down by the Poor Law for their relief. That is precisely one of the points in the scheme which I desire to emphasise; that this employment is to be free-will employment, without coercion, and only for those persons who are absolutely honest in their statement that they want work in order that they may live, and do not want charity. On that basis alone let this scheme be considered, and if the Committee consider it on any other basis it will be only a waste of time; it has no relation to any other class, although indirectly it will tend largely to diminish the class of paupers or the depraved class of the population, inasmuch as it removes the despair of any man who is beginning to sink. It arrests the tendency to sink, and keeps a man in employment until he can find an occupation in his own trade, and by so doing it prevents an addition to the Submerged Tenth, or the depraved class, which is largely increased owing to the desperate conditions in which a good man often finds himself.

8987. I think you fully explain in your scheme the particulars as to the number of men that you would employ, and so on; but one element in your scheme is that they should have auxiliary employment, as you call it?—Yes, certainly. One of the most important considerations for the manager of such a colony would be that such tillage should be selected as by the use of hand labour would produce products requiring to some extent manipulation after they were produced. I give, in my draft scheme, a list of those products, all of them being imported articles; there is not one article that I have named there as a product of the land which is not now imported into this country in very large quantities.

8988. Which paragraph do you refer to?—On page 6, paragraph 20 deals somewhat largely with that question. The products named in that paragraph do not by any means exhaust the list of those that may be produced; and I should like to refer the Committee, if they care to go deeply into the study of this question, as I have done, to the authority I have for all the statements here made. I keep strictly to the line of the Commissioners' Reports for all these statements made concerning the possible products of such farms, and they show the profitableness of hand labour in comparison with the other labour which has been so largely employed upon land hitherto. Mr. Wilson Fox, in his Report upon Lincolnshire, at page 105, gives in considerable detail the kinds of products which can be got from the land with hand tillage under such conditions

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

ditions as would be provided by the scheme of this Farm Training Colony. He shows how this hand tillage may be utilised in the increased production of things mentioned as being produced already in Lincolnshire, but, of course, on a very small scale. There is one rather striking statement of Mr. Wilson Fox's with regard to Lincolnshire. The ruins remain in Lincolnshire of what formerly was a large industry, viz., the growth of flax. The sheds and buildings required for that purpose remain in the landscape as monuments of the past state of prosperity. The flax industry is, we know, very large in our own country, and the quality of flax grown in different countries differs, of course; there is Irish flax, Dutch flax, German flax, and Russian flax. There might be English flax. We import very largely indeed, as stated here, flax from foreign countries; and it is mentioned by Mr. Wilson Fox, in his Report upon the conditions of Lincolnshire, that flax is a product suited to portions of that county, and there seems to be no earthly reason why it should not be again produced, excepting that it is a crop requiring a great deal of hand labour. If cheap hand labour were employed in the production of flax, it would be a crop that could be grown in England; but where the farmers with larger ambition have put the land to growing enormous grain crops, of course flax has been neglected.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

8989. Does a crop of flax not tend to impoverish the land?—Only under certain circumstances. Flax requires very poor land. But on that question I prefer to wait for the evidence of an expert agriculturist, who will be the only witness upon this scheme besides myself. In order that I may not run any risk of being charged with venturing on subjects that I have not worked at myself, I prefer (though I could give a more definite answer) that the minute evidence upon that point should be given by an expert witness at the next sitting.

Chairman.

8990. You say that there are monuments of an expired industry in flax in Lincolnshire; does the report from which you quote give any reason to believe that it was a prosperous industry while it lasted or whether it died from natural causes?—I will quote from Mr. Wilson Fox's Report: "In this district, particularly at Pinchbeck, Surfleet, and Gosberton, a great quantity of flax used to be grown; but this industry, as in the west of Ireland, no longer exists, and the flax mills are either pulled down or are standing in ruins. There are in Spalding some large empty premises which were formerly used as storehouses when the flax trade was thriving."

8991. It may have declined because it was found unsuitable to the climate or soil, and from other circumstances?—One would not say it was unsuitable soil in Ireland, I presume. The soil in Ireland produces flax; but the fact remains that we import flax and flax substitutes to the extent of about nine millions sterling; and we have at one time grown it in this country. It is a product requiring a great deal of hand

Chairman—continued.

labour. That to some extent, I think, accounts for the fact that it has not been more generally cultivated in modern times; but upon that point I can afford very clear evidence at a later stage. I should like it to be understood that I am not here advocating in detail the growth of any particular products; I am only endeavouring to illustrate to my colleagues and yourself that there are grave facts connected with the products of our land, which seem to be deplorable, arising from the want of hand labour and hand tillage; and I utilize those facts, which I gather from the Government Reports, Reports, I presume, absolutely reliable, and I say in the scheme proposed we should bring together the two elements, which hitherto have not existed together, thus giving the opportunity for advantage to both.

8992. Besides land cultivation, you refer to what you call auxiliary trades in connection with the colony?—Yes. The industries connected with farming are various, and of course may be selected according to the necessities of the case. Taking flax, for instance, that is a product upon which a considerable amount of hand labour would have to be bestowed in sheds under cover, and that work could be done in wet weather and in inclement seasons, and in the winter months. That is a product that would illustrate to a great extent the application of an auxiliary industry to the cultivation of the land. Then there is straw-plaiting from the straw grown on the farm. Straw plaited is imported into this country now very largely. It is purely a hand product. After straw is grown, it is manipulated by hand and imported very largely into this country. Then you have various products from rushes, pith, and osiers; you have the means of milling by hand-milling what you might require to crush and grind. You could do that, of course, in the bad weather and the winter months. Then the growth of seeds for the market is a very remarkable industry. Enormous quantities are imported into this country. It is a matter of pure hand-tillage and individual care. In Holland and Germany, and other countries, this culture is developed to a very great extent, and I see no reason why English people of the same class are not quite as competent to undertake this work. In connection with such seed growing, there are many occupations afterwards under cover which would be auxiliary work in bad weather. I presume we may take it for granted that for not more than two-thirds of the year would they find occupation on the land; that is to say, in the open. One-third of the working time would probably have to be given to other things. It appears to me that great advantage would come to the agricultural classes, even at the present time, if an organised system of auxiliary employment in their cottages or in the villages could be undertaken by some authority who may think it worth while. Many societies have been started (I am a member of two or three myself) for the encouragement of industries among agricultural labourers in their homes or in a room common to many of them; and the success of such attempts, from an economic as well as a moral point of view, is such as to justify the belief that in a

Chairman—continued.

farm training colony, under management such as I have described, these auxiliary industries might be carried out in a way that would employ the labour of almost every man on the place. I have presented now only an illustration of the kind of auxiliary employment to be derived from the products of the land itself; the list may be extended very largely. For instance, fruit might be grown on a portion of the land. There would be a certain amount of pasture for the milch cows, but the other portion of the land (the arable dairying portion of the land, so to speak) would be divided up into small plots, each plot growing such crops as would be most profitable for the amount of labour put upon the plot. Those products would mostly have to be disposed of afterwards. Peas and various fruits might be grown and preserved. You might, for instance, have Mr. Gladstone's famous process of making jam, which would give an immense amount of employment to the persons upon the farm; and under the conditions that would exist in such a village, life would quickly develop, and such industries would seem to be quite reliable as a source of income.

8993. You would not make them consume their own jam?—The products would go for sale. As to the question that has become so hackneyed, will not the products of this unemployed labour compete with this or that, I think there is nothing in it, it is a mere bubble that one could prick with a very small amount of argument. It is self-evident that there might be selected occupations arising from the land, or industrial occupations in cottages, which would enable these people to earn money beyond the actual amount of labour which they actually bestowed upon the land itself out of which they are kept.

8994. You are still speaking of the training colonies?—Entirely. I would ask you for the moment to remove the other section of the scheme from your mind.

8995. Your general theory is that, even supposing the work upon this land did not pay commercially, it is a cheaper way of relieving these men than any Poor Law system provides; that is to say, even supposing it was a loss, the loss would be less than the payment through the Poor Law authority; and you think that by eking it out by these supplementary industries, these men may be made actually to earn money?—Yes. I have given great thought, of course, to that part of the question, and I feel convinced, so far as anyone can feel convinced who has not actually seen the thing at work, that on a scheme of this kind it would be possible to pay for the general expenditure of the colony after the land had been obtained and the buildings had been placed upon it by the money which, as I say, ought to come from the central authority. As that money will not bear interest for say five years after it is loaned, there would be, during the years of what I may call the training part of the scheme, no rent to pay, although there would be an accumulation of value all the time equivalent to the amount of money which had been lent by the State or the central authority.

Chairman—continued.

8996. In the improvement of the condition of the land?—In the improvement of the condition of the land, apart altogether from the indirect benefit.

Mr. *Bartley.*

8997–8. That is only a pious opinion, is it not?—No, it is not a pious opinion. I should be very glad to give my honourable friend detailed evidence of certain results which have been achieved in one or two important experiments in this country, which are now beyond dispute so far as that point is concerned. Those schemes, I may say, are not based on this plan. They are less favourable, therefore, I think, to covering all expenses than this scheme would be. But I can show how in actual cases which are less favourable in the sense in which you put the question to me than this would be, all expenses have been covered both in Germany and in England, in Germany especially.

Chairman.

8999. Supposing we now turn for a moment from the commercial or economical aspect to the personal aspect; how long do you think these men would stay on these farms?—In the first place, the training colony, as I have before stated, is not for permanent residence; because the object of the Poor Law authorities is to let these men get back to their own regular employment as quickly as possible. I have spoken of this class of men being displaced *temporarily* owing to the depression of trade or displacement of labour by one of the various contingencies which arise in industrial life. Such men, instead of idling about the streets and getting into a state of despair after they have spent their savings (because they would not abandon the hope of finding a situation for many weeks, it may be, after having lost their situation), and having arrived at a state when they must either work or starve, before they sold their goods or broke up their homes, would, knowing of the refuge afforded by this work, apply to the Poor Law department having charge of this particular branch and ask for employment. Such a man would be received at this farm (provided the farm was not already full), and directed to work that the manager found him fitted for; he would be taken for not more than a month to begin with. There would be no obligation to keep him there more than a month; the less time after a month the better. The month's work got out of the man would be a safeguard to the colony to have some little return for what he had received, and he would in a sense be benefiting out of the profit which the colony derived from the labour of men who had preceded him, and especially from the men on the cultivated parts of the farm who were going on with their training to become farm settlers according to the second part of the scheme.

9000. What do you contemplate would be the ordinary time of a colonist of that class; he goes for a month, but do you think he would stay six months or a year?—It is not desirable, according to this scheme, that he should stay for much more than a month, or from month to month, unless the man intended to pass through this training

Chairman—continued.

training colony for the purpose of becoming sufficiently well acquainted with farming occupations either to go out to one of the colonies as an emigrant, or on the other hand to become trained to farm work, giving his work in return, to enable him to take up one of the settlements which are gradually created out of the training colonies.

9001. With regard to a man who merely goes for a little temporary work instead of loafing and idling, and who then has to secure employment again at his ordinary occupation, there is this difficulty, is there not, that he would be taken away from his home. For instance, to take a place that occurs to one as a town that has suffered very much occasionally from changes of trade, Coventry; supposing a man was a working man at Coventry and the trade for some reason left the place or he was thrown out of employment, he goes to a farm colony; but as the farm colony is, perhaps, on the banks of the Wash, or somewhere where there is reclamation of land side by side with some other land, as you propose, he cannot find work there or in the neighbourhood, but he must come back to Coventry to find it, must he not?—I am glad you put that case, because it is one that naturally arises in one's mind, and I am prepared to meet it on this simple ground: Supposing such a man, wishing to have a month's or two months' work rather than let his family starve, applies to the department as I described. He goes there precisely under the same conditions as Mr. Logan or myself, being employers of labour, would send a dozen or 50 men, to undertake work in a part of the country remote from their homes. That is occurring every day in the week all the year round, under different conditions, no doubt; but, so far as the separation from his own locality is concerned, that is a thing that is occurring with thousands and thousands of men all the year round in the industrial world. Therefore, so far as the men would be going to work at a place remote from their home for a certain period, there is no novelty in that; it is a custom already prevailing throughout the industrial world, and is a thing perfectly well known to workpeople. As regards the inability to get employment which such a man might experience from being in a part of the country remote from his original home, that I think is easily obviated; for, taking such a class of man as you are thinking of, in the first place they are supposed to be men with characters, men with a past; they have had occupations and employment before, and have got their friends and their chums, and they may, and probably would, belong to friendly societies. Those men, therefore, if they were on the farm colony, would act as they do now; they communicate with their friends and they hear what is required in one place and another, and they communicate with men on the spot who may help them to find a situation. The case of Coventry, which you put, is a simple one compared with other cases I could speak of. A man who had been employed at Coventry would be perfectly well known, and have lots of friends and acquaintances to let him know when occupation is being given out. That is a far less difficult case than that of a man who is thrown out, because his special industry has gone down permanently. Take, for instance, the silk industry in Coventry; he knows Coventry is no longer a place for him if he is to follow the occupation in which he was brought up, but he ought to be going over other towns in the country to find work, as they do frequently. But even in this case the man on a colony on the banks of the Wash would be no worse off than the man in Coventry, because he could communicate with all parts of the country as easily as the man who was loafing about Coventry. Those are the common practices of the trade with which I am perfectly familiar, and they present no difficulty to my mind.

Chairman—continued.

9002. Is there not another difficulty in establishing a colony of this sort; that you propose to have a number of individual men, and I think one or two families?—Yes; families may go there.

9003. Is there not some danger of want of discipline among men so separated from all their domestic belongings and left to themselves; I will not say herded together, because that is an invidious word, but at any rate living together?—I think there is no difficulty in the particular case of a colony, any more than in any other cases to which I have referred, where men are separated from their homes; in fact, under the certain discipline that there would be there (that is to say, there would be law and order in a community of that kind) the disposal of the arrangements for the sleeping and living of those men would be of a nature to preclude the possibility of herding together in the sense you spoke of. I should deprecate in any sense of the words anything like a huge barrack system, which I think is abominable from every point of view.

9004. You regard it as less dangerous and less open to objection than the ordinary transfer of a considerable number of working men away from their homes to carry on engineering work or navvy work, or anything of that sort?—Certainly; I think there is less danger, at all events, of the immoral conduct which we have to deplore at times.

9005. The draft scheme which you have handed in explains the whole thing so clearly that I hardly know what questions are necessary to be put in order to elucidate the points, and indeed I do not know that any more questions are necessary. Would you prefer that you should now be asked questions by the members of the Committee on this question of the farm training colony before we go to the other question of the farm settlements, which is really a separate one?—I should very much prefer if you would let me take Part 1 and Part 2 quite separately, because they each have distinct objects in view; and while on the one hand Part 1 might find favour with certain members of the Committee or of the House of Commons or the public generally, on the other hand Part 2 might be open to greater question.

9006. They are quite separate and distinct from each other, are they not?—Yes. Before passing

Chairman—continued.

passing from that, may I be permitted to read a letter or two on the scheme which I have received from those persons whom I named in my general statement as being expert agriculturists, scientific and practical.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9007. Are they coming to give evidence before us?—No; it was to save you the trouble of calling them as witnesses that I proposed to read their letters. They are gentlemen whom I do not know personally; they have read this draft scheme, and they have sent me voluntarily their opinions of it. I only offer their letters as a proof of the statement which I made that I have the testimony of agriculturists, scientific and practical, in support of the scheme.

Mr *Stuart Wortley.*

9008. Are these letters from experts?—Yes. One is Professor Sheldon, who is the greatest authority in England on arable dairy farming. He wrote me a letter on this question which I think is valuable. Another is Professor Wright, a Scotchman, who is also an instructor in agriculture in the West of Scotland Technical College. I may say I have myself visited farms and discussed this question with practical farmers. I should specially like to mention in connection with this matter that a portion of Essex—which, as you know, is regarded as a county in a state of considerable decay—has in the last four years come more and more into the possession of Scotch farmers. I travelled 12 miles throughout the county without getting away from a Scotch farm, and I have got information from one very intelligent young Scotchman there with regard to his own experience in farming on a certain system which proved that there is great hope for agriculture still, when the right men get upon the land. These are merely indications which I give to the Committee to show that I have given great study to the question in detail, and have tried to fortify my views by absolute facts.

Chairman.

9009. It would, perhaps, be sufficient to mention that you have those letters, and if honourable Members desire to ask questions about them you can give further particulars?—I only mention the fact that I have them, because I said in my statement that I knew the opinions of scientific agriculturists on the main question. I brought those letters because they were the letters of the best-known men; I have many others.

Mr. *Acland.*

9010. As to the method of management of your scheme I do not quite understand the relations between the Poor Law guardians and the County Council. Are the Poor Law Guardians to be the sole recommending authority as to the persons to be employed in the colony?—Yes, the channel for admitting persons to the colony is the Poor Law authority.

9011. Are the County Council to be formally called upon to start these farm training colonies if the Poor Law Guardians desire it?—Quite so.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

I named the County Councils, because, of course, these farms must be in country districts, and they would require to be under the control of some body that had large enough functions and experience to undertake the control of a thing of this magnitude.

9012. With whom is the initiative to lie; it is a voluntary action on the part of the authorities, is it not; they are not to be compelled?—No, there is no compulsion about it. When once there is the power to start these colonies, I contemplate that the County Council would express its willingness to undertake it on being applied to by the Poor Law authorities, the boards of guardians, to provide the means for a scheme of a training colony, they would get their officers to inquire about the land and the conditions for the scheme, and having satisfied themselves that it was proper land for the purpose, they would obtain from the guardians an undertaking that a certain number of persons would be sent there; it may be a colony of 100 or 200 or 400 (I do not think more than 200 would be desirable). Having assured themselves of the necessity, and of the proper conditions obtaining, the County Council being willing to undertake the work, they would apply for the assistance necessary to start the farm through the Local Government Board.

9013. I gathered the County Council would take the initiative of expressing themselves willing?—Yes.

9014. Supposing the Poor Law guardians find it undesirable to send, or having begun to send men, they should say "We will send no more," the County Council would have the colony upon their hands?—The responsibility would be entirely upon the Poor Law authority. The Poor Law authority provides any deficit under the scheme, whatever it may be, and consequently the Poor Law authority would be the party primarily interested to see that the scheme was successful.

9015. Are the Poor Law authority to find the money and the County Council to do the management?—Certainly, the County Council is simply the managing body.

9016. Then surely I must be wrong in supposing the County Council take the initiative; the Poor Law guardians are to take the initiative, are they not; and call upon the Council to manage the colony?—What I intended to say was that the County Council was suggested simply in order to obtain a governing body for the whole thing of sufficient experience and sufficient knowledge of affairs, so that it would be a guarantee for the colony being conducted upon the lines laid down. But as to the means afforded for the colony being established, and for colonists fit to occupy it being selected, all that would come entirely through the Poor Law authority.

9017. It is rather a serious matter, is it not, if one authority is to have the whole power of management and use the funds that come from another authority who are really responsible for the use of those funds?—I do not think it differs from many other means which we adopt in this country to get our work done.

9018. Would

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

9018. Would you suggest an analogy?—Take the analogy of technical education. The money that is provided by Parliament for this purpose, and for the reduction of local rates, is used by the County Council.

9019. It belongs to them?—It belongs to them indirectly. This other money would also in a sense belong to them; they would have the responsibility of failure or success resting upon them, just as they have now in controlling other things for which the Government finds the money. The State gives now to each County Council each year a certain sum of money out of taxation.

9020. In this case, if the County Council made a failure, the whole responsibility for the loss of the money would rest upon the Board of Guardians, would it not?—Yes.

9021. The County Council would not pay a farthing towards it?—Certainly not; that is a suggestion that may be naturally open to criticism, but it is one mode of obtaining a very good body, in my opinion, to manage the whole affair. A combination of the Poor Law Guardians with the County Council, might be another method of doing it, or the Poor Law Guardians might do it themselves; if for instance, four or five Boards of Guardians agreed to take charge of the colony, they would have a committee of their own for its management and control, and also voluntary helpers. The suggestion of the way in which it should be controlled is quite another consideration; it rests between two or three plans, and you might suggest one as good as the other; but to put it in a concrete form, I adopted the plan set forth in my scheme, to show how it could be started.

9022. The bulk of the men I suppose who would come, would be men who wish to get back to their own trade when an opportunity offered; it would be only the minority I suppose, who would be permanently training for another form of occupation?—That I cannot do more than make an assumption upon. I think it is not unreasonable to suppose that a considerable number of men, at any rate, of those who had been displaced from an industry which had passed away, or is passing away, might be attracted very much indeed by farm life, and might themselves ask to be continued through the training until they obtained a footing upon the farm settlement. But whatever the proportions were of the one or the other, of course, the larger number remaining for the longer time would render the colony less available for the transient men who go for two or three months.

9023. It is a very real part of your scheme to provide for men who are out of work from their own trade, for a short time, and who are to return to their own trade?—Certainly.

9024. With regard to those men, supposing there is a considerable number of them, as there must be, how far do you think their work would be of a repaying character, that is, profitable to the institution, supposing they stayed for a couple of months?—I think we have had ample demonstration on that point from the work already undertaken by such men on the land. Not only in the Hadleigh Colony is that fully demonstrated, but also if you take the experiment made by Mr. Hills, in West Ham, on the

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

Wanstead Flats. All those men were proved to able to earn 2*s.* a day on the labour to which they were placed after they had been employed for a fortnight or three weeks, and men may be kept under these circumstances for 5*s.* a week, so far as food is concerned, and shelter (there, of course, there is no shelter required). You may say, therefore, there is no trouble at all in finding labour on a large farm where everyone of these men would receive something in kind equal to 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a day.

9025. Is there not some trouble in making quite sure that these men would do profitable work; would you dismiss a man the moment he appeared not to be doing a good day's work?—I think it is beyond the necessity for proof that if a man works at all (that is to say, unless he declines to work) on this simplest form of tillage which would be given, he cannot fail to do such work as will keep him in food for a week; that is demonstrated beyond dispute, I think.

9026. Do you really think that is the case. Surely we should hear a great deal less about agricultural distress if that were the case?—I am speaking of the work men can do, working with other men, on such land as a number of men can be employed upon, assuming it to be allotted out and directed by competent management.

9027. It is always assuming, is it, that the man is capable to work, and is working with the best will in the world, and under the best conditions?—I do not think it is necessarily under the best conditions. I went to Wanstead Flats to examine the work there (as I believe Mr. John Wilson did), and I had indisputable testimony that with all sorts and conditions of men, provided they were men capable of doing work, though some were very weak when they arrived, the labour they did upon the land in the manner in which it was there bestowed was sufficient to keep all those men perfectly well, so far as food was concerned.

9028. Without any loss of money to anybody?—Certainly, without any loss; the work they did was equal to what they received.

9029. Is it not the case that there was a large fund of money at the back of that scheme when it started?—Yes.

9030. Is it not also the case that there were some groups of men at work there whose work was totally unprofitable?—No, I do not think there was any work there unprofitable, after the first fortnight—so at least I was informed.

9031. The groups were classified, and some groups, we were told by Mr. Hills himself, were extremely unprofitable in their work?—They were unprofitable in this sense, that they did not earn more money than would pay for their food.

9032. Is there any proof that they did that?—Yes; I understand, without exception, after the first fortnight that was so. There were on that land very extraordinary differences between the men. I examined a plot of land which was being tilled by all sorts of men, and on asking the question as to what those men were when in regular employment, I was struck with the fact that one was a watchmaker, a sufficiently delicate employment one would have supposed to

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

disqualify a man from such rough work as tillage.

9033. At this training farm I understand you would have some fairly good land?—Yes, about half the land should be cultivated land.

9034. And fairly good land?—Fairly good land; such as you find in Essex.

9035. Immediately adjoining it there is to be rough land which nobody has yet cultivated?—Not necessarily land which nobody has yet cultivated, but land that is not being cultivated; land that has gone back into pasture; it may be natural grass or land which is going down to that condition, or other land that has not been cultivated for many years.

9036. Do you think you can easily find land of that character, with land immediately adjoining it so good that it will bear good crops at once for the support of the colony?—The cultivated land would be of such a character as I saw in examining the farms in Essex, where a Scotch farmer goes and takes up 500 acres of land and finds it has been starved. The land I refer to was arable land, and this man wants to take it for arable dairying, and he pays a rent for it of something like 17*s.* or 18*s.* an acre, but the farm buildings happened to be extremely good, and he was willing to pay a larger rent on that account.

9037. I perfectly understand what a farm of that character is, but I thought you made a great point of half the land being cultivated land and half uncultivated?—Yes, half of it would be land cultivated in the sense that that land was cultivated in Essex and half of it uncultivated.

9038. Has that farmer in Essex got uncultivated land, such as you speak of, immediately adjoining?—No, because he did not select his farm on that account; but you would, in dealing with this scheme, take land where there was also a considerable amount of land derelict or under grass, or which had not been cultivated before.

9039. It would be natural to expect that in the neighbourhood of land so derelict and uncultivated, the land that came next to it would not be the best land but only slightly better?—That does not necessarily follow. The line of demarcation is sometimes extremely clear and defined. I see myself in looking over possible properties for this purpose land absolutely unfit to grow anything simply divided by a fence from land that is extremely well tilled.

9040. You make a great point of having certain land that is uncultivated for these men to work on?—Certainly.

9041. When the colony have worked through the uncultivated land and cultivated it all, the colony would have to move somewhere else, I suppose?—That land then would be a farm settlement and belong to those who remain on the farm, as small farmers and small settlers, for the rest of their lives under the conditions set forth in Part 2 of my draft scheme.

9042. Then would you start another colony?—If it is found to be beneficial and economical, and based upon sound principles, then these colonies would be developed until you practically bring under cultivation the whole of your unfertile land in the country.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

9043. You think there would be so large a number of men passing through the colonies besides those who settled, that this scheme would extend to very large dimensions?—I think it is very possible that the whole scheme might be taken up eventually by landowners in order to get the land out of the condition in which so much of it lies at the present time, as is fully borne out by the evidence I have referred to of the Commissioners employed by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. I think it is quite possible that the landowners in this country would themselves, upon a successful experiment of this kind being made, look at this as a plan for obtaining a rental in perpetuity for their estate, with which they would be satisfied.

9044. That is to say, that the colony is to provide them with a rent better than the farmers themselves have been able hitherto to do?—Certainly.

9045. Do you think you could find a large supply of skilful managers thoroughly understanding the management of land who would do better than the farmers, and who would manage these colonies on a fixed salary?—Yes, I have evidence from Scotland that you could get a very large number of men who would be willing to come.

9046. You think those men on a fixed salary would be more successful than farmers who have been working on the land for their living?—I think you will find plenty of evidence if you look through the Blue Books, that from the fact of our farmers in this country not requiring any great skill or intelligence in the cultivation of those big grain crops in which machinery is largely used, there has been no incentive to them to develop into farmers of another character. They are really in the same condition to-day that our manufacturers of Lancashire were a quarter of a century ago.

9047. You think these paid managers will set a great example as to new methods of agriculture which would very likely be followed by the farmers themselves?—I think that is absolutely proved to be possible by many experiments.

9048. You think these schemes, if extended, might not result in much financial loss to anybody?—I do not think it is probable that there will be any loss attending them at all, except to the extent of a portion of the money which the Poor Law authority might have to bestow upon men in the training colony who otherwise would have been vagrants, and would have applied for workhouse relief. Beyond a portion of that contribution which the Poor Law authority would be obliged to make under any circumstances if appealed to for relief, I do not think any loss could come upon the State or the Poor Law authority.

9049. And yet agriculture is a very dangerous operation?—Agriculture, as we have practised it in this country (judging from the report of the Commissioners), I should say must be an extremely hazardous enterprise on the part of those who pursue farming under conditions such as have prevailed in England in times past.

Mr. *Whiteley.*

9050. And it is said to be very hazardous on the part of those who know anything about it; these people do not know anything about it, do they?—I must not allow the honourable Member to confuse two totally different things. I am speaking now with regard to the cultivation of small plots of land for purposes which have never been attempted in this country, except in isolated instances. That would be the prevailing custom, and for that the technical knowledge and skill which we are gradually producing in our various colleges of agriculture, and in our large farms, would be available to bring to bear upon the crude labour, which costs very little, just the control and direction which is necessary to make it profitable.

Mr. *Acland.*

9051. You have no fear as to being able to find capable managers who would do all this?—There would certainly not be any difficulty in finding them under the gradual growth of such a system in England.

9052. Just let me put this one point; take the case of a colony where, say, two-thirds of the men were men passing through, who came from a town industry and were going back to it; those men would not come under your method of auxiliary industries or trades in the colony, would they?—They would be occupied with whatever they were suited to be occupied with during the time they were there; it would be of no consequence whether they were there a week or a month.

9053. They could not do straw plaiting or things of that sort, could they?—I am not speaking of industries on the farm colony being such as would have to be pursued for the purpose of training. The colonists would themselves be men probably having various aptitudes and dexterity of one kind or another besides the mere hand labour which they bestowed upon the farm.

9054. The auxiliary country industries, as a rule, which you suggest would not be available except for the men who are spending some years at the colony?—The full training in these auxiliary farm industries, of course, will not be given to men who are there for a short time, but the work to be done from day to day might very well be assisted in by men staying at the colony for only two or three months.

9055. Do you not think from a financial point of view that your laying down the rule that saleable products of the Colony must not compete with existing home products, would handicap the enterprise?—It is merely a suggestion that there are so many products now imported from abroad which we ought to produce in this country as cheaply as they are produced abroad, and therefore it would be better to try those products at the colonies. There is no fetter or restriction on one side or the other, and there is no earthly reason why these products which are now sent in so many millions per annum into this country should not be undertaken here, if it is worth while for anybody to undertake them and to bestow the pains necessary to start them.

9056. Your point, as I understand, is not that

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

because these colonies are helped by the money of the State, and because any loss concerning them must ultimately be paid out of the rates by the guardians, therefore aided colonies of that sort must not compete with the ordinary producers in the market, that is not your point, is it?—No, it is not an essential point; I think a great deal too much has been made of that argument. But as a matter of policy, and to prevent public prejudice being created against the scheme, I would prefer to take the products such as we are now receiving from foreign countries as the main products for the land tillage for the people on these colonies.

9057. You would start some industry quite unknown in the district in preference to the one that was going on in the district?—Certainly, I should give it the preference.

9058. Would there not be some disadvantage in doing that?—I do not think so. I think the choice is so large that, at any rate for a long time to come, a great number of men might be employed in the way I suggest without anybody feeling it at all.

9059. You think whatever might be the character of the land in the particular district where the colony was, you would always discover some crop other than that grown in the district which your colony manager could at once start?—That grown in the district at present is precisely that which would not be grown at all under this scheme. The whole scheme depends upon this, that whereas under the present system you have big farms growing grain crops and a large cultivation requiring machinery and very little hand labour, those are the sort of things no one would think of doing upon a farm colony.

9060. Your desire is to introduce a non-competing crop of a new character?—Certainly.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

9061. You stated, I think, in the beginning of your evidence, that your Works were carried out upon the eight hours' day principle?—Yes.

9062. You also stated that the result was that you got as much done in eight hours as you did in the old day of nine hours?—Yes.

9063. Do you think if we had a universal eight hours' day it would take up any of the unemployed men in the country?—I think I have already in my general statement made an exhaustive reply to that question. I have told you that in my opinion I think it would be a very false hope, which amounts to delusion upon the part of some people, to suppose that an eight hours' day universal throughout the land would affect largely the question of the employment of the people. I have very carefully gone through the argument on that question in my opening statement, and I do not think I have anything to add to or take from it. It is the result of practical experience and of very long experience.

9064. I do not know whether you have any experience of the minimum wage question, but we have in the north. May I ask what is your experience of the minimum wage rule, that is to say, that no man in employment is to have

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

less than a certain amount of money wage; have you had any experience of that question?—Yes; I always have a minimum wage. I always fix a minimum wage, which is the highest minimum wage fixed by any trade union, and then I go as much above it as I possibly can.

9065. In the north the trades' unions in one particular department of the trade laid down the law that no man was to accept employment under a given wage, and in all those Works that were under the minimum wage, the men were to come out on strike. They came out on strike in every other Works in the city but the firm with which I am connected, and the result was that when this firm began to look into the matter they found there were only one or two who were under the minimum wage, which was so small a moiety that we raised them to the minimum wage, and our Works were kept going; you have had no experience of that?—I have experience by coming in contact with cases where disputes concerning wages have ended disastrously for both parties; but if you ask my opinion whether these disputes are unnecessary, or whether there ought ever to be quarrels about wages, I do not think there is any necessity to have these disputes about wages.

9066. My point is this: you know when a man comes to a certain age he is not able to do the work you would give to a younger man at the same money, and the consequence is that those men are naturally thrown out of work where this law holds; is not that the case?—That does occur with some people.

9067. Does not that very considerably enlarge the number of unemployed?—All men who are thrown out of work naturally enlarge the number of the unemployed, whatever the case may be.

9068. But their age is a cause they cannot overcome?—Quite so.

9069. Is it not hard lines on those men who have served their time, and being engaged all their days in one particular branch of trade, to be thrown out when they come to a time of age that they are no longer able to compete with the younger men?—No man is thrown out on account of his age, so far as my experience goes; I do not know of any man who would be thrown out at all until he was actually incapable of doing the work he formerly did, whether the younger man would take it or not, because you must remember although age is a disadvantage in one respect, it is an advantage in another respect so far as the workman is concerned; you have experience and stability of character in the old workman which you are not always sure of in the younger man, and therefore, as a fact, unless you come to the age of 60, or over 60, I do not think the skilful artizan of any age is displaced for any other cause than ill-health or incapacity by a man 20 years his junior.

9070. I presume you object to overtime as being unnecessary?—I object to overtime, because I think an eight hours' day or 48 hours a week is sufficient for a man to work, if he works properly in the spirit I have described in my preliminary statement.

9071. Do you think if it was the universal law that overtime was to be abolished, it would give employment to a considerable number of more men?—It would give employment, as I described, only to the extent in which double shifts could be given in manufactories during times of great prosperity or industrial pressure; it will not very much affect the question of employing a larger number of men on daywork in the ordinary course of trade.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

9072. There is one part of your scheme which struck me to which you have referred already in your evidence, and that was that to your farm-training colonies you would only send single men, or if they were married men they would be required to leave their wives and families?—That is at the training colonies, where they are only going for temporary work.

9073. You stated that that of course was a thing that was done almost every day by employers of labour who were sending their men to put up machinery or to work in foreign countries, or 100 miles away from their homes?—Certainly.

9074. But in those cases the men get an additional sum to pay for lodging over and above the usual wage, do they not?—Certainly.

9075. In the case of farm colonies there would be nothing of that kind?—No.

9076. The wives and families would be left at home, and you could not expect that a man going from a textile industry, or an engineer, or a man of that kind at a farm colony, could do anything to support his wife and family apart from himself?—You observe I have provided in the scheme for such a case by saying that the wife at home should receive 4*s.* a week from the guardians of her locality. The man would be maintained by his own labour on the colony, and probably would earn, certainly after the first fortnight, sufficient means to return something to the guardians towards the amount they have already paid the wife. But in no case would the guardians be called upon to pay more than they would have to do if the man, instead of going to the colony and working there, had gone to their workhouse door and asked for relief.

9077. I am afraid he would take a considerable time, would he not, to support his wife and family by working on the land?—Judging from actual experience as to what may be derived from the labour of a man properly directed doing the best he can at a special kind of work, as I said before, the maintenance of the man himself at any rate is provided for by that work. In so far it is a gain to everybody. What he may earn beyond the actual food he consumes would be a contribution to his family, or he can have it himself to dispose of as he likes. But as long as the guardians were paying 4*s.* a week to the family in the town, they would have the right to take from the man such earnings beyond his food and lodging as he made upon the land.

9078. As to the land that would be reclaimed by these colonists—is it your view that the State should first of all purchase the land before anything is done to it?—Certainly; the means to start the whole scheme would have to come from a loan through the usual channel, through the Local Government Board.

9079. If they took a proprietor's land which was lying derelict or had never been in cultivation, and cultivated that land, and then gave it up, it would be too good a plum, would it not, for the landlord

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

landlord to get it back again?—He would not get it back again. If the money spent on it was not repaid by the colonist under the system set forth in part second of my scheme, the land would be national property; it would be nationalised to this extent that the nation would have paid for the land, and it would be dedicated to this kind of use in future.

9080. You heard the evidence of the Lord Provost of Glasgow in regard to the reclamation of bog-land near Glasgow?—Yes.

9081. He stated that they paid, first of all, 1*s.* an acre rent up to 5*s.* at the end of the lease, and at the end of the lease, when they left the land, it would be worth 1*l.* an acre to anybody coming in; is not that rather too good a plum for the landlord to get for nothing?—I do not see how the landlord could get it.

9082. He did get it there; that is my reason for asking if your scheme embodies the principle of the land being bought by the State before it is brought into a state of cultivation?—Under one arrangement it is bought by the State; under another arrangement it is simply leased in perpetuity.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

9083. You limit your scheme to men whose physical capability for hard out-door work and agricultural labour has been ascertained; have you considered what percentage of respectable working-men that would exclude?—I do not think it would exclude a serious percentage. I think very few men would go to the Poor Law authority for such work unless they knew themselves to be capable of it.

9084. To whom are the profits of these training colonies to go?—The profits of all the work would go to the colonists themselves, beyond the expenses of the establishment.

9085. The losses to be borne by the guardians?—There would, of course, be a contribution from the first. The whole of the profit would not be bestowed upon the earnings of the men, but a certain contribution would be paid to the general fund, out of which preparation or any temporary loss would be covered. If the whole thing were based upon wrong principles and never could pay, that would have to fall upon those trying the expense, viz., the Poor Law authority.

9086. The managing authority under the scheme would be independent of both the loss and the profit?—The managing authority would be a purely managing authority, just as it would be for any other commercial or industrial enterprise.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

9087. On the second page of your scheme, where the summary of proposals is given with regard to Farm Training Colonies, you deal with the suggestion in regard to which Mr. Acland asked some questions, to the effect that the management should be placed in the hands of the county councils, whilst the expense must be contributed by the Poor Law authorities?—Yes.

9088. I understand you do not adhere to that as being a fixed portion of your scheme?—Certainly not; that is one of two or three modes of managing it. As I explained before, I thought

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

that since this is a question dealing with agricultural districts, the county councils being important bodies and being charged with so many functions of this sort, would be the best authority to be entrusted with the management, and they would be a body who, in concert with the Poor Law authorities, would be able to administer all the details of such an enterprise perhaps better than the Poor Law authorities, who would, a number of them joining together, naturally form a sort of partnership in the colony; whereas a central body, such as now exists in the county council in every county, would be a permanent body and would have the means of obtaining the co-operation of many outsiders who are anxious for this kind of work to be done, just as they obtain the co-operation of many educationists in carrying out the Technical Instruction Act, for which they have funds, and so make it rather a matter of public interest and public responsibility, the Government having once shown they would allocate certain sums for the purpose under the security set forth in the scheme.

9089. Is there not this great difference in regard to the administration of the funds devoted by Parliament for the purpose of technical instruction in the county, that these funds are administered by the county authority because they come to the county council for administration within the area for the administration of which the county authority is responsible; but as I understand your scheme, each Poor Law authority is to be asked to contribute towards the expense of this work, which is to be carried out by the county council. You may have a large urban or, as we should call it in Scotland, burgh Poor Law authority, and they would be called upon to contribute towards the expense of carrying out work in the county, which would be managed by the county council. I should like to ask whether you have ever considered this point: The county council might decline to assume the responsibily when it was proposed to burden them with the administration under a scheme of this kind, which would include large town areas, and might give them a large amount of work to do?—They would be quite within their right to decline to undertake the responsibility, and I do not say it is at all essential that that authority should be the one to exercise the control. It would probably be equally well done if you could conveniently get three or four or five Poor Law authorities to combine for the purpose of starting and managing such a scheme: that is a mere matter of convenience; it is not a matter of principle at all; it is only one suggestion out of two or three, which might be equally worth consideration as to the best way of managing it.

9090. Are we to understand you would leave to each Poor Law authority to express readiness to go into the scheme?—Yes; until you have a consensus of opinion among certain Poor Law authorities to adopt a scheme of this kind, and to pledge themselves to use it for their own purposes, in connection it may be with others, I do not think any advance could be made from the Government for the funds necessary to buy the land.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

9091. That is to say, the Local Government Board would not be justified in advancing money under this scheme for Farm Training Colonies, unless they were satisfied that a sufficient number of Poor Law authorities in the particular locality were interesting themselves in the matter, and were prepared to come under obligations that would have to extend over a period of years?—Quite so. The Local Government Board would have to be satisfied that there was a demand and a desire and a capacity for management, and general prudential considerations connected with the establishment of such a colony, before they would advance the money, just as they do now with regard to all town improvements.

9092. Would you limit those who could obtain work on these Farm Training Colonies to those who were inhabitants of the particular locality for which these contributing Poor Law authorities were responsible?—Yes; I think in any such combination as that, where the undertaking had been promoted entirely by a certain number of unions, those would be the unions supplying that colony with colonists.

9093. You would not allow of any people, other than those coming from the particular unions, to participate in any benefits derived from it?—I do not say I would not allow any others to participate; that is a matter that would be settled only by experience. For instance, supposing such a colony not to be occupied for the time being by the men sent down by these several boards of guardians, I think it would be quite open then for those managing the colony to receive colonists from any other board of guardians, under the condition that the guardians sending them would take upon themselves any responsibility of contributing in case of any deficit arising.

9094. In the 19th paragraph of your proposal there is this suggestion: "There should be no restriction as to the places from which the men might come. In many counties it would be difficult to find suitable land for a colony." That rather presupposes moving men from one county to another?—Yes; I would give the possibility of their coming from all parts when the colonies were once established, unless they were already occupied by the promoters of them, and then other colonies would have to be instituted.

9095. The provisions of paragraph 19 must be read in the light of the explanation you have now given, namely, that the men, though they might come from other places, would have to be paid for (if there was any deficit) by the places from which they came?—Yes.

9096. What would you do, supposing they came to the colony on their own account?—They could not come to the Farm Training Colonies on their own account. That is all carefully provided for in the scheme. In the case of each man, application must be first made to his own local authority, and his own local authority must be satisfied he is a person duly qualified, and that he deserves the benefit, and that having been done, you start upon a safe line from the very beginning.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

9097. In paragraph 14 you have already explained to us what precautions you would take to make men who have undertaken to work upon the colony remain upon the work; how would you propose to deal with this case? Supposing in a colony where you had accommodation for 200 men you had in one month 100 working, in another month 200, and in a third month you had only 10 applicants for work, how would you propose to carry on the work of that particular colony if the amount of labour necessary to carry on the operations you had started with the 200 men was not forthcoming?—That is easily provided for under the system. You must not forget that at least half of this colony is the cultivated portion over which there is a manager, and two or three, it may be, skilled labourers from the colony or elsewhere; and after the first start of the enterprise, there would be a certain number of men always remaining on that cultivated part who had passed through the uncultivated part, and were preparing themselves for and intending to occupy the land themselves under Part 2 of this scheme. A sudden diminution or cessation of labour such as you have foreshadowed as possible would only be a cessation from the uncultivated portion of the colony, not from the cultivated part. The cultivated portion of the colony is, as I say, only worked by those men who have indicated a desire to have full training of this kind in order that they may become possessors of a holding under Part 2 of the scheme. Consequently the fluctuating portion, which comes for a month we will say and goes away, is simply dealing with the tillage of the uncultivated portion of the land; that work may be left at any moment, and it may be resumed at any moment. If you take digging, for instance, as long as the land is dug it is worth so much a rod; when the digging stops, the land is not wanted; it is not productive; the colony does not depend upon the products of that land; the whole colony is being kept out of the cultivated portion. Therefore you have an enormous reservoir, so to speak, out of which you can meet the varied requirements of that class of labour which you suppose to be of a transient character.

9098. But even on this cultivated land you would have to carry on a certain amount of agricultural operations, would you not?—Yes; but those men on the cultivated portion would be permanent, and would be put there because of their intention to remain.

9099. In fact they would be regular agricultural labourers?—They would be regular colonists; they would do all the work necessary for the particular class of hand tillage for which they would be paid according to the scheme; it would be on their own desire that they would remain on the cultivated portion to complete their full training to qualify them either as emigrants to go out to the colonies, such as Canada or elsewhere, or to avail themselves of the second portion of the scheme of farm settlements; and such men would be capable of taking over that land under the same management and control, and become themselves small holders, working it under

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

under the co-operative principle, under conditions of production and distribution such as have not yet been known hitherto in England.

9100. In the 23rd paragraph of the scheme you suggest a certain number of occupations to which these men might be put?—Yes.

9101. I understand from other portions of the scheme you look upon it as an important feature of the scheme that there should be these other means of occupation in the colony; is it not the case that such work as you describe in that paragraph used to exist to a large extent in villages throughout the country formerly?—To what do you refer chiefly?

9102. For instance, is it not the case that some years ago there was a much greater amount of local tailoring in the villages, and a much greater amount of local joinery work done, and chairs made in the locality, and matters of that kind?—No doubt.

9103. There used to be clockmakers also very often in the villages?—No doubt.

9104. Is it not the case that that sort of work no longer continues to the same extent?—I daresay it is possible that villagers now are buying from wholesale clothiers what they formerly obtained from the local tailor; but there is no suggestion in the paragraph you refer to that any business, like tailoring or clockmaking or anything of that kind, should be established in the village. The suggestion simply was that among a community such as these colonies would be, there must be at least repairs to be undertaken, and that is one of the means of occupying such people in wet weather, not as a daily regular occupation, but only at such times when their proper and real occupation on the land could not be carried on from any cause.

9105. Is it not the case that those local industries which all of us who are acquainted with village life know used to exist, have died out simply because people have found it more economical to purchase those things from larger sources of supply, and so it is impossible for economical reasons for these village industries to be carried on?—Yes, but there is nothing proposed in this paragraph which really touches the establishment of these village industries.

9106. I understand that you are proposing to do work in these colonies which would be less remunerative than if it had been purchased from other sources?—You are mistaking entirely the purpose of this proposal. I say in such a community as you would get in these colonies there must necessarily be some amount of boot-making, or tailoring, or repairing clothes, or building work of various descriptions required, and the suggestion is that, instead of that work being sent to large tailors or large builders, the men would do it themselves; but it is only so far as the life of the colony itself is concerned that this labour would be used. It is not suggested to supply boots and shoes and clothing for the whole country side, but it would be simply to give the occupation necessary for the purpose, and only so far as it was profitable, and only so far as it suited the purpose of the colony; there would be no supplying articles outside; there would be no ready-made clothing to be sent into the market,

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

but it would only be for the colonists themselves.

9107. You would have men who had been more or less trained as tailors to do that tailoring work, would you not?—Judging from the actual experience in Germany and in our own country, you cannot get a couple of hundred men together, such as you would have in such a colony, without finding among them a handy man who is capable of doing that rough sort of repairing that is necessary for that kind of life; and my point is that that is occupation for him, for which he gets paid over and above his primary work on the land.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9108. He is to be made to do that work, is he?—No; he simply understands that there is occupation of this kind if he cares to undertake it. Those are the occupations out of which a colonist may obtain a certain amount of money beyond his keep, and it is a great advantage to him to have an opportunity of using in that way any handicraft of which he may be possessed.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

9109. In the 25th paragraph you allude to, a few handicrafts which "might be introduced which have long since died out in competition with modern manufactures, but which, if now revived, having a quality of their own, might create a new demand for productions not now supplied in this country." Can you mention a few instances of what you mean?—That arises out of the experience I have had of what has been done in the way of encouragement of home industries among agricultural labourers in various parts of the North of England. There is a great deal of charming work done in the villages in that way, such as *repoussée* metal work and ornamental iron work produced by hand, which is not capable of being stamped by machinery, and therefore does not come into the market in the ordinary way; and you can find plenty of people who are glad to purchase works of this character. There is no doubt such a restoration of the old handicrafts might be very useful in such a community as these colonies. Then there is a certain class of weaving done (they call it art weaving) which is not represented in the markets of the country, and which is done in the leisure time of the people whose labour is not very costly. Those are occupations which could be very well carried on in these colonies. In fact there are many societies existing to-day for the promotion of such industries.

9110. I gather that the general feature of your scheme with regard to agriculture is that work that is now done on large farms where agricultural machinery of the most improved character is used has proved to be unprofitable; that is what I understand you to proclaim?—Yes.

9111. And you propose to replace it by farms on which a larger amount of hand labour would be employed, but in which crops, which are not grown under the present large farming system, will be cultivated?—That is so

9112. On that point you drew a parallel in the statement that you made in the beginning of your

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

evidence between manufactures and agriculture, in which I think you led the Committee to infer that the agriculturist did not understand much about his business, and that if the factories had not been more cheaply and better managed than the farms had, the factories would have gone down in the same way as the farms, and been a decaying industry?—Yes, I limited that comparison in the sense that I did not put it quite as high as you are putting it. I did not suggest that farmers were all a lot of stupid fellows. I put it in this way: Take instance the manufacturing district, of Blackburn or any part of Lancashire, where in former times there used to be a common cloth woven which they called "domestic" cloth, made of coarse yarn and requiring very little attention and care; there was no design about it, and, in fact, there was very little of either quality or thought put into its production. That cloth was at one time exported to all parts of the world; it was a very good trade and went on for very many years, and the happy owners of such mills and manufactories had a very good and easy time of it. But as factories in other parts of the world began to produce it for themselves, this quality of cloth was no longer demanded from this country, and probably some other countries might send some of this cloth to us instead of taking it from us as they formerly did. Under such circumstances the owner of the mill, as an intelligent man, instead of saying, "The trade in this cloth is awfully bad, and I cannot make money out of it, I am losing money, I am a most unfortunate man and I shall be ruined"—instead of doing that I say he sets himself to work to see whether he cannot by use of improved machinery make up his raw material in some more profitable form. He has to start with the raw material, and he has the machinery and he has his workpeople; he starts with cotton, we will say, and a certain amount of machinery and his workpeople, and he may, with the knowledge and skill necessary, so use his raw material and machinery by making certain improvements and alterations in his machinery, for instance, as to succeed in making an article which is not already manufactured in other parts of the world, and for which there is a demand, and will be a demand for a long time. The consequence is, that his industry increases in volume; it may be that he is not producing so many articles of the same quality as before, but he is producing other articles much more valuable. If an industry may be treated in that way, I contend that it is exactly parallel with the land. In the old times the land in this country growing large grain crops was able to supply the market before those crops came in from abroad. In recent years the land has become unprofitable for those crops, because corn is now obtained from foreign countries at very much less price than it can be grown in this country; but I say that farmers having the raw material, the land, to deal with, ought to do as the manufacturer does; he ought to turn the raw material to a different purpose; he ought to absorb the labour which he can obtain very cheaply. If he put more brains into the cultivation of the land by applying that labour to more suitable forms of cultivation, he should

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

from the same area of land be able to make a larger profit. If you read these Blue Books, you will see there is one cry all the way through, and that is that the land wants more brains; it is not only that it wants more manure—there are complaints about wanting manure, it is true—but brains are a great deal more valuable to it than manure. Just as a manufacturer has to change his products in order to meet the change in demand in the markets of the world, or to create a new demand when the old article has gone out of demand, so, on the same principle, the agriculturist must deal with the land of England; and now that our land can no longer be used profitably to grow these great corn crops with which the English farmer used to feed us, and which now come from abroad in such great quantities, the English agriculturist must utilise the land and all this hand labour that is available, to grow all these other products which can be grown as well in this country to compete with those that come in from abroad.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9113. This is only theory, is it not; you have no practical knowledge of agriculture?—I have all the facts given in these Blue Books in which this theory as you may call it is based. I can give chapter and verse for everything out of these Blue Books which are open to every honourable Member and everyone else.

9114. It is only theory, is it not?—No, it is by no means only theory, and so far as the analogy of manufacturing is concerned to which I have referred, it is based upon actual knowledge and experience.

Mr. *Renshaw.*

9115. With regard to the manufactures, is it not the case that the process has been that the factory system has steadily replaced by machinery the work that used to be done by hand in scattered communities over the whole country?—Yes.

9116. So that the change that has been going on in regard to factories, as against the old land system, has tended to draw the population away from the land and away from the village into the big centres. Is not the whole tendency of the cessation of manufacture by hand as contrasted with manufacture by machinery been exactly the opposite of that which you are suggesting with regard to the land; what you now suggest with regard to the land, namely, to revert to the methods of hand cultivation, is just the opposite process, is it not, to the change that has been made so successfully in the case of manufactures?—I am surprised that you should think there is any flaw in the analogy which I have drawn between the two cases. It is not exactly the same material in the two cases, of course. If you compare cotton with corn, I say that out of the raw material of cotton you can make every conceivable article up to articles as fine as lace; out of corn you can make nothing but flour. My argument is this: if you have 900 acres of land and used it in growing corn, and that corn can be delivered in this country from abroad at a much less price than you can grow it, surely it is not profitable to go on growing corn on this land, and it would be better

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

to give up these big crops and put the land to hand-tillage, and put all this labour which you can now get cheaply on the land and which would enable you to produce much more valuable products.

9117. Is it not the case that during the last 30 or 40 or 50 years, whatever period you like to take, there have been large changes going on in the whole system of agriculture in many parts of the United Kingdom?—That is quite true. I have not said that there are not changes taking place, nor that there has been want of skill in growing the particular products which it has been the custom in this country to produce for many years past; but I say that where skill and knowledge and enterprise have been wanting is in abandoning the old crops, grain crops, which can no longer be profitably grown, however skilfully and however well the farming is done in connection with them, and however much machinery may be employed with a view of economising labour. I contend that want of enterprise has displayed itself in the fact that the farmers as a whole, instead of abandoning their corn growing and adapting their land to other purposes, have remained too long trying to grow produce that we know cannot possibly be profitably grown in this country. It is only in that sense that I say there has been want of enterprise.

9118. Passing from that to what you said they should produce, you suggested the cultivation of flax should be very largely extended in this country?—I mentioned flax as one of the products requiring a great deal of hand labour which formerly existed in this country, and I say that instead of growing flax, the land has been taken to produce crops which can no longer be grown at a profit.

9119. I thought you led the Committee to understand that flax was given up in consequence of there not being sufficient people upon the land to work it?—No; I said the land which was occupied formerly by flax crops had been taken over probably for growing grain crops, because at that time the grain crops would pay better; I do not say necessarily the cultivation of flax was abandoned, because there was no labour, but because the farmers chose to put the land under a crop which at that particular time paid them better.

9120. I take flax because that is one of the crops you suggest in your scheme; are you aware that the cultivation of flax has fallen off very considerably in Ireland in recent years, notwithstanding the fact that in Ireland you have such a large population on the land?—That is so.

Mr. *Renshaw*—continued.

9121. Are you aware that in 1887 there were as many as 130,000 acres of land in Ireland under cultivation of flax crops, whilst last year there was something less than 70,000?—That is a sad fact.

9122. Can you suggest any reason for that which would lead the Committee to think that if flax cultivation was embarked upon by these new colonies it would be more remunerative than it has been in Ireland?—No, I should first of all have to inquire what are the reasons that have led the Irish to abandon flax and take to breeding cattle, or using the land for other purposes; but the fact remains that in Lincolnshire, to which I have referred, and to which the evidence of Mr. Wilson Fox refers, you have two things that are not profitable. In the first place, presumably the flax was not so profitable at the time it was given up as corn crops were at that time. But now corn crops, which took the place of flax, are not profitable, and arable farming, which took the place of flax, is not profitable.

9123. If the farmer formerly gave up flax when it was not profitable and took to growing wheat, would he not, if he finds growing wheat is not profitable, take to flax again if he thought that would be profitable?—I should say that at present he could not get the labour that was necessary under the present system.

9124. That cannot be the reason, can it, why this cultivation is going down in Ireland?—Many causes are attributed for its going down in Ireland,

9125. I see another product mentioned in your paper; take the cultivation of beet-root for sugar: you say, "with skill and ample hand labour, beet can be grown and its saccharine properties developed as successfully in this country as abroad." Is it within your knowledge, as it is within the knowledge of most members of the Committee, that great efforts have been made recently to cultivate beet-sugar successfully in this country?—Yes.

9126. Could you state of your own knowledge in proof of the statement in this paragraph, that the beet-root that has been cultivated in this country has had its saccharine properties developed as successfully as that grown abroad?—I have very precise evidence upon that question to offer; I do not propose to offer it myself, but you will have it on Tuesday from an expert witness.

Tuesday, 21st May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.	Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Logan.
Mr. Billson.	Mr. Mather.
Mr. John Burns.	Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.	Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Heneage.	Mr. Round.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.	Mr. John Wilson (Govan).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. WILLIAM MATHER (a Member of the Committee); further Examined.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9127. YOUR proposal is intended to meet distress arising from want of employment especially, is it not?—Yes.

9128. Both permanent and temporary?—Temporary in the first place, leading to permanent employment on the land under certain conditions.

9129. It is to provide for temporary loss or want of employment from depression of trade or shifting of trade?—Yes, the want of employment from whatever cause.

9130. I gather your proposal takes certain points for granted as axioms. For instance, in paragraph 10 you say: "It is necessary to recognise the fact that the labour of any able-bodied man upon land can, under proper directions and conditions, be of at least an equal value to the cost of his maintenance"?—Yes.

9131. Do you speak on that point from actual experience?—I speak from such experience as it is open to everybody to obtain for themselves from the labours of others.

9132. Have you ever tried it yourself in your own experience?—I have never tried working upon land myself.

9133. What I mean is, have you ever taken land and worked it in the way you propose?—No. I have had no occasion to do so. But there is a notable example which I quoted on that point close at hand, which occurred to my mind, and which you may have seen, namely, at Wanstead Flats; and if we have the experience of the manager of that work, we shall, of course, have that proved beyond doubt. But already, in the course of the evidence before this Committee, we have had it stated that, even working upon an acre of land, or rather less than an acre of land, a farm labourer or agricultural labourer could earn 4*s.* a week in his overtime, in addition to the ordinary labour he spends upon the land; and if on an acre of land it is possible to do

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

that, I do not think there can be any doubt that, under the management I have suggested, and on land of the character I have suggested, any one, even unaccustomed to ordinary farm work, would be able to earn his maintenance, his actual food, by the labour he performed on land prepared for the purpose.

9134. That is your theoretical opinion?—No; I think it is a commonly accepted and well-known fact. It does not appear to me to need any elaboration. If proof were needed of it, of course it could be had without stint; but I treat it as an axiom.

9135. A theoretical axiom?—There is no theory about an axiom; it is a law of nature.

9136. May I take it you have no practical experience of it?—I have such experience as justifies me in making the assertion.

9137. Then in paragraph 12 you say, as a condition of your scheme, that "a colony for men unskilled in agricultural work must mainly consist of land out of cultivation, but such land must be of a nature which is capable of profitable cropping when brought under cultivation." Is that possible in many parts of England at the present prices?—Yes; there appears to be from the agricultural returns no doubt whatever that, under proper preparation, there is very little land that cannot be made worth the culture spent upon it, and made to yield a profit.

9138. That is, again, a theoretical opinion, is it not?—No; it is gained entirely from the Agricultural Commissioners' Reports. If you care to have actual illustrations of this fact, although it does not come in so appropriately here as it might elsewhere, I might take a case of a labourer which is quoted by Mr. Wilson Fox in his report on Lincolnshire, page 71. He there gives an instance of what may be done by an ordinary labouring man hiring land even at 3*l.* 6*s.* per acre, with six acres of land. That man, after paying rent for this land, with his

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

his wife helping him, was able to obtain a considerable profit from it; so much so that he was able to acquire 12 acres more land out of what he made from his six acres and from savings on his wages at his general work. This experiment shows that with the necessary skill and direction on a very small quantity of cultivated land, a man and his family could obtain a very decent living on six acres. But the point to which this paragraph 12 refers deals with the question from the point of view of waste land having been brought under cultivation by the system described, namely, that waste land adjoining the cultivated land would, for a considerable time, be under the tillage of those men who simply had to perform the operation of preparing it for seed for the growth of whatever product was intended to be put upon it, the first operation being performed by steam digging and by such machinery as would be hired in a country place to do work best done by machinery. For it is to be observed that under this scheme machinery is not to be excluded in the first preparation of the waste land to bring it into a state fit for hand-tillage. The land having been brought into that condition by machinery which would be hired, then even such labour as could be bestowed upon the land during the first year by men of the unemployed working classes with whom we have to deal, would be sufficient to maintain the workers and afterwards to more than maintain them.

9139. Then you consider that the explanation of the present outcry of agricultural depression is simply that the agriculturist does not know how to carry on his own business?—No, I do not say anything of the kind. I say that a large quantity of land is being used by the farmers in this country to grow crops which could not possibly yield a profit. They cannot afford on such crops to employ more labour, and in fact they do not require more than a very small amount of labour; and if they were to turn their land from that mode of cultivation into a cultivation that would require a large amount of hand labour, they would have to face a very serious question, and apparently very few of them have been inclined to face this question. The whole case is put in a nutshell, if you would let me refer to what you may regard as a high authority, viz., a leading article in the "Times" newspaper, discussing the Report of the Agricultural Commissioners. The leading article says: "Owners of purely agricultural land are face to face with a depreciation of their property which to all appearance seems permanent, and farmers can only hope to weather the storm by bringing a larger measure of skill, enterprise, and intelligence to the task of adjusting the cost of production to the diminished price of their produce. All forms of industry are liable to disturbance and dislocation from sudden and widespread changes in the economical conditions involved, and the only real remedy lies in the inherent capacity of human nature to adapt itself to the new conditions evolved. Nearly every industry in the country has had to undergo this ordeal in its turn, and few have emerged unscathed. It is the turn of

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

agriculture now, and there is nothing for it but to accept the fact and make the best of it." That, I think, puts very fairly the conclusion anyone would arrive at on looking through these agricultural reports, and having regard to what is written generally at the present time on agricultural conditions and agricultural prospects. I should like the Committee to bear in mind that this scheme takes advantage of the very peculiar condition of things in this country at the present time—a condition that apparently must be permanent—viz., that land will not increase in value from these great crops on large farms which hitherto have been grown, although the skill necessary for the growth of these crops has possibly been present in abundance (I do not deny it), and machinery of the most perfect kind has been applied to the cultivation of the land for these crops. But seeing that a large quantity of this land is gradually going out of cultivation, it is an opportune moment to restore to the land of England, in part at any rate, that condition of things that obtained very many years ago, when hand tillage could be used to a profitable account on small plots of land in producing such things as at present we entirely depend upon foreign nations to send us. It is a peculiar concurrence of events. There is a coincidence, a happy coincidence in a certain sense, although very unhappy in another. At a time when we are requiring to provide a large amount of labour for the unemployed industrial classes that cannot be afforded in our industrial regions, at a time when we find a continual flow of young men away from the agricultural districts to the industrial districts, it seems to me a happy coincidence that land can be acquired at a very small price on certain terms of safety for those who find the capital, and that we can restore the ancient order of things.

9140. You think the surplus town labour which has failed in the towns can resuscitate agriculture which has failed in the hands of those who have been at work at it for years?—No, I have not said anything of the kind in a general sense. I have said the present state of agriculture gives an opportunity for the labour of those people on the land who at present cannot find employment elsewhere, and under such conditions as will produce a profit, or, at all events, if not a profit in money, what will be security for the money, and at the same time lead to the cultivation of the land and the maintenance of a large population on the land.

9141. You have never taken any land yourself and tried the experiment, have you?—I have not tried it myself individually; but I am connected, and have been for many years, with many societies that have made the experiment, and I have made my contributions to experiments of this kind for the purpose of discovering whether it was possible for a private society to undertake such a removal of labour from the town back to the land. My experience of those efforts, as I set forth in my opening statement, is that it is absolutely impossible for charitable associations or philanthropic associations to meet this question in any sense commensurate with its importance or with the

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

magnitude of the demands that are now made upon it.

9142. Do you consider that this land, which is profitable for cropping, can be bought in fee simple for 10*l.* an acre?—I can give you chapter and verse for very large quantities of land to be obtained, unhappily, every day in the week at less price than that.

9143. Fit to produce 9*l.* per acre per year?—Certainly. I will give you a case in point; I mentioned it incidentally on the last occasion. There is a large farm in Essex, which I visited myself, which had become practically uncultivated. The land had become starved through the method of culture adopted by the former tenant. A young Scotchman came down and paid less than 1*l.* an acre rent, which is less than 20*l.* an acre, I presume, to purchase out-and-out. The rent of that farm, although it contained very excellent buildings, the most perfect farm buildings you can conceive of, and a very good house, was only 18*s.* per acre. Upon this farm this man has worked now for three years, altering the cultivation to the needs of the land, and in accordance with his own skill and knowledge, and he has upon that land produced a profit that pays him.

9144. You referred to Bradford in your former evidence as a town where, during a serious depression, your scheme might have been applied, as I understand?—I referred to Bradford in my opening statement as a town in which there had been great fluctuation in employment; and if, during that period, there had been a means of this kind for temporary employment, there is no doubt a large amount of that surplus labour would have been accommodated with work on the farm.

9145. If your scheme had been in operation Bradford could have applied for work under it?—Men from Bradford would most likely have applied to the Poor Law authority having such work at their disposal, for occupation on this farm.

9146. If this colony had been in existence at the period when you said that, owing to the alpaca troubles, Bradford was in great difficulty, there would have been a great exodus from Bradford to these farm colonies?—I did not say there would have been any exodus. I used the case of Bradford to show that very great dislocation took place from time to time in certain manufacturing industries, and during those periods it took a considerable amount of time and patience to bring back in other forms the industries that had been displaced. That occurred in the case of Bradford.

9147. During that time would not this farm system have been used according to your proposal?—Yes; I think a considerable number of those men would have applied for admission to these colonies, and would have maintained themselves for that period and helped to maintain their families, and some of them possibly might have remained on the land altogether.

9148. The population of Bradford is about 250,000, is it not?—At present I suppose it is approaching 200,000. It was not so large at that time.

9149. That means to say that many thousands would have gone from Bradford to these proposed colonies?—No; not necessarily many thousands, nor hundreds. It is merely used as an illustration that there are at times large masses of men thrown out of employment; and I say that such a scheme as this would have tided over the period of distress those of that number of men who were inclined to go through the ordeal of this hard work upon the land, and to prove that they would not receive any relief whatever during those bad times, except through the work of their own hands.

9150. Still my question is, would they have gone or would they not; because, if the scheme is to meet that depression, surely great numbers must have gone?—I should think great numbers of those men would have gone for temporary residence.

9151. Some thousands?—There might have been hundreds or thousands applying; it would depend upon the accommodation that had been provided.

9152. According to your scheme, for every thousand that applied you would have had to supply 5,000 acres of land; is that so?—Whatever the number might be, taking the training colony upon this basis, if it were adopted as a national institution for the purposes I have described, it would naturally have to grow with the growth of the demand made upon it.

9153. If a thousand persons went from Bradford, according to your scheme, which says you want six acres per man, would not that involve the immediate taking up of 6,000 acres of land to meet the want in Bradford?—It would not be possible to take up 6,000 acres to meet specially the want in Bradford. If this becomes an institution of the country, these colonies would constantly exist, ready to receive at times of great depression large numbers of persons upon the land for temporary employment.

9154. At a great distance from their homes?—At any distance from their homes; that has nothing to do with it at all. The men can be sent down to their own colony, and they may as well be a hundred miles away as five miles away.

9155. Would it have hastened the return of prosperity to Bradford if you had sent a hundred persons out of Bradford to a farm hundreds of miles away, where in the meanwhile they would have been utterly cut off from the means of getting work in Bradford?—No. I described very fully on Friday, in reply to the Chairman, what would happen in a case of that kind. The Chairman put a case rather more appropriate for his purpose than Bradford, namely, Coventry. I have made a full explanation of what would happen in that case.

9156. I took Bradford because you mentioned it in your statement?—I never used Bradford in the sense you are putting it. I used it in describing the causes which led to want of employment sometimes on the part of large masses of men. But that is a circumstance which happily does not occur every year; it may not occur once in a decade. I took it as an illustration to point the argument I had in view, that you must expect fluctuations in industries from time to time, whatever the condition of general trade might be. When you ask the question whether thousands of men could be

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

be sent from Bradford hundreds of miles away, I may point out that the whole island is not hundreds of miles from shore to shore, from north to south; but it is within reason that in large counties, say in the Midland Counties, land might easily be obtained for purposes of this kind; and so far as these colonies were in existence, and so far as they could accommodate the men out of employment in such a crisis as that at Bradford, the men could be readily taken on at the colony. The mere distance from their homes does not impair in any shape or form the value of the labour of these men.

9157. You think not?—That occurs now from time to time; men go a very long distance from their homes for employment; they go out for weeks together. In my own experience, men have come to me who have not been at home for six weeks. Some men will come from Glasgow to the South of England, or *vice versâ*; they go long distances in search of work, trusting to their friends or trusting to something to keep them going.

9158. Here you are taking them away from their natural work?—Yes, to be employed; and in the meantime they have all the resources that they would have at home to inquire from their friends and families and connections, besides the public authorities, when their own trade is capable of offering employment. Moreover, I should like to point out that one great advantage of such a colony as this for unemployed labour would consist in the management which I have described being itself very helpful indeed in getting these men back to their regular work. The manager and committee of management of the colony would be interested in the case of every man that came to them. The man would confide to them the nature of his former occupation, and what he would like to do, and the management would announce through the newspapers and through all the ordinary sources of public advertisement, that there were very good men in the colony of excellent conduct who wanted situations. There would therefore be a sort of registry office for labour, or a labour bureau, incidentally arising out of the plan that I suggested, which would be an enormous boon to hundreds of working men who had been temporarily displaced from their occupations.

9159. Do you think that would make up to a man for the loss of the opportunity of getting back to his own work in the place where he was generally engaged?—I do not admit that there would be any loss of opportunity in that respect. I think the opportunity is better when he is employed under these conditions in the way of bringing him under the notice of other employers who might take him into their service. If a man had shown so much strength of character as to go away from home and work on these colonies in this somewhat hard, and by no means enjoyable, fashion, at all events for a time, I think such a man would have a claim upon a good employer, who wanted to have a man who would never eat the bread of charity, or depend upon his neighbours, but would earn his own living under the most unfavourable circumstances.

9160. I suppose during periods of depression, such as we have had, your proposal would be that a great many of these colonies would be in existence, covering a considerable area?—Yes, I should hope so. There is room for them, and I should hope they would be established.

9161. When the depression ceased, or was less, what would happen to the colonies?—One half of the colony is a farm settlement; the cultivated portion of the colony, say 600 acres out of 1,200, would be occupied permanently by those who resorted to a farming life as their permanent occupation. Entering through the uncultivated portion of the colony, they would then pass to work upon the cultivated part, and that cultivated land would gradually form a farm-settlement, as I call it, and upon that these men would be permanently placed.

9162. Is it part of the condition of your colony that you must have half your farm permanently inhabited by permanent colonists?—I do not say you must have it; but on the 600 acres of the cultivated portion you must have some 10 to 12 trained skilled labourers, who would receive the ordinary wages of agricultural labourers in the country, and become your permanent staff under your manager; there would be a farm bailiff, so to speak, and 10 or 12 men who remain there permanently. Those men would be able to keep it going, even supposing there had been no men sent to the colony at all (which is an impossible assumption), and they would work it under such cropping as would suit the labour that such men would bring to bear upon it.

9163. Like ordinary farming, in fact?—Such farming as these men could undertake.

9164. They would lose by that, I suppose?—No; on the contrary they would maintain themselves, and all the expenses of the farm would be met, and the only thing that would be wanting on the cultivated part would be the rental necessary to repay the State for the interest on its money, and that would only be wanting at the start until men could be found to work it permanently.

9165. The State would lose then to that extent?—Would you let me supplement my answer to a previous question of yours. You asked me about the prices at which the land could be obtained.

9166. I was asking about land complying with the conditions set forth in paragraph 12?—If you will look at this map of Essex, which is furnished with the Report of the Agricultural Commissioners, you will see there is plenty of land. You will see that the map is rapidly becoming spotted over with these black spots which indicate land that has passed out of arable cultivation. I will refer you to the actual facts given in Mr. Hunter Pringle's Report on Essex and the Isle of Axholme. He says that land was sold outright, both privately and by auction, at from 3*l.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* per acre, and that the same land, after restoration to a fair state of cultivation, would be worth from 7*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.* The dates are given in his Report for the farms being sold. There is unfortunately no end of land to be got at the present time at such prices as I have named, and at much less price, in fact, than I have named in estimating the cost of such a colony.

9167. I am perfectly aware of that; but the question I asked was whether it would be land complying with your condition in paragraph 12, namely, that "such land must be of a nature which is

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

capable of profitable cropping when brought under cultivation." Is not the whole tenor of the report you have referred to, to show that such land as you have spoken of is not capable of being profitably cropped?—No; on the contrary it is set forth distinctly in the report that this land has gone out of cultivation because the crops grown upon it were such as could not receive a remunerative price in the market, and there was no means and no money and no possibility, either on the part of the farmer or on the part of the owner, of converting that land to such crops as we should consider most profitable where hand tillage could be employed.

9168. Surely the whole difficulty there is that the land will not pay under ordinary cultivation?—That is so if you apply the term "ordinary cultivation" to these crops of wheat and grain, which, as you know, are at a very low price and have been so for many years in the market, so low indeed as to render it impossible for them to compete with foreign produce of that nature. The land has shown itself to be unfit for such crops under that system of cultivation; but to bring it under cultivation of another kind, which this scheme involves, there is no difficulty at all in taking land that hitherto has been used for wheat.

9169. You say, speaking without any practical knowledge, as I understand, that there is no difficulty in bringing this land under profitable cultivation, and yet all the farmers in Essex are being ruined simply because they will not adapt their farming to what you say will be a profitable undertaking; is that so?—In a great measure I think it is. That is not only my own pronounced opinion, but it is the opinion I have received from the persons I have spoken of. I have given a case in point about a farmer in Essex, which is a very strong case; but it is a case by no means exceptional, for the same thing happened not only with that Scotch farmer, but with farmers who occupy 12 miles of land in a straight line running from his own farm right through the county of Essex.

9170. You say that under your scheme this land in Essex, which is shown by the map you have referred to, to be becoming more and more derelict, could be made to do well by bringing this surplus labour of the towns to operate upon it with this superior knowledge that you speak of on the part of the management?—I should think a great portion of the parts coloured black upon that map could through this scheme, from being almost waste land, become a cultivated garden.

9171. That you say, although you have never cultivated land?—I have not cultivated land. I have a considerable number of acres in my possession, and I am in a small way a farmer; but I do not wish my own private experience of land to be placed on record as a guide for honourable Members of this Committee in a matter of this highly technical character. As I have intimated, an expert witness, Mr. Moore, will be here later, this afternoon or on Friday, who can give you chapter and verse for the answers to all these questions that you put, and I should prefer you to reserve them for him if you are not satisfied with the general views I have expressed.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

9172. Going to the question of the 4*s.* a week paid to the man's wife, I understand that when a man goes to a colony, his wife and family are to receive 4*s.* a week to help them while he is at work, and that he will get something more in the case of a certain amount of success?—As I said, supposing the man to be of the pauper class, he would come upon the guardians in some form or another, and would be the recepient of 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week; and what I suggest is that when he comes to this colony, instead of that being done, it would be in the public interest for a man who would not take money for himself, but would work upon this farm-training colony, if the guardians were to pay to his wife 4*s.* a week as an advance. If he did not do more than earn sufficient at the colony to maintain himself—the cost of his maintenance being reckoned at the price which the management of the colony would put upon the produce the man consumed—then, of course, the contribution of the guardians to the wife and children for keeping the home together in the town, would be an ordinary contribution of the guardians to the maintenance of the family. On the other hand, I say this man has an opportunity under the system laid down here, with the management provided here, of not only getting his maintenance for himself, but he has an opportunity of doing something more, inasmuch as he is paid piecework for one-third of his labour. Two-thirds of his labour he gives, but one-third is piecework; and out of the piecework earnings he can cover the cost of 4*s.* a week paid by the guardians to his wife, and probably make something more which would go entirely to his credit.

9173. Do you think the proposal of sending a married man 100 miles away and leaving his wife and family on the town at 4*s.* a week is the solution of the problem which we have under consideration?—I never said anything about its being the solution. I say this is a means, at all events, of employing the unemployed workman, that it prevents his home being broken up. In such a case his goods are not sold; there is nothing spent but the savings up to the time when the man applies for this work; and under this system his wife receives, at all events, a definite 4*s.* a week. That is a small enough pittance, of course, but it is better than nothing; and since almost every person has someone taking an interest in their welfare, if a man went away leaving his wife under those conditions, there would be a claim on the part of the woman upon others who might assist her, and there would be whatever work she might herself undertake to help to maintain the children for the time the man was away. But there is the incentive to the man under those conditions to earn what he might earn (which is considerably more than his own maintenance), that it would all go to benefit the family.

9174. He would not get it, would he?—He would get it or his wife would get it, according as the man might determine. Every week when the piecework was paid for (which is a third of the man's labour), that money would go to his wife

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

wife in town, or would be given to the man to do what he thinks proper with; but it goes against the 4*s.* a week paid by the guardians to begin with.

9175. You think that is a satisfactory arrangement?—It means, at all events, saving the guardians' pocket, and enabling the man to keep his family, if he likes, and it enables the home to remain unbroken, with all the goods and chattels of their household.

9176. Then another feature of your scheme is that only well-conducted members of the unemployed class are to be allowed to go to these colonies; how would you select them?—By the same selection as one now adopts in the case of any service which these men accept. Every manufacturer has to engage labour from time to time.

9177. Who would select them?—They come either with a character or with references.

9178. Do you mean at the farm?—No; I mean the department of the poor law guardians, which is not a pauper department, but a department specially open for this purpose. On the men coming and asking for the work they require on the colony, the officers of the department would make such inquiry as they think fit, and engage the men in the same way as I should engage 100 men if I wanted them to-morrow for my Works.

9179. You think there is no taint of pauperism in all that?—None whatever. The man is perfectly independent, and as long as he is not disfranchised, and has not his Friendly Society's subscriptions confiscated, or his home broken up, and does not pass through the ordeal of the workhouse, but accepts labour freely upon the farm, just as he would in your employment if you engaged him as a coachman or a gardener, I think the self-respect of the man is maintained.

9180. As regards products of the farm, you refer in paragraph 20 to butter and flax, and a number of other things; how is it that those things are not now produced commercially; there is a very good market for butter and flax, and everything else, if it pays, is there not?—I have already said that a large amount of labour is involved in working up the farm products; for instance, in dairy farming, beyond the stage of milk, a very large amount of labour is needed, and that labour is not forthcoming.

9181. If that labour pays, surely it is forthcoming?—It pays under certain conditions. I say we make it available by this plan because everything on this colony is reduced in the way of expenditure to a minimum, and the principle of co-operation and skilled management is increased to the maximum; and by those forces so working together we have an opportunity, by means of this very cheap labour (labour which is paid for, in the first instance, by maintenance only), of producing things upon the farm which cannot be now produced by the present custom on most of our large farms.

9182. That is again based upon theory, is it not?—No, it is based upon absolute facts; but I should prefer that you should put these questions to the practical agriculturist who will follow me, and can give chapter and verse, rather than to me, because you might be inclined to discount whatever I might say on that point.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

9183. As regards finance, I should like to ask a question or two. You say in paragraph 27, "The money advanced by the State for the founding of these colonies would be in the nature of an investment"?—Yes.

9184. Do you consider it a very gilt-edged investment?—I consider it a fair investment.

9185. It is rather a deferred investment, is it not?—For the first five years I propose that the State should receive nothing, unless the colonies developed so rapidly as to enable the interest to be paid within that period.

9186. You expect the State, like the Irish landlords, to get fat on unpaid arrears, because they are not apparently to get anything for five years?—I think it is defined in the scheme.

9187. Do you consider that a fair investment?—Decidedly for the State. It would be a very good investment for some of us. If I had any return on my money in some cases for 10 years I should be extremely happy, and so would most people who are engaged in large enterprises. One continually has to invest large sums of money in manufacturing processes for which you may not see a single per cent. for five or ten years, and indeed you may see it sinking lower and lower before your eyes before the corner is turned. You cannot carry on any enterprise without that; in fact that is the soul of enterprise. No enterprise can be carried on without laying out a lot of money, and 10 years is not a long time to wait before you see your harvest, in the meantime using your intelligence and skill to direct your enterprise in a profitable manner.

9188. But you cannot live upon enterprise, however skilful, if it does not bring you any return?—You cannot live upon nothing, and if you put your whole means of living into such an investment, you would not be acting like an enterprising man, but acting very foolishly. But part of your capital might well be put out in such an investment.

9189. In paragraph 30 you give an estimate of the cost of such a colony; you say that for every 200 persons to be accommodated you estimate the cost at about 30,000*l.*, and 1,200 acres of land?—Yes.

9190. I understand that you still think that 10*l.* an acre is enough, and therefore we will leave that?—I think it is more than enough. It makes an average of 10*l.* You will see that half the land is put at 15*l.*, and half at 5*l.*

9191. We heard from one honourable Member of this Committee that in South Wales there are 12,000 people out of work at the present time, all wanting to be relieved in some way. I suppose this scheme of yours might fairly be applied to those people?—If any such colonies as these were in existence, of course, so far as their capacity went, they would be directly applicable to such cases.

9192. Then, if all those men, owing to the depression which appears to be, unfortunately, permanent in the tinplate district, wanted to come on to your colonies, you would want 60 such colonies, would you not?—If you had ap-

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

plications for 12,000 all at once, you naturally could not supply them all at once.

9193. Then your scheme would break down?—My scheme is not a scheme that can suddenly, by a magician's wand, come into existence at a moment to meet the case of 12,000 persons wanting employment at once. I am proposing in this scheme a way in which the State should aid a new institution for the purpose of gradually meeting these cases in future, which I have tried to show is necessary, as I sincerely believe. I do not believe it willingly; but I am compelled to believe it from my own experience. This scheme is for the purpose of providing a certain number of such colonies, in the first instance, by a very small loan in the way of money, which will demonstrate the feasibility of using such colonies in a wide extension throughout the country, so far as such purposes as I have indicated render it necessary.

9194. Supposing your scheme were successfully worked, and it were able to take up the unemployed labour which arises owing to these unfortunate circumstances in South Wales, that would mean that you would want 72,000 acres of land, or 110 square miles of these farms, supplied for the 12,000 people?—I should submit that what the extent would be has no bearing upon the case. If 12,000 people were regarded as the number having to be accommodated from time to time on such farms as these, the farm colonies having proved to be an advantageous institution, the extent to which they would be magnified would be of no importance.

9195. That prospect does not alarm you?—No.

9196. You do not think 110 square miles of farm colonies, costing 2,000,000*l.* sterling, would be a serious drawback to your scheme?—I think if I were to propose to spend 2,000,000*l.* to-morrow upon a hundred schemes of this kind, it would be very foolish. But having spent the moderate sum I ask for, I say that would be at once a test of the utility of such a colony for a given number of people: and then I think it is not unlikely that, instead of the State having to do it, we should have the landowners of the country themselves very willing to avail themselves of such facilities for bringing men on to the land, and instead of any purchase whatever of land taking place, you might have simply a rental of land for the purpose.

9197. You would not think that such a quantity of land as that is at all alarming?—Not at all.

9198. I daresay you remember that the honourable Member for West Ham put the number of unemployed at something like 2,000,000; that would increase the figure I have given enormously?—That is, I hope, not likely to be in our time; it is not the case to-day, and probably will not be the case if measures of this kind are adopted. I would like the Committee to bear this in mind also: that in considering these proposals, if they are effective at all, at the time they relieve any one individual, they at once begin to retard the present displacement of labour from the land, the depopulation of the land; and they would set an example to a great

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

number of farmers all over the country to cultivate their land on similar principles. By that means they would not only keep on the land the agricultural population that is there to-day, but they would attract back to the land the agricultural population that has been thronging into the big centres.

9199. If Mr. Keir-Hardie's estimate is correct of 2,000,000 for the unemployed, that would represent 18,000 square miles of such farms as you propose, and an expenditure by the State of 300,000,000*l.*?—I think it is quite beyond reason contemplating anything like 2,000,000, or even 200,000, in connection with a scheme of this kind. That is only a *reductio ad absurdum*; it is a process of argument which is not serious; and therefore I think it would not assist us in considering the scheme. I have limited myself to the principle; I have tried to give in detail the character of these institutions and the method by which they are to be conducted, and I have indicated that the State alone can undertake what I should call a practically satisfactory trial of this scheme. If there is anything in the principle at all, it can only be tried by the State; and I have suggested that the State, by devoting to this purpose a very small portion of the amount of money equal to that which they are giving every year for one specific object to the County Council, namely, technical education; by taking, as I say, only a portion of that amount, the State could establish six such colonies so as to accommodate a considerable number of people, and so benefit not only the men themselves but also their wives and families. The State could test these colonies by adequate means, which would give, at all events, the greatest possible chance of success; and if they were proved a success, there is no doubt the matter would be largely taken up by the landowners of the country, and the farmers themselves would adopt a system of cultivation that would keep on the land the vast population now thronging to our towns.

9200. If your scheme is good and pays, as you say it will, for 200 persons, there is no reason why you should not put a very much larger number on, is there?—For this reason I have developed the system of farm settlements, following after the farm training colonies; because I hope if the scheme succeeded in the first stage, that would be powerful to bring about the successful issue of it in the second stage, namely, that you would be able to bring back, through the landowners themselves, thousands upon thousands of people who are now not upon the land, but who would like to be there, and thus be able to cultivate to a high degree a very large surface of this country hitherto cultivated to a low degree, in the sense of not being profitably cultivated owing to the crops that are grown.

9201. As regards the returns from this colony, do you not think that 9*l.* per acre is an excessive estimate for this town labour to produce?—No, I do not; I think, from all the sources of information I have been able to apply to it, 9*l.* per acre or even 10*l.* per acre is not at all an exaggerated figure.

9202. Each man working six acres?—Yes, having

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

having regard to the conditions I have laid down, namely, that each individual man working upon such a colony is subject to direction and guidance by a skilled agriculturist, skilled in the sense of working this particular land by those means and crops which will make it yield the best and highest possible price. Then the auxiliary industries connected with it would cause those products, such as are not consumed on the colony, to be prepared for sale at a price higher than agricultural produce is usually sold at. Having this direction and guidance, having these 12 skilled labourers and the farm bailiff, the consulting agriculturist, who would be the chief manager of the whole thing; with those conditions I say, you would get the skill and attention paid to every detail of this sort of culture, which has certainly not been employed on farming hitherto in this country, except only in the one case I have already quoted to you of a labourer who did this work for himself.

9203. Is it not the fact that, except possibly near towns where vegetables are grown, such a return as 9*l.* per acre is never realised on a farm, however it is conducted, at the present time?—Certainly not. I am sorry not to have made more impression by the statistics I have given; but I have stated already that on this very farm I have before alluded to in Essex, which is worked by an intelligent young Scotchman not more than 30 years of age, he receives for his produce over 10*l.* per acre; he has 50 cows, and he sells the produce of the 50 cows in milk (that is in its least profitable form, because there is no labour upon that except the milking), and he receives from his cows, from the sale of the milk and from the sale of young calves, 1,000*l.* per annum. And as he said, "If that milk could be worked up into other things by cheap labour, I should, of course, make more out of the cows than I do." This is in a district where agriculture is extremely depressed at present.

9204. You say great management is wanted; that is an essential feature of the scheme, as I understand?—I do not say great management; but I say if you have skilful management by persons who have to devote the whole of their day to the guidance of labour in the right direction, and to the treatment of crops in the right way, that would afford almost a surety for returns of higher value than ever has been obtained from the land before, when other kinds of large crops have been produced.

9205. Is not that management very costly?—No.

Chairman.

9206. If I may so, I think we have sufficiently ascertained Mr. Mather's estimate of what would happen in the circumstances he anticipates; and if it is a question of disputing his facts or the basis of his expectations, perhaps the question had better be addressed to Mr. Moore, who will speak on these technical points?—As I have already intimated, I would rather that such questions were reserved for the first-rate agriculturist who will follow me.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9207. Am I to gather that this scheme not only absorbs the unproductive labour of the towns, but really improves agricultural labour as well?—Yes, that is the indirect intention of it.

9208. You say, in your second paragraph, that you really have "no personal experience" of the working of the different methods of dealing with land which you speak of; therefore I gather whatever virtue there is in this scheme, you are putting it before us rather from a philanthropic wish and pious hope that this will be the result, rather than from any practical experience you have had?—No, quite the contrary. Although I admit I am not a farmer, yet I have the same means of judging of the results of farming, and the conditions of farming, as any person connected with large industrial matters can have. I have had to do with workmen all my life, and I have had a good deal to do with country life; not to the extent of being responsible for the products of the land, but so far as, by examining into such questions, I may judge what the labour portion of country life involves; I have some reason for knowing that my opinions are not based on visionary notions, they are not the result of Christian spirit, or philanthropy, or charity, or anything of that sort. I have endeavoured to look at this matter as a practical man acquainted with practical affairs. I have applied to agriculture, so far as the labour part of the work is concerned, such principles as I should apply to industry in other forms, and I have no reason to doubt that my conclusions are correct; because I do nothing more than state what is stated by the Commissioners who have reported upon agriculture, and the conditions of labour connected with it, and what has been written in the leading article of the "Times," which I have referred to. That is open to any man of ordinary business experience, and accustomed to deal with large affairs of capital and labour; it is competent to any man to work up a question of this kind and to bring it out in a practical form. That is all I claim to have done with this scheme.

9209. I presume you recognise that farming is a very technical industry?—Yes.

9210. Almost as technical as engineering?—I should say it is decidedly as technical in a certain sense; that is to say, the chemistry of agriculture requires to be as well known as you require to know the theory of mechanics or the application of steam. I venture to believe that had agriculture been treated as we have treated the mechanical industries of this country, it would not be in its present state. We have to change our industries from year to year, and to suddenly switch off from one line to another at a moment's notice.

9211. Do you think, however successful a farmer had been in his own line, you would consider that his opinions upon reforming a manufactory, of which he had no practical knowledge, would be worth much?—There are, I daresay, intelligent farmers who are natural mechanics, and whose opinions I should be glad to have on a mechanical question.

9212. But, as a rule, you do not consult them?—I do not consult them, nor should I myself

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

offer an opinion to a farmer as to how he should cultivate his land. But, so far as common sense can be brought to bear upon the subject, it is open to me, as it is to any other man, to look at the question of agriculture in the light of common sense, and if the land has been cultivated with certain crops which have in no way proved to be profitable, instead of expressing the vain wish that those crops should be again profitable, I should say: "Why do you not do as we have done in other branches of industry? Why do you not use this raw material for other purposes and in other ways, and employ other means, so that you may obtain profit instead of loss?" We have abandoned branches of manufacture continually which have gone out because the competition, foreign and home, is too great, and we have had to put our money into other branches, and suffer for a time before we obtained interest for our capital. I think the same principle applies to agriculture.

9213. Do you consider generally that this scheme you put forward is a practical scheme for relieving distress from want of employment?—Yes. I venture to say, on the one hand, it is eminently practical from the point of view of gradually restoring the labour on large areas of our country which are becoming now depopulated; and, on the other hand, it is capable of taking away labour which in other places we do not want. That ought to be a double benefit: it would both bless the land and bless the surplus labour.

9214. You are not afraid of the enormous cost to the ratepayers, but you think they would be benefited?—I do not think there is any enormous cost involved in the scheme as I place it before you. I have proposed that we should begin with six such places, at a cost of about 120,000*l.*, loaned by the State, the security for which, I contend, is ample, and is absolutely reliable.

9215. Surely that would only cover 1,200 people?—I do not say what number it would cover. We are dealing with what the principle might be, if properly applied; and if it proved to be a really successful thing, there is no doubt that in a very short time a large absorption of this labour, directly and indirectly, would be brought back again on the land, either through the action of the farmers, or the action of the landowners, or the action of the local authorities.

9216. You think you have discovered a new plan for making agriculture successful?—I do not think it is a discovery, nor do I think it is a new plan. I have endeavoured to put in a concrete form the many thoughts of many minds. It would be presumptuous for me to suggest, and I do not suggest, that this is evolved out of my own inner consciousness. I have simply applied my common sense and knowledge to the ideas and results of the experience of others, and worked out the scheme as a business man, and all I claim for the scheme is that it is a practical scheme. It is not a fad, and has nothing of the faddist idea about it. If it had been, I should be the last man to advocate it; because I am nothing if not practical.

Mr. *Round.*

9217. One of the objects of this scheme is to find work for those who have been driven from the land?—Yes

9218. Do not you think that what should come first would be to try and remove the obstacles which hinder the successful cultivation of land now, so as to try and keep the poor men on the land from the risk of being removed off it?—Yes; indeed, that is a movement that I hope is taking place, as it ought to take place, on the part of those interested in land, without any delay, but you see this scheme refers to bringing land into cultivation which many persons would not think it worth while to touch.

9219. As a matter of policy you would think, would you not, that the removal of the obstacles which now hinder the successful cultivation of the land should be adopted first, before your scheme?—I think they ought to be adopted at once. They ought to have been adopted always. I do not see any reason why those movements should not go on of themselves, irrespective of any scheme connected with the unemployed.

9220. I meant rather with regard to the burdens on lands, such as rates and taxes; if they were removed, there would be more chance of successful cultivation of the land, and therefore less people would have to give it up as a bad business?—I think if landowners and farmers could prove to Parliament and the public that there is an undue burden in the way of taxation on the land, if they can make out a good case for that, it would be the duty of Parliament to remove that unjust burden; but I do not think the removal of even all the taxes would make all the difference which they require to have between farming at a profit and farming at a loss.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9221. You have given a good deal of time and thought to this scheme, I presume?—I have.

9222. You believe it would be a commercial success?—For the purpose in view I think it would be a success on business grounds.

9223. Do you believe it would pay financially?—I do not say it would pay a profit; but I believe it would pay its cost, which is the object from the point of view of finding work for these people on the farm training colony, which is the first part of the scheme. I believe it would be quite a success in the sense of being profitable to those who were occupied on the farms.

9224. We are dealing at the present time, I understand, with that first part of the scheme only?—It is so. We have not arrived at part second yet.

9225. That is the farm training colonies?—Yes.

9226. That is a temporary measure for dealing with those who are out of employment?—Yes; that takes in a number of temporary unemployed.

9227. I understood you to say it was a preventive measure, to prevent their slipping down into the class which is now dependent upon the rates?—Yes.

9228. In that respect the Poor Law authorities as at present constituted would have no direct interest

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

interest in this scheme; it would not relieve them of those who at the present time are a burden upon the rates?—I think it would have a very important indirect bearing upon them.

9229. I used the word "direct"; it would have no direct bearing upon them, would it?—It would not have the direct effect of taking off their hands the pauper class who are now in the workhouses or are now obtaining out-relief under the test of breaking stones; it would not touch that class. It is not intended to touch that class.

9230. In other words, there would be no direct relief to the ratepayer?—There would be direct relief to the ratepayers, assuming those whom we wish to help would otherwise gradually sink by sheer necessity, after breaking up their homes, to the class of those who apply to the guardians for relief.

9231. But your scheme is purely preventive, to keep these men from slipping down?—Yes.

9232. It does not deal at all with those who are at the present time in that condition?—It does not deal with those in that condition, unless they were to bring themselves out of that condition and cease to be a claim upon the rates, and cease to make an appeal to the guardians, and acquire the character necessary to make them worthy to be put upon such a training colony. Then they would have the right to apply and be assisted in the same way. It might be from that point of view the means of very seriously reducing the class the guardians have to deal with.

9233. My point is, that for the present purpose the object of your scheme is to prevent people slipping down the hill, and in that respect it would be no direct relief to the ratepayer?—I do not quite know what you mean by "direct relief." If you mean that it would not save the rates next week or next year, of course, in that sense, it would not be direct relief; but, surely, stopping the supply of the pauper class, and turning that labour in a profitable direction, would naturally be in a short time a great relief to the rates.

9234. That I quite understand; but supposing the scheme was to come into operation during the next 12 months, it would make no difference practically to the ratepayer, would it?—It would make no difference to the ratepayer, unless a number of the persons who have hitherto asked for relief were to be diverted from that plan of obtaining relief, and were to seek it only through work of this character and were willing to go upon the colony.

9235. I should like to understand a little more clearly some of the details of your scheme. It requires the co-operation of three parties; the State to provide the capital; the County Council to provide the supervision; and the local authority to provide the subject-matter. That is so, is it not?—That is so as it stands, with the suggestion of the County Council doing the management.

9236. The State is to provide a capital, roughly speaking about 25*l.* an acre, including the purchase of the land and working capital; that is to say, it is 30,000*l.* for 2,000 acres?—Yes.

9237. The State receives no interest for an indefinite number of years?—For five years there is no interest. It is not an indefinite number of years, because I can bring evidence to show that in less than five years even a barren piece of land can be made profitable.

9238. That is all the part that the State plays?—That is all the part that the State plays.

9239. The State finances and owns the land, and gets no return for at least five years?—I will not say "at least five years." It might get a return in two years; but I mentioned five years because I wanted to base my calculation upon five years, which is the scheme at its worst; and if it is sound, takenat its worst, it must be a very reliable scheme from a financial point of view at its best.

9240. You think five years is the extreme limit of the time at which a return might come?—Yes.

9241. The County Council is to find all the supervision?—Yes.

9242. They working the farm colony?—Yes. The County Council is the body I selected, for the reasons I gave on the last occasion, for taking charge of the management of these farms, though I only mentioned that incidentally. It is not a fixed principle upon which the success of the scheme depends that the County Council should do it. The local authorities might themselves elect a committee of trustees who would take charge of the colonies for them.

9243. You would have the control in a separate body from the body that finds the subject-matter?—Not necessarily by any means. The Guardians, as I said, of a dozen unions might join together and themselves form a management committee for the whole thing; in which case the County Council would not be in it at all. That is a detail that would have to be discussed on its merits when we got as far as to begin to start these colonies.

9244. I did not quite follow the way in which the men engaged on the farm colonies are to be remunerated. They receive no direct wage, do they?—On the colony to begin with we will suppose a hundred men are placed according to their skill. One half of the land is cultivated and one half is uncultivated. The novitiates in work of this kind, and those who are somewhat clumsy, would pass to the uncultivated land; and the financial statement in the scheme provides for at least 50 men out of the 200 being absolutely unremunerative for the whole year; and the amount put down to carry the scheme on for a year includes the free maintenance of those 50 men who are not supposed to contribute a farthing to their own support.

9245. You say "free maintenance"; that means board and lodging I suppose?—Yes.

9246. Would you tell me what you calculate their board and lodging at for a year, or a week, or any time?—The amounts specified on page 9 are the lump sums.

9247. No doubt you made those up from some other figures?—Yes; the 50 men would be kept at any rate for 5*s.* or 7*s.* a week for their food.

9248. You put each man as costing 7*s.* a week?—Yes.

9249. 4*s.* is to be sent to the man's wife?—4*s.* would be sent to the wife under certain conditions, dependent of course upon the family, and all the surroundings of his home. On the recommendation

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

mea'ation of the guardians the wife would be entitled to 4*s.* a week.

9250. His board you put at 7*s.*; that pays for two-thirds of his time, and the other third is to be devoted to piece-work?—Yes.

9251. For that piece-work he is to be paid the current agricultural rates?—Yes.

9252. Then who is to settle how the two-thirds is to be fixed; is it to be two-thirds of a week or two-thirds of a day?—That would be entirely in the hands of the management. Rules would be laid down by the management committee, and those would be thoroughly understood by all persons before they went there, and they would have to go to work upon those rules, just as a man goes to a workshop to-day to work under the rules of his employer.

9253. It is part of your scheme, is it not, that at least two-thirds of the man's labour should be on the terms equivalent to 11*s.* a week?—Yes.

9254. If he worked an ordinary agricultural day and received an equivalent of 11*s.* for that two-thirds of his time, he would be practically getting 16*s.* 6*d.* per week?—If he worked the whole day.

9255. He is allowed to work the whole day, as I understand, and one-third of that is piecework?—Yes.

9256. The other two-thirds are represented by 11*s.*; so that he would get a minimum of 16*s.* 6*d.* per week?—That would depend upon the value of his piecework.

9257. But he could put that in if he worked the whole day?—Yes, if the work upon which he was placed was paid at such a price as enabled him to be paid that money.

9258. In which respect he would be better off than many labourers now earning 14*s.* a week?—Yes, he might; but it would be very hard work. You will understand the conditions under which this is all done are very much harder than ordinary agricultural labour.

9259. Is it to be penal?—No, there is nothing penal about it; but the conditions under which a man works here would have to be in conformity with the rules; there would be no room for loafers and idle men; such a man would be discharged, just as I should discharge him if he did not do his duty.

9260. Would it not work in this way: that an industrious man who was perhaps getting only 14*s.* a week as a labourer would come to your colony and get board and lodging representing 7*s.*, and send 4*s.* a week home, and get something in piecework also?—The 4*s.* has to be repaid out of the piecework; the manager repays himself for all the other labour of the man after the maintenance has been allowed. That is to say, all the other earnings of the man are first of all credited against the amount he owes in respect of the 4*s.* for his wife. He receives in cash as his final reward only the balance above the 4*s.* sent to his wife.

9261. If I may put it to you again, he would get board and lodgings representing 7*s.* a week?—Whatever it might be, 5*s.* or 7*s.*

9262. He might earn half as much again, or even more?—Yes.

9263. Out of that you deduct 4*s.*?—Yes; he is maintaining to that extent his wife and family by his own labour, as well as maintaining himself. All you would do is to give him an opportunity of doing so, and that is precisely all that the working men of the class to whom this scheme would apply demand. Their cry is: "Give us work; we do not want charity or money, but we want work, and out of the work we will maintain ourselves." I propose to give men work on such a plan that is can be directed into a profitable channel, to the extent at least of keeping them in very hard times, and enabling them to wait till the times mend in their own trades.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

9264. You do not limit the scheme to married men, of course?—No. In coming through the bureau or office of the local authority specially charged with this undertaking, there would be inquiries made as to the necessitous cases, and those would be first dealt with; therefore, generally, married men would have the priority.

9265. You say the necessitous cases would be first dealt with?—Yes.

9266. So that a man would have no absolute claim?—None whatever.

9267. It would be a matter of grace and favour, would it?—Not a matter of grace and favour; it would be a matter of inquiry into the claims which the person had—Dick over Tom, or Tom over Harry—just according to the circumstances placed before the officials.

9268. You say it would not be a matter of right, and yet it is depending upon the mind of these officials?—It would not be a matter of right, unless you pass an Act of Parliament to say that every man in the country must be found work. But I have not gone so far as that. I merely adopt a permissive plan, which I think, if those three elements I have named were combined, would bring that result about.

9269. You do not propose to give every man the right to have work given to him?—Certainly not.

9270. Coming back to the unmarried man, he would have no particular right to work at the farm; but if he was accepted by the local authority and sent to your colony, he would have his board and lodging, 7*s.* a week, and he would be able to put in piecework and perhaps earn another 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week?—Yes; such a man would have undoubtedly to contribute something out of his earnings to the general well-being of the colony.

9271. Instead of repaying the 4*s.* which would go to keep his wife if he had been a married man, he would have to contribute, say, 2*s.* 6*d.* a week to the general well-being of the colony?—A certain proportion of his earnings would go to the well-being of the colony as a whole.

9272. I want to ask a question about the farm itself. Under your system the labour must be irregular in amount, depending upon the number of persons out of employment in various trades, and intermittent in its application, must it not?—Certainly.

9273. You quite grant that?—Yes. I do not say it "must be," but it may be.

9274. It is almost certain to be, is it not?—At times probably it would be.

9275. You cannot expect a steady flow of labour

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

labour either in amount or in application?—I think it would be very popular, and we should find more men going through the training colonies than could ever be admitted for some years to come, in order that they might get upon the land and into the farm settlement. It is a relief of the congested condition of things which would be profitable to the men and to society and to the country, and I think it would become very popular; for although the channel through which they would have to pass was itself a narrow way, it would lead to a different life.

9276. The regularity of work on your farm must depend upon the scheme becoming popular?—Regularity, so far as the cultivated portion is concerned. The 600 acres of uncultivated land would only come under cultivation gradually. The temporarily-unemployed persons, who come professedly for only a month or two months, would be put upon that land because it is known immediately they begin to work they would earn something for bringing that land under cultivation. As that portion of the colony is not relied upon to pay the expenses of the colony, you can stop that labour whenever you like.

9277. I take it that the labour upon that part of the farm is intermittent and irregular?—Quite so.

9278. Independent of the volume of labour, it must be greatly dependent upon conditions of weather; you could not set your men to dig in hard rain or in a very sharp frost or under snow?—Certainly not; that is all provided for.

9279. There must be a considerable portion of time, like enough the time when men in particular trades are out of work, when you can do nothing towards the reclamation of the land, and when you would have to fall back upon your auxiliary industries?—Yes.

9280. We have just dealt with the rough part of the farm; coming to the cultivated part, you propose to have a regular supply of labour there?—A certain number, say 12 regular skilled agricultural labourers to 600 acres, under the direction of one bailiff of the farm, the man who stands in the place of the skilled farmer.

9281. You would want a considerable number of extra hands at certain times, would you not; at the hay harvest and the corn harvest, and for seeding and pulling roots?—Yes.

9282. All those operations depend very much upon the weather, and could not be dependent upon whether you had surplus labour at the time or not?—Of course, in time of harvest all the men employed upon the uncultivated portion would be taken on to the cultivated part to take the crops in.

9283. You are now assuming that there would be men upon the uncultivated part; how can you assume that?—I cannot assume that there is to be a derelict colony. If it is a derelict the moment it is started, because the people do not require it, all the better for us; but since it can only be started on the ground that certain unions would agree that it would be a great advantage for them to have it, there is no doubt that such small colonies as these of 200 men would always

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

be well supplied with work, at any rate sufficient for the cultivated part.

9284. I put it that there must be certain times when there would be great demands for labour upon the farm, and likely enough those would be the very times when there would be no surplus labour in the union?—Do you mean that it might happen that there might not be a single individual working on the uncultivated portion, where we are doing the initiatory work of preparing the land for cultivation, at a time when there were crops to be harvested upon the 600 acres of cultivated land?

9285. I suggest that it is very possible that there was—I will not say not a single individual, but no efficient labour upon the uncultivated part that you could turn upon the cultivated part?—You have to assume also that you have very few men working upon the cultivated part either.

9286. I take your 12 labourers?—You assume there might be a time when this colony might be empty.

9287. Except for the 12 labourers?—I cannot follow you there, because that seems to be a paradox. To assume that in a large country like England, with all its manufactures and all its fluctuation of labour, you might have at any time a possibility of land of this sort being entirely unoccupied, is, of course, to assume that there is no ground whatever for such a scheme being started.

9288. I am not assuming that the land is entirely unoccupied, but I assume that at a particular time of the year, say in the middle of harvest, you have no able-bodied unemployed in the district or the union where the colony is who are willing to work at less than the farmers' rate of wages?—That seems to me to be paradoxical.

Chairman.

9289. The honourable Member puts to you the case of there being no unemployed in the particular district where the farm colony is; but, as I understand, you do not contemplate any restriction of the area from which the men working on the farm would be drawn, do you?—Certainly not.

9290. Surely over the whole country you would never be at a loss for men to be employed upon the farm?—To me the question of the honourable Member seems paradoxical.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9291. I know perfectly well, from my experience of farming operations, there are times in the year when you want a considerable amount of labour, and if you can only pay a less price than the farmer on the other side of the road would pay, you cannot get that labour?—My answer generally would be this: that such a condition of things in the case of the colony would be no worse than a farmer in any part of the country has to face under like circumstances, and if he gets through the difficulty, I say this farm colony could.

9292. He gets through the difficulty by giving

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

a rise of wages?—The colony would have to do the same then, putting it as a paradoxical case.

9293. I gather you have pinned your faith on arable dairying as the most profitable form of cultivating these farms?—Arable dairying, together with the cultivation of certain products which are saleable in this country, which hitherto we have obtained wholly from abroad.

9294. You gave an instance of a farm in Essex where you said an energetic young Scotchman had made arable dairying pay?—Yes.

9295. What price does he get for his milk?—I think 5*d.* or 6*d.* a gallon; he sends everything to London to a middleman, who takes it straight away at the railway station and disposes of it.

9296. It is 5*d.* per barn gallon on the farm?—Yes, I think that is about the price.

9297. Perhaps the expert witness who is coming would know more about the details of that case?—No, he would know nothing about that case. I can give you the particulars. The Scotch farmer I referred to has between 50 and 60 cows, and he sells his milk to a contractor in London; last year the sale of milk and the sale of calves brought him in about 1,000*l.*; that is based on 5*d.* a gallon nett.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

9298. How many men does he employ?—Twelve men; of course, in harvesting, he takes on men, as Mr. Johnstone has explained, whom he must get as best he can in addition.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9299. Did you say just now he was employing less labour than his predecessor had done?—No, I said nothing about his employing less labour. I said that a farm which his predecessor had let go down to an unprofitable state he had restored and made profitable, and he did that with the employment of 12 men as regular farm labourers: but, of course, with more men in harvest time.

9300. You do not know how many men his predecessor employed?—No.

9301. You do not know whether the result of his arable dairying has been to employ more or fewer men?—I do not know, as a matter of fact.

9302. Do you know the Aylesbury Dairy Company tried arable dairying on a large scale?—I believe they did.

9303. Do you know what has been the result; did they make it pay?—I do not think they are particularly pleased with their experiment.

9304. May I take it that the experiment is a failure?—I do not know whether it is a failure or not.

9305. They have, I suppose, the best supervision, and the best skill at their disposal; that would be so, would it not?—Possibly.

9306. You contemplate doing a great deal by spade-labour, do you not?—Yes; I can quite understand the experience of the Aylesbury Dairy Company, limited as it was to dairying only, the sale of milk. Unless it was connected with the manufacture of dairy products to a very considerable extent, I should think it would be

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

difficult to make it pay; and if you have not labour of such a character and such conditions as to obtain the dairy produce at a small cost, it would also be difficult to make it profitable.

9307. I will not take you at length into the story of the Aylesbury Dairy Company, but as a matter of fact they did not make it pay, and they gave it up, and were very glad to get rid of it. Then coming to spade-labour, what crops do you propose to employ your spade-labour upon?—There are a great variety of crops which I have set forth in my scheme merely as illustrations.

9308. Would you refer me to the page?—I think, perhaps, I might run through an illustration from a farm of a similar character, which I have referred to before. In that case the man grows early potatoes and bulbs of all sorts and bush fruits. I am giving that illustration from a small holding that grew those things; but to refer to the page in the scheme where these are enumerated, you will find them at page 6, paragraph 20.

9309. Let us take potatoes?—On this point, which is very important, I have special knowledge to submit to the Committee through Mr. Moore, who is an expert on these matters from actual experience, and it would be better to get the particulars from him than from me.

9310. But I will just ask two questions about potato crops; potatoes are very largely grown for the market in the Lothians and in Lincolnshire, are they not?—Yes.

9311. Are they grown there by spade-labour or by horse-labour?—By horse-labour, I should think.

9312. Presumably, because it is the cheapest way?—I do not know about that; I should think for the rough handling of the land to begin with, it is far better to use horse-labour, or even machine-labour; but the hand-labour that might produce certain crops and potatoes, which would never be applied generally by an ordinary farmer, might in those conditions be applied to early potatoes.

9313. On 30 acres of potatoes would it be more profitable to employ horse or hand-labour?—I think for the potatoes consumed in the colony it might be cheaper to use hand-labour. But if horse-labour is necessarily cheaper, you must use it. This scheme does not exclude horse-labour or machinery. Whatever would prepare the land best for hand-tillage, whether it be machinery or horse-labour, must be first applied; it is not necessary to exclude machinery or horse-labour altogether.

9314. If you are preparing land for a potato crop you would do better with horse-labour for ploughing it than by hand-tillage; you would catch your time better?—Yes; that is all provided for under the scheme.

9315. Now, coming to the auxiliary industries on page 9, which are to be carried on when frost and snow and other country disagreeables prevent the unemployed from labouring on the farm. I think you have somewhere made a suggestion as to how much of their time would be employed upon these auxiliary industries?—It is taken as one-third of the year. Of course it is very uncertain, but it might be from 40 to 60 days in the year

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

year that would have to be employed in that way.

9316. Out of the 365?—Out of the 300; they would not work on Sundays.

9317. I suppose it would not make any difference to your figures whether it was 40 days or whether it was 60, would it; do your figures depend upon that?—No, on the contrary, the auxiliary industries are merely to occupy the time well, and not wastefully, and not to make a loss to the men or to the colony, because of course the primary object of the whole thing is to get the most out of the land.

9318. Every day they lost upon the land would be a loss?—It would not be lost; it would depend upon the character of the men you had upon the colony. With a mixed number of men like this it is possible to find a considerable number of handy men for such handy work, and those men would earn for the colony something during those wet days.

9319. Would they earn as much on wet days as on the work outside?—It would depend upon the nature of the industries.

9320. The success of your scheme must be affected one way or the other by the number of days they could get outside?—Yes.

9321. It does, in some measure, depend upon that?—Yes; the more they are outside, the better.

9322. As regards these auxiliary industries, one of the things, I understand, is to mend each other's clothes and boots?—That is an incidental piece of work.

9323. And you propose they should do work by hand which is now done by machinery, such as milling?—For their own consumption.

9324. That they should mill their own corn?—Yes.

9325. And thrash it, too, with a flail, instead of having a machine?—That would be an occupation to be made out of the land in the spare time. I have tried to show, if you take two-thirds of the time on the land, you must get from the land in that period what the land can yield, and the rest of the time you would give to these products; and it would be the cheapest plan under the circumstances to put upon them the labour necessary to prepare them for the market.

9326. There are other industries that you have put down as being of an auxiliary nature; one is curing bacon, and another is making and packing butter; have you taken any price for your butter in calculating out the success of it?—Yes, I have got a complete scheme for this, which I would like you to refer to.

9327. You have taken the price of butter?—Yes, it has been all calculated.

9328. To get the best price, your butter must be even in quality and regular in quantity, must it not?—Yes, I should think so.

9329. Is that the kind of thing a man can take up as an auxiliary employment?—Not every man; you would have to select the persons out of the whole number; you would not put a perfectly ignorant person upon the work, but you would make a selection.

9330. Do you think you could always find somebody who was a skilled butterman?—Yes, you would probably have some married people who could do it.

9331. The colony would be so popular that you would have a sort of Swiss Family Robinson self-contained, and able to pick up an industry suitable to each member?—I do not say each member, but you would have a great variety of talent, and you could select your men.

9332. Would you even find men of sufficient skill to be able to clean and hand-pick seed?—Yes, under direction; all those industries would be carried on under the supervision of men who understand their trade and who give directions; and the men having always before them the inducement of being able to earn by piecework something more than their maintenance, there would be a strong inducement to learn as quickly as possible the particular art to which they were put.

9333. Taking it shortly, your scheme would mean that the county or the local authority would always have work at hand going on on the rough part of the farm, and would receive any surplus labour there was either in their own district or outside?—That expresses it in a certain way; perhaps, as you say, it rather roughly expresses it; but it means that these training colonies are to be instituted with the object in view of taking over the unemployed working classes, and putting them into an occupation where they would be maintained.

9334. The local authority is to agree to send a fixed minimum number; that is part of your scheme, is it not?—I suggest, as a practical and businesslike arrangement, that the local authority, or several of them together, should, if they require the County Council to take control, undertake to have a farm that should be large enough for a certain number of persons, and they should give an assurance (not a guarantee) that it was not too large for that purpose. Supposing that half-a-dozen unions joined and the colony was too large for their requirements, so much the better; but the spare places would then be at once occupied by other unions coming in and saying, "If you will let us, we will send more people there."

9335. My point is that the local authority guarantees to pay for so much accommodation?—Yes, if there is a deficit. I put as an illustration an extreme case of a deficit arising which I said might come to 1*s.* 3*d.* per head per week for the persons sent. That is quite the maximum deficit.

9336. There must be a certain expense; there must be the expense of starting to begin with?—That is all provided; it is in the financial statement.

9337. The money is provided by the State?—The money is provided by the State to start the whole colony.

9338. There is no additional cost to the county?—Not unless there is a deficit.

9339. But then there is no additional cost to the county, is there?—No, it is all done through the Poor Law authority; the management is paid out of the 30,000*l.*

9340. Everything is paid out of that; it is paid out of capital, is it not?—It is paid out of the

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

amount given for the first year to meet expenses; after that it is paid out of the products of the farm.

9341. That is what I call paying it out of working capital, out of the 15,000*l.*?—Yes.

9342. You suggest that there may be no payment falling upon the local authority, but it is probable there would be a profit?—I suggest two alternatives. I show there would be a profit under very reasonable returns from the colony; that is a profit which would of course not go to the Poor Law authorities; it would go to the persons employed, after a certain sum had been paid to the rate upon the colony, as it were, to provide for contingencies. The deficit which might arise I have shown to be a small one under any circumstances—far less than the amount of money paid by the week to a person coming upon the rates.

9343. But on the basis of your scheme I understand the local authority would have nothing to pay until perhaps the bill came in for a deficit at the end of the year?—It would have nothing to pay unless there was a deficit.

9344. They would have no control. They would have no control under your scheme unless they chose to adopt the plan of control which has been suggested?—If they care themselves to take the entire control, and not to ask the County Council, there would be no reason why they should not do so; they could take the control.

9345. Whether the County Council approved or not?—Certainly. In that case the Local Government Board, who is the ultimate court of appeal, must be satisfied.

9346. Taking an extreme case, the Local Government Board might purchase this farm at an expenditure of 30,000*l.*, and leave the local authority to work it at their own sweet will for three or four or five years, and not expect a penny back?—In the farm training colony there would be no expectation of a return for the first five years; I put that as the ultimate time at which the farm might have come under cultivation; and during that period there would be nothing paid back, because the increase of the value of the security of the State or the Local Government Board is provided for by the increased value of the land.

9347. Would the State have any control over the management or over the expenditure of their 30,000*l.* during the five years, or would it be left entirely to the local authority?—I think the local authority would have to make a return. Any arrangements of a detailed character could be settled between the Local Government Board and the local authority, as, for instance, that the money was loaned under an undertaking that there was to be an annual report, and a Local Government Board inspector sent down once a year to look at the farm.

9348. Supposing it seemed to the Local Government Board that the farm was not doing well, would they have any power to interfere?—The Local Government Board would have supreme authority. The sole control is vested in the State, and if the State by this means in five years had made land which was formerly worth 10*l.* an acre worth 25*l.* an acre, and if it then, for public reasons, determined to sell the land at once to the workers or farmers, and to clear out altogether, the State could realise absolutely all the money spent upon it.

9349. They could break it up?—Yes, there is full security for every farthing of the money advanced.

9350. They could break it up at any time if necessary in the public interest, but you say they would certainly get their money back?—I do not see how it could possibly fail.

Mr. *Logan.*

9351. If I understand your scheme right, you look upon this scheme as providing a means for setting men to work who might be out of employment during slackness of trade such as we have recently had?—Yes.

9352. Do I understand that these men, unaccustomed to working upon land, are to be first of all sent to these training colonies?—Certainly.

9353. Would you explain to me what the result would be, supposing after you had got a certain number of these men at work reclaiming this land, and getting it into a condition to profitably grow produce, trade suddenly revived, and those men you have got at work on the land had to go back again to their usual occupation?—It would be so much the better if they had. If you have read the scheme, or followed the examination, you will find it is just that class of persons who have been sent temporarily to the land that would be benefited.

9354. I am delighted that they should get back to work, but I want to know what is to become of your land, which has had, we will say, 60 men working upon it, and arrived at a certain condition of cultivation; how will you continue the process when those men are sent back to work?—If there is no relay of such men coming, it would be a very happy circumstance, and prove that this colony is not required by the country. If, on the other hand, these men go, having got situations in their own employment, as the uncultivated portion of the land does not yield anything for the profit of the colony or the maintenance of the men upon it, the work on it may be dropped at any moment, and be discontinued for weeks without any harm, if it were necessary, or if there was no labour to put upon it. So long as the land is not producing crops, but is only being brought into preparation, it forms a reservoir where all these men, according to the varying numbers, may be put on the work of preparing the land for cropping; but it is not cultivated land; it is only as, acre by acre, or 50 acres by 50 acres, it comes under cropping, that it ranks as cultivated land, and becomes part of the cultivated portion of the colony. It has then arrived at what I call the farm-settlement stage, and it is then taken possession of by men who desire to remain upon the land permanently.

9355. I follow all that; but what I want to gather is that you do not look with any degree of anxiety on the recommendation that the State should invest their money in land which might, under circumstances which exist this spring, be broken up, or have a certain amount of labour put

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

put upon it, with a view of bringing it into cultivation, and all at once that labour might be taken off; you do not look upon that with alarm?—There is not the slightest possibility of any danger or any loss to anybody. The land, so far as it has been cultivated, is on the road to coming into condition to bear produce, and you may leave it at any time, provided it is not left for years and years to go back again. The essence of this scheme is that you have not too large colonies, but colonies of such a size that they may be well maintained by persons constantly coming from the towns, and going away again.

9356. The only inducement you hold out to the State is that they should invest their money in this land, because this land will be eventually brought into cultivation, and pay?—Yes.

9357. Then, I ask, would you look with any anxiety upon the fact that you might commence operations on the land, and then suddenly have to stop?—No. I cannot imagine there is any cause for the existence of any such training colony, or any work of that kind, being provided either by private individuals or the State if we have no unemployed. Our reason for sitting here is because we admit, as an axiom and a proved fact, that these unemployed men exist in abundance. I do not admit the figures given by some of our witnesses; but it is beyond doubt, as I have tried to prove in my opening statement, that we have this class to deal with; and, therefore, to assume that this land on a 1,200-acre farm would go out of cultivation, because there were no people to put upon it, would be to assume that there was no difficulty to deal with, and that we had finished with our trouble of that sort, and that all the country was restored to a position of prosperity.

9358. I will not pursue that further. I see difficulties which you do not. Do you think your scheme is likely to keep the men upon the land that are upon the land now, and prevent their drifting into the towns?—Yes, certainly.

9359. You mentioned the word "investment;" do you look upon your scheme as providing an investment through the probable increased value of the land to the State eventually?—Certainly.

9360. Do you consider the guarantee for this money being advanced is to be looked for in the probable, and more than probable, increased value of the land eventually, or do you look to a profit being made out of the actual work of the men?—The work of the men is devoted to their maintenance; the increased value of the land is the property of the State, and forms the security for the original loan.

9361. You estimate 10*l.* an acre as the probable cost of the land?—For the purchase of it.

9362. These farm colonies, if I understand your scheme, if they are to be of any use at all, would have to be started all over England, or rather, Great Britain?—Yes, I should hope so, in time.

9363. Considering that the average price of land in England to-day, taking it at a low estimate of 25 years' purchase on the rental, would be 25*l.* an acre at the very lowest, why do you assume you can buy it for 10*l.* an acre?—Because I should never buy a piece of cultivated land without buying alongside of it a piece of uncultivated land that is not worth half that price.

9364. Do you say that 10*l.* is a fair average?—£10 is the average. Part of the land is purchased at 15*l.*, as you will see on page 9.

9365. Are you aware that our chief competitors for the sort of produce you intend to grow upon these farms of yours are chiefly the small owners on the Continent?—Yes.

9366. It is those people who send bacon, ham, butter, and cheese to this country to the value of 18 millions a year?—Yes.

9367. As these men are small owners and have every inducement to work, being the owners of their own property, why do you think that supervised labour in delicate operations of this sort is ever likely to compete with a man working on his own property?—If you read the scheme, in the first place you will find that the land on these settlements is the land absolutely of the occupier, just as much as the land of the French peasant is his own. It is his absolute property for his life, and no one can disturb him in any way whatever.

9368. That is on the farm settlements?—Yes. The training colony, of course, is not at all appropriate to anything of the kind until it becomes a settlement; but a man who has passed through a training colony, and undertaken the arduous labour of becoming a trained agriculturist in this way, would have a claim for a holding on the cultivated portion of the land, because he is a colonist.

9369. On many of the farm settlements a man and his family would be established?—Yes, with infinitely better conditions than have ever obtained in France, or ever will.

9370. You propose to give the men on the farm settlements fixity of tenure?—Certainly, and not only fixity of tenure, but to give their families an interest after their death.

9371. They would become then the tenants of the State?—I think this scheme, if it were successful, would induce landowners to take up the work which I have accorded to the State in the first instance.

9372. We can deal with that better when we come to the small farm settlements, which is the second part of your scheme?—Yes.

Chairman.

9373. Turning to Part 2, the Small Farm Settlements, you propose that these should originate in two ways; first of all, by the machinery of the farm training colonies and also by direct acquisition?—That is so.

9374. You state the matter so fully in your paper that I hesitate to occupy the time of the Committee in asking you to explain it. Have you any particular points that you think require special elucidation?—I should like to call attention to the fact, that in the formation of the farm settlements, other than those which have been produced by the farm training colony system, a procedure is necessary which has not been described in relation to the other part of the scheme. This proposal is based on the assumption that it would be a great national benefit to attract men to the land again who have left it in former

Chairman—continued.

former times, or to prevent agricultural labourers from leaving the land, especially the young men who now flock so much to the towns; and further, to give an opportunity to persons who wish to follow an occupation on land as a career in life, of getting on to the land under conditions that would with their labour and with their diligence ensure success. It assumes that the authority, which is the local government authority, the county council, would be willing to be charged with the initiative steps necessary to form such farm settlements other than those formed by the farm-training colonies, and to do that it would have to be made known publicly that land might be required for a certain number of men who would form a co-operative farming colony under certain conditions, and if the County Council or the committee of the County Council charged with this matter were satisfied that these conditions would be faithfully observed by the applicants, they would proceed to put the scheme into operation in one of two ways. They would either negotiate with landowners of a certain district to rent land in perpetuity at a certain value, or they would ultimately be able to use money advanced by the State on loan for the purpose of buying land outright. The main object of the scheme is to induce the landowners who now are complaining that they cannot get their land cultivated, that they cannot afford to put more money into the land themselves, that they cannot afford to reduce their rent beyond the present point, to induce such landowners to co-operate with the local authority very much as they ought to do under the Small Holdings Act, but on rather more easy terms. The landowners might say to the County Council, we have so many thousands of acres which we are quite willing to let you have on such-and-such terms; and on the applicants, who had come collectively as a co-operative body to the Council, proving to the Council that they had certain means to start upon, and that they were willing themselves to contribute a certain portion of money towards the outlay necessary upon this land, the rest of the money, in case of land purchase, would be advanced by the State. In case of rental, the only money to be provided would be that for buildings. The State would be required under the recommendation of the local authority to supply the money necessary for buildings, if not for the purchase outright of the land. Of course in the case of supplying money for the buildings only, the expenditure would be very much less, and the money would be more easily repaid. In these clauses, 3, 4, and 5, with an example of the whole thing in Clause 6, the scheme is set forth as to how it would work. As the whole scheme depends on each individual member of this community cultivating his allotted plot in the best possible way, in order to fulfil the obligations which he undertakes towards the County Council, there is reasonable guarantee, not only for the action of the County Council and for the money advanced by the State for buildings, but also that at any rate the best efforts of this man and his family would be exerted in order to produce the best possible results.

Chairman—continued.

In this case also, supposing the land to be the property of the State, there would be no ultimate loss on the purchase of the land only. The money advanced for the buildings would be of course a possible risk; but even upon the supposition that such a colony might not succeed, and might actually have to be taken out of the hands of the colonists or of this co operative society and disposed of, the presence of the buildings on the land, together with the cultivated condition of the land under the system here laid down, would bring back to the State the full amount of the original sum loaned by it for this purpose, and so it will never lose control of it. You will find in the details given in the scheme and from the evidence that could be offered, that landowners might regard this scheme with far greater favour than the county councils would regard such a scheme of going to the State and asking for money to purchase land. It appears to me to be unnecessary, except for the purpose of experiment, to regard the purchase of land as at all necessary for the working out of the scheme on a very large scale. The object is to show a method by which the landowners themselves would offer their land, provided they were satisfied that buildings would be put upon it and it was worked up to the best condition, so that their rent might be guaranteed to them. The amount of money lent by the State for the purpose of these buildings would be covered by the rents paid on the part of the colonies or the settlers in these settlements year by year. They would have free control over the area of land which they took up, say, eight acres, as set forth in Clause 6; they would pay a rental for this land on one of several plans, either so much for house and land, or so much in the form of the payment for a mortgage on the land; or they would pay a perpetual rent, with a sinking fund of so much per annum, till the land became their own, and on various systems this land might be taken up according to the means of the person who desired to possess it. Then, in this case also, the great advantages would come in that I have tried to show would accrue from the system of management of the Farm Training Colonies. In these co-operative settlements there would be the economy in purchasing all the materials required for the farm; the economy in distributing all such products as might be sent away; the common use of certain tools and implements and machinery for the cultivation of the respective crops; the presence of a manager who would have the control and supervision of the whole colony, so far as the purchase of materials and the distribution of products are concerned, and who would supply to the colonists, collectively and individually, skilful direction in the cultivation and treatment of the land for various purposes, and in changing it from one system to another, and from one crop to another. All this would give a productiveness to the land itself, and an incentive to the workers thereon, which would, I think, ensure the same satisfactory results from this part of the scheme as would, I believe, be obtained from the former part.

Chairman—continued.

9375. What guarantee have we that the County Council would undertake the duty put upon them; it would be entirely voluntary on their part?—Entirely so. It would be a permissive act on their part. If in their county they did not see the necessity, and there was no occasion on public grounds for any portion of the land in their county which was out of cultivation, or going out of cultivation, or any districts becoming depopulated and requiring to be resuscitated, if they did not think it was to their local advantage and benefit to re-introduce an industry that was decaying, of course nothing would be done. The whole of this scheme is based on idea that persons are interested, and especially the local authorities, in doing something for the public welfare.

9376. I have been told there is a recent case where a county council in the neighbourhood of the metropolis was offered ground for a farm colony or farm settlement of some sort, at no cost to themselves, if they would undertake the management of it or the direction of the undertaking, and they refused to accept it?—I have no doubt that would occur with more county councils; but, of course, it does not affect the question that facilities might be given, under this plan, for county councils to undertake the task without risk to themselves, and, at the same time, with great benefit to the nation as a whole, from the point of view I have put it. But I should rely a great deal upon the co-operation of landowners in this scheme. Once let it be understood it was possible under State grants to obtain means to put small holders on the land, plus the buildings and the land, at a fair rental, I think then that many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of men would like to take up this occupation who had left it, who would return to it in the hope of having a country life instead of the life which they are at present leading, and I believe the landowners themselves would, in every direction, try to promote it. There is also no reason why the matter should depend on the initiative of county councils; for if landowners were able to offer a guarantee for the repayment of any money advanced, in the way of loans or buildings, to form such colonies as I have mentioned, the colonies being under the supervision (until they were entirely free from all obligations of the State) of the local authority of the county as the controlling board, I think that landowners, under those circumstances, would themselves combine and endeavour to promote these loans. But, as I say, this is a sort of final outcome of the original idea that was in my mind, of creating training colonies to take in the unemployed at the present time, or as they come up from time to time, and passing them on to the land again by a system of this kind; and should the success of that farm training colony scheme, which would eventuate ultimately in the cultivation of large areas of uncultivated land, prove that a vast proportion of our population desired to get back on to the land again, in order to form such settlements, this scheme foreshadows what might be done to encourage that movement.

9377. Of course we shall have Mr. Moore, who will answer any questions as to the actual

Chairman—continued.

details; but is there any point that you would like to speak about with regard to this scheme. It is not desirable to repeat in evidence what is so amply before the Committee in this valuable pamphlet?—I think this scheme, as a whole, taken together with the explanations I have verbally given under examination, does clearly demonstrate what the principle of it is, and what I expect the ultimate end of it will be, and unless some member of the Committee has a desire to ask me further questions of a general character, I would prefer that questions depending on expert knowledge and experience of agriculture should be put to the only witness I shall call. I should like to say before concluding that I was debarred from putting in letters which I had received from certain agriculturists of known character and reputation, such as Professor Sheldon, who gave me his criticisms on the scheme in a very favourable sense, and therefore I cannot, of course, fortify the project by as much expert evidence as otherwise one would have brought, had there been time to go to any extent into the matter. I hope that in Mr. Moore's evidence there will be concentrated all those facts and proofs which are necessary to fortify the general statements I have made.

9378. You understand the reason that some members of the Committee objected to those letters, or thought it unwise that they should be read, was that others might wish to read letters of an opposite tendency, and we should not know where we should get to by that process?—Quite so. I have only to say in conclusion that it seemed to be a matter of duty on my part to submit what could be said in favour of some such land colonisation, owing to the amount of interest the subject excites outside; and as there would be no other opportunity for any public representative body to examine into such a scheme so well and so appropriately as this Committee is able to do, it seemed to me to be an opportunity that someone should take in order to put it in the best way before you.

9379. Whatever the Committee may think of the scheme, they are very much obliged to you for all the pains you have taken and the public-spirited way in which you have prepared it and laid it before the Committee?—I am obliged to you, sir.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

9380. Do you contend that these farm settlements shall be utilised by the class that we have heard of, vulgarly called the unemployed, having regard to the fact that we have already had in evidence from several witnesses that that class practically contains none of the late rural inhabitants, but the failures of town life?—The class for which the farm settlements are suggested is contained in the first sentence of Part 2 of the scheme: "In order to meet the case of those who are displaced from industries they have followed, and who may be encouraged to seek to obtain a permanent living from the land, it will be necessary to provide suitable estates for small farm settlements."

 9381. So

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

9381. So you do admit that it would be possible to put on the land people whom we have evidence to show never have been on the land, but are urban failures?—No, I do not think it is necessary at all to assume that no persons would ever undertake the responsibilities connected with these farm settlements who had not very good reason to believe that they would make them successful, and they could have no hold by right upon the public authority to admit them upon the settlements: it would have to be for some just cause represented to the local authority.

9382. What I was trying to remind you of was—we have already had from several witnesses' statements that the people who do figure under the unemployed category in our large towns are not people who have anything whatever to do with rural districts, but are urban failures; with that fact before us, how far do you think that these small farm settlements are likely to meet such a class of people who are purely urban?—I think I have already stated in my opening remarks upon Part 2 of the scheme that it had no connection with the temporarily unemployed, or the unemployed in industrial regions, excepting those of a particular character, and their character is completely set forth in Clause 12: "The first question to be considered in connection with these proposals is whether there is a large number of men who would farm these settlements. If the possession of not less than 20*l.* or 30*l.*, which is a third of the total amount of capital necessary for a settler on entering upon the land, be held to justify the loan of the remaining two-thirds, there can be little doubt as to there being many thousands of such men." Then there comes a description of them.

9383. Then it postulates that the people who are to form the small farm settlements are to have practically 20*l.* or 30*l.*?—Yes, that I have stated. I have distinctly drawn a line, and I think when I addressed the Chairman on that point, I drew a very strong line between the creation of farm settlements beyond those provided by the training colonies; I made a strong distinction between that part of the scheme and the scheme which arises out of the training colonies.

9384. Then practically this is not strictly in our purview, it is only ancillary?—I think that is so; I think you may fairly say this is rather the outcome of the other, which is not immediately under our purview.

9385. I suppose you allow that a man who had 20*l.* or 30*l.* could not have been unemployed for any length of time?—No, I have not regarded it as a question of unemployed. It was rather more the getting of the people on the land and decreasing the unemployed gradually.

Chairman.

9386. Your training colonies take hold of the unemployed?—Yes.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

9387. Is he to make 20*l.* or 30*l.* in the training colonies?—No.

9388. I understand these small farms at rents are simply for the people who have got some capital to start with?—These absolutely new settlements started in the way described. But I cautiously prevented myself from being misunderstood by stating to the Chairman on this main question, that it was only the outcome of the other, and it was not a necessary part of the scheme to begin with.

9389. I see that they are to put up fencing, and that of course postulates that they must have something in the way of capital, before they get on at all?—Decidedly so.

9390. Have you ever erected a house and buildings for 140*l.* in the country or anywhere?—I have not erected them, but I have had estimates for them. I have erected them in fact at very much less than that, but they were made of wood for temporary purposes. I have erected colliers' dwellings on a coal property which I had to pay for.

9391. Would you not think that the erection of a house and outbuildings for a cow or so would cost far above 140*l.*?—No, I have received some information on that point from people who do know, and I think Mr. Moore will be able to answer that question very fully if you ask him.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

9392. I understand that your idea is that the State would advance the money for buildings on the recommendation of the County Council?—Yes.

9393. Would the County Council be in any way responsible for the repayment of the loan?—No.

9394. There would be no liability of the County Council?—No.

9395. Do you think it is quite reasonable to ask the State to advance money upon the recommendation of a body who incur no liability by reason of the recommendation?—The recommendation is not that they should incur the liability, but they would in a sense be responsible, as large public bodies, for the advance of this money and for the repayment of it, on such conditions as the State itself laid down. The provision made in this scheme for the charges of rent and sinking fund to the tenants who have permanent occupation, and are never turned out during their lives if they conform to these terms, appears to me to be security for the State under the management of some responsible body such as the County Council, and under the farming direction of a manager who is thoroughly acquainted with the best means of using this land and giving advice and direction to the labourer upon it. I might also say that in connection with that scheme there is co-operative banking:—the agricultural credit bank scheme, which is already taking hold in this country to a great extent, and which again forms a certain guarantee for the regular payment of the rents on the part of those settlers who are upon this land.

9396. Then I understand you contemplate that the County Council shall play a most important part in this matter, especially as regards recommending the State to advance the money, and yet the County Council shall incur no liability in regard to it?—I think so. I do not see why the County Council should; but it may, of course, be one of the conditions.

9397. Supposing the County Council incur liability,

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

liability, would it not be likely to make the recommendation under a greater sense of responsibility?—It might be so.

9398. Would you not be willing to modify your scheme in that direction?—My scheme is capable of modification, so far as details are concerned, of course, very largely; it is very difficult to conceive a scheme, worked out as this has been by very diligent care, as a whole, and also with regard to the details; but I do not profess to have compassed by any means all the difficulties and details. I think the County Council might reasonably be asked to take some responsibility, but it would be better that should come after the first settlement or two have been made. I think it would not be wise to prejudice the scheme by asking for those responsibilities to begin with. I think the State might fairly take what slight risk there was in making an experiment for the purpose of seeing whether it would be a national advantage.

9399. Do not you think the Government would rather press for a part of the liability being imposed on the County Council?—I think you would impose a liability on each person.

9400. That I understand; but what I am putting to you is that the County Council itself should be responsible?—I have not the slightest objection to the County Council being made liable to the State. I did not think the risk was great, and therefore did not bring them in.

Mr. *Round.*

9401. Your proposal is that the State should advance money for these purposes. Do not you think that the State should first, or at all events at the same time, advance money to landowners for the purposes of improvement and drainage and building at a low interest. My point is that the existing landowners and occupiers should be assisted reasonably by the State first of all, so as to prevent depletion?—Our objects are somewhat different. I want to see means provided for the re-populating of the agricultural districts of the country with as large a population as it will carry, and increasing the bringing into cultivation of land which is now dying out or being put under different cultivation, and which land is cultivated unprofitably at the present time. I may be wrong; but I do not see any other way of doing it than by utilising the labour and the hand of man in addition to the use of machinery, together with skill, knowledge, and intelligence, such as at any rate has not been hitherto used on small holdings and small allotments. From that

Mr. *Round*—continued.

point of view, this being a great national advantage, I say the State would be justified in lending money for the purpose of putting buildings on such land, provided the landowners would offer the land at a low rental—a rental quite satisfactory to themselves, but probably better than the rentals they are getting now from the farmers. Landowners might be induced to accept these low rentals, which would be in perpetuity, and see the land most laboriously and carefully and skilfully tended, and therefore fruitful from year to year under this system of culture by small holders. I believe that landowners would be quite willing to let large tracts of land at a low rent, which could be divided up into small holdings for such co-operating colonies to carry out these operations. That is the national view I take of the matter, not the individual view from the owner's point of view; though I do see that the owner might have a great inducement through a scheme of this kind to offer his land in large quantities for this purpose, which would be a very small rental for the individual small occupier to pay.

9402. My point was that prevention was better than cure. If you could prevent the land from going out of cultivation, it would be better than letting it go out of cultivation, and then trying to replete it. You are aware that the land which has gone out of cultivation, taking the eastern counties, is generally a particular class of land, and you would find more difficulties in cultivating such land. The price of the better class of land which you might cultivate successfully would be probably beyond what you have estimated it at?—I have taken such prices as have in recent years, which seem to be extremely low years, governed sales of land, which appears to be good and cultivable land. Such parts of Essex as you have suggested are very heavy clay lands, and therefore to cultivate them would require a good deal of manure and a good deal of labour to bring them into a better condition under the farm training colonies system. But for the other part of the scheme, the farm settlements, it appears to me that many large farms can be bought at 10*l.*, 11*l.*, 12*l.*, and 13*l.* an acre, which would amply satisfy the requirements of such a settlement. I may mention that Mr. Moore, who will be called, will be glad to take up all these points which any member of the Committee would like to clear up, because he has dealt with them in a practical way connected with farm valuations and land produce and auxiliary industries connected therewith.

Mr. HAROLD EDWARD MOORE, F.S.I., called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

9403. ARE you a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institute and Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society?—Yes.

9404. What experience have you had in the improvement and management and valuation of land in the eastern and southern counties of England?—I have been in practice as a land

Chairman—continued.

agent since 1885, and I have given special attention to that work.

9405. Have you had the actual direction of farming properties?—From time to time I have, and am now working 600 acres in Kent.

9406. In what part of Kent?—Near Maidstone.

Chairman—continued.

9407. You have particularly, I think, paid attention to the question of utilising hand labour in agricultural work?—Yes, I have done a good deal in that direction.

9408. You have had some experience in growing products not usually grown by English farmers?—Yes, for five years I carried on experiments on some 30 acres of land, and among other experiments tried the growth of new crops, in order to prove their adaptability to the present conditions of farming.

9409. What knowledge have you of convict farms, or institutions, or colonies of that sort?—I have been over the convict farm at Dartmoor. I know the reults of the work upon the Hadleigh colony, and other instances of employment of unskilled men on land in England; and in addition to that I have visited the penal and voluntary colonies in France, Germany, and Holland.

9410. You have prepared a paper on the subject of those continental farm colonies, I believe?—I have.

9411. Will you put in that paper, so that it may be printed upon the Minutes with a view to your further examination at our next sitting?—Yes. [*The same was handed in, and is as follows*]:

Continental Farm Colonies.

Voluntary Farm Labour Colonies in Germany.

In Germany there is a system of farm labour colonies working under the control of a Labour Colony Central Board. The earliest of these colonies, known as Wilhelmsdorf, was founded near the town of Bielefeld by the efforts of Pastor von Bodelschwingh in 1882. The results were considered so satisfactory that since 1884 other colonies have been started until there are now 26 in active operation in Germany.

All these are worked upon the same principle, and are defined as being institutions of Christian charity where able-bodied men who are willing to work are admitted without regard to religion, qualifications, or character; the special aim of the colonies being to secure moral and physical improvement of those claiming their assistance. Nine of the colonies have accommodation for less than 100 men each; 13 can accommodate from 100 to 200 men each; and four have sufficient accommodation for over 200, the total number of places in all the colonies together being over 3,200. The colonies are founded by loans either from public funds or private sources, some of which are lent free of interest. The annual expenditure is provided by grants from the State or local authorities and by charitable donations and subscriptions.

When Wilhelmsdorf was founded it was used by well-conducted men temporarily out of employment, and was successful not only in giving temporary work, but in finding permanent engagements; for, out of 1,200 men coming to the colony during the first 14 months, situations were secured for 830. The colonies, however, soon began to be the resort of the tramp and the criminal, with the result that they have gradually been disused by the respectable working classes,

Chairman—continued.

and now it appears that about 75 per cent. of those availing themselves of these institutions have had some term of imprisonment. The colonies have undoubtedly been useful in reducing the numbers of tramps, and have effected economy in destroying the system of indiscriminate almsgiving; while they have exercised good moral influence over large numbers About one-half of those coming upon a colony stop for a period of from two to six months; while a large proportion leave for a time, and then either re-enter or go to another colony. Some seem satisfied with continual maintenance on a colony, only leaving nominally for a few days at intervals of not less than two years, in compliance with a rule that no man shall remain for a longer time than that period.

As to the financial results, it will appear that the cost of the colonies varies from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per week for each man, including a payment made to him averaging about 1*s.* 9*d.* per week. This cost does not include capital spent in erection or extension of buildings; and though in calculating this cost the value of any current revenue arising from the labour is credited, no income is reckoned for the improved value of the reclaimed land upon which the labour is mainly employed. A deficiency of 3*s.* per week, in addition to the payment to the man, seems to be about an average result. From my inspection and from critical consideration of Wilhelmsdorf, I became of opinion that the colonies could never be made self-supporting, even if a better class of labour were available. This colony when acquired consisted of rather over 1,000 acres of sand or forest land of a nominal value. At a depth of two or three feet there is a friable limestone which has to be brought to the surface before crops can be successfully grown. At the time of my visit about 350 acres had been treated in this way, and of this extent less than 160 acres were under cultivation as arable land, the remainder having been laid down to pasture or plantation. Even if the land were of good quality this area is far too small to produce a sufficient value to pay for the maintenance of the 240 men for whom there is accommodation on the colony. Moreover, in the cultivation of even the small area named little economy seems to have been effected in the farm working expenses, or advantages gained from hand tillage; for eight working horses are kept, which would be considered a full number for an English farm of a similar extent. None of those crops specially profitable when hand-labour is available are raised, the system pursued being that of an ordinary dairy farm, about 25 cows being kept, with the usual piggery, the condition of which showed admirable management. The superintendent was evidently a competent farm stock manager; but it would appear that the labour of the men was only managed with the view of keeping them employed rather than attempting to obtain profitable results from the labour of each individual.

All the other German voluntary colonies are founded on the same general principle, viz., on land of a waste or unproductive character; while

Chairman—continued.

while the number of men received is not regulated by the returns from the land, or the labour required upon the same. In a few cases the land has originally been of a more useful character than at Wilhelmsdorf, and a smaller number of men are received in relation to the area of cultivated land, such colonies giving better financial results. Moreover, in some colonies the reclamation work (upon which, at least, 60 per cent. of the outdoor labour is utilised) has been of a profitable character, and if the improved value of the land, as indicated by annual valuation made under the authority of the Government, be taken into account, the cost of these colonies has been very small.

The useful experience gained from the German voluntary colonies I should summarise as follows:—

(*a.*) That no colony can be used for the accommodation of both vagrants and the unemployed working classes. If the colony system is adopted, colonies must, therefore, either first be founded for the former class, or the colonies must only be for the admission of persons selected from the latter class who volunteer for admission.

(*b.*) That the class of work on the land, which a man unskilled in agricultural work can immediately undertake with useful results, is the reclamation of uncultivated land.

(*c.*) That upon such work, on suitable land, a willing worker will at once be able to give such value as will more than provide for his maintenance, but the expenditure on the maintenance of those engaged in this class of work must be recognised as an investment of capital; and

(*d.*) That if an attempt be made to render any colony self-supporting, it must possess some good quality land, and only such a number of men should be received as could be supported from the probable returns, after deducting the probable working expenses, without the cost of maintenance of the men.

Forced Labour Colonies near Berlin.

In addition to the voluntary farm labour colonies, men who are inmates of German town workhouses are frequently employed upon farm work. I have visited the farms situated about eight miles from Berlin upon which 900 men out of about 1,300 living in the workhouse at the time of my visit were employed.

As a result of my investigation, I formed the opinion that the work was not arranged in such a manner as would economically utilise the whole power of the men. Far too large a number were employed to produce certain results; the individual direction was not skilful; and the expenses of administration was out of all proportion to the value of the work obtained. The small area devoted to gardening was, however, well-managed; and the results of labour in this department was thoroughly satisfactory, bearing in mind the class of men received, and the fact that no inducements were offered to obtain honest work.

Chairman—continued.

It must be remembered that on such a property there are great difficulties. The workhouse is situated some miles from the farms, so that much time is lost in journeying to and from the land; the labour is of a most ineffective kind; the work is regarded as prison labour, is, by us, viz., as a means of employment, and not as an attempt to provide self-supporting work to the men maintained, and no attempt is made to find the classes of work adapted to the capacity or experience of the men received.

In spite, however, of all these disadvantages from the report of the year preceding my visit, it appeared that the total cost of food and clothes for each man was only 3*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, or just 2*d.* per day in excess of the value obtained from his labour.

The experience gained in this work shows that penal colonies for vagrants might be a cheap means of dealing with that class in England. I am also of opinion that the result of these forced labour farms indicate that with a better class of men on a voluntary colony under the more favourable conditions which we could obtain in England; such additional return per man could be obtained as would not only make up the deficiency shown by forced labour farms, but provide all costs of administration and interest on capital.

Penal Colony at Veenhuisan, Holland.

In the year 1859 the Dutch Government acquired certain colonies which have been merged into one situated at Veenhuisan, about nine miles from the town of Assen. At this place about 2,500 persons were maintained at the time of my visit, the whole of this number having been convicted of begging or other offences against the law, and sent for a term of not less than one year to this colony.

The employment was mainly in land reclamation and cultivation, but many industries were also worked. The property had originally been a sandy waste which no landowner would have attempted to reclaim with the view of profit. By the work of those who have been on the colony a considerable area has been cleared and is well cropped and cultivated; so much so that generally sufficient food for consumption of those upon the colony is there raised. The colony seems to have no reformatory influence, those who have once been there almost invariably returning after they have been discharged at the expiration of their term. It can thus only be considered a penal settlement serving the purpose of keeping at a small cost some thousands of hopeless vagrants who would probably otherwise be begging in the towns of Holland.

It is not, therefore, necessary to consider further the results of this colony, as it does not give experience useful in consideration of colonies for men selected from the unemployed working classes.

Penal and Voluntary Colonies in Belgium.

The same remarks as I have made in reference to the Veenhuisan colony apply generally to the colonies in Belgium. These latter, however, are larger and better organised, and in addition to

Chairman—continued.

two colonies at Mexplas and Wortel, which receive all persons convicted of begging who are sent there in accordance with the very stringent law for the repression of vagabondage passed in 1891, there is another colony under the same control at Hoogstreeten, where 1,200 feeble and aged persons are received. The total areas of these colonies exceed 2,300 acres, of which about 800 acres are under cultivation.

The most important fact to be gained from the results of the Belgium colonies is the thorough confirmation of the principle that voluntary candidates and forced labour vagrants cannot be received upon one colony. Under a law of 1866 any able-bodied man out of work might apply to his commune to be sent to the Wortel colony, and upon his reception the commune was responsible for paying 6*d.* per day towards the cost of his maintenance. A voluntary colonist so received might leave at any time after he had been one month upon the colony from the day of his admission; but if he returned to the colony within 12 months of his departure, he would then not be admitted for a shorter time than six months. At first these provisions seemed to have been useful; but when it was recognised that those convicted of penal offences were sent to the same colony, the numbers of voluntary admissions rapidly decreased every year, and in 1885 had fallen to 232, and in 1889 to 78, while since the Act of 1891 I learn from the director that the voluntary principle has practically been inoperative.

Voluntary Colony, Switzerland.

The two examples of foreign colonies which are the most useful in considering the possibility of the foundation of self-supporting colonies in England are the two recently established, and small colonies which have been founded in Switzerland and France respectively, both only open for men selected from the unemployed working classes.

In April, 1889, a society was registered in Berne as a limited company, with a capital of 1,920*l.*, and obtained 107 acres of land to form a workman's home for the temporary maintenance of those who were out of work. During the four years to the end of March, 1893, from 75 to 100 men have been received each year, the average number remaining in the home during last year being 24. On December 31st, 1892, the property in possession of the company was valued at 3,974*l.*, with a mortgage and loans amounting to 2,106*l.*, thus giving a surplus of profit of nearly 200*l.* after repaying capital. It will thus be seen that the work has been entirely self-supporting from the commencement. A small sum has been received in donations, the income from this source during the last year having been about 100*l.*; but, on the other hand, wages have been paid to the men, in addition to their being provided with maintenance.

The whole area of land, it was estimated, would be under good cultivation in 1894, and the company owning the colony were then intending to secure more land of a poor character; as though the returns from the colony were sufficient to maintain the number of men received full

Chairman—continued.

employment for that number could not be found without some waste land.

This small example, therefore, supports an opinion that even a man unskilled in agricultural work can be supported upon a colony if an area of about four acres of cultivated land be secured for each man; but also shows that waste land is necessary if every man is to be kept fully and profitably employed.

Voluntary Colony, France.

The other continental colony founded for selected men is one established in the parish of La Chalmelle, in France, 70 miles east of Paris. A committee was appointed by the Paris Municipal Council in 1891 to visit the various foreign colonies, and report as to whether a colony could be founded in France with useful results, and, if so, the basis upon which it should be worked. As a result of the report of the committee so appointed, this colony was founded in January 1892.

The farm used for the purpose consisted of 316 acres, which was bequeathed to the City of Paris in 1663, and was leased for the purpose of the colony to a committee nominated by the Paris Municipal Council, the rent being 100*l.* per annum, while interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum upon the capital employed and advanced by them has also to be paid.

At the time possession was taken of the farm, to quote the words of the director, given in his first report, it was "très peu fertiles et très argileuses, elles sont fort sèches en eté, très humide en hiver, l'eau séjourne longtemps à la surface, et le sous-sol impermeable, très compact, ne permet pas les labours profonds sands l'introduction d'un amendement qui modifie la constitution physique." The whole farm had, moreover, been out of cultivation for two years. The farm buildings upon this property were fitted for the accommodation of 32 men, and placed under the control of M. Malet, an agricultural expert of special knowledge and experience in agricultural organisation.

At Easter of the present year (1895) I visited this colony by desire of Mr. Mather, in order to personally investigate the results obtained. Everything upon the farm gave evidence of most careful direction. Last year the area of cereal crops was 160 acres, the remaining area being mainly forage crops, while there is less than ten acres remaining uncultivated. About half the land is of fair average quality, but the remainder can never be expected to give an average return, although with more expenditure in improvements it will yield largely increasing crops. The amount of capital expended, however, has been less than the director would have wished, the total at the present time being under 2,500*l.*, this amount including the purchase of 50 cows, 10 horses, and a large quantity of other productive live stock. It is evident that a colony on such land, as above described, could not be self-supporting from the commencement. Its success, however, seems to have been speedily recognised. The Chairman of the Committee appointed to report to the Paris Municipal Council as to the results up to October, 1892, after giving evidence which

Chairman—continued.

which he thought showed that in three years, when the land was all under proper culture, the receipts would equal the expenses, closed his Report with the following clause :—

"Dans ces conditions, et en presence du succès de l'entreprise, succès qui n'est pas douteux, vous devez plus que jamais, Messieurs, perseverer dans la voie inaugurée par votre Commission de Mendicité, et faire tous vos efforts et tous les sacrifices possibles pour aider les societies privées qui tenteront de realiser des creations de colonies agricoles d'indigents destinées a arracher les ouvriers malheureux aux funestes consequences du chomage."

In the year ending October 1893, the nett cost of the colony was 600*l.* During this year 95 colonists had been received, 37 had secured situations through the colony, 18 went voluntarily to situations, 32 were on the colony at the end of the year, and the remaining eight had been discharged as hopeless. Experiments of great value for future guidance were made as to the cost of the labour of men unskilled in work on land taken at the cost they were to the colony as compared with ordinary labour at wages current in the district. These tests were of two kinds, harvesting, and pulling and packing root crops. As to the harvesting, the hand labour for over 60 acres was done by colonists at a cost of 12*l.* 5*s.*, which by ordinary labour would have cost 29*l.* ; while the work on the root crops which with ordinary labour would have cost 10*l.* 5*s.* was done by the colonists at a cost of nearly 1*l.* less.

In the year ending October 1894, 113 men were received, the total number of beds provided being fully occupied. The nett cost of the colony for this year was about 195*l.*, the receipts either in sales or value of produce kept for consumption upon the farm being 1,380*l.*, while the expenses were 1,575*l.* This latter amount included 78*l.* costs of colonists travelling to colony, which some might consider should not have been charged against the farm, 184*l.* payments in cash to colonists, and 173*l.* rent, interest on capital, and rates. The improved value of the colony is not brought into the accounts.

With more men increased hand labour can be profitably used, more particularly in growing garden and other produce ; and in presenting this last-named report to the municipal council application was made on behalf of the colony for the cost of erection of dormitories for a further 50 men. This proposal has since been sanctioned, and when the buildings are erected in accordance with the plans shown me by the director, he hopes to receive additional men, so that at least 200 will be able to come to the colony in the course of next year. The men are selected from among applicants in the Paris shelters ; and there is great competition for every vacancy that there is upon the colony.

The results have been considered so satisfactory, both from the reformatory aspect and financially, that a circular has been issued by the Minister of the Interior asking the prefects to consider the possibility of the foundation of a similar colony in each of the departments over which they have control.

Chairman—continued.

Settlement of Small Holders, Frederiksoord, Holland.

Hitherto every colony I have referred to has only dealt with single men as a temporary measure. I have critically inspected one colony in Holland, where the attempt has been made to settle families permanently each upon a small holding. This is known as Frederiksoord, and is situated in the same district as the Veenhuisen forced-labour colony already mentioned, and is under the control of the society which owned that colony until it was acquired by the Government.

The Frederiksoord Settlement consists of six farms of about 200 acres each, worked by the society owning the settlement, and over 220 farms of an area of 6½ acres each, worked by tenants. Men, with their families, are first taken as labourers upon the former farms, and when vacancies occur are admitted as life-tenants of a small farm, stock and capital being lent to them.

The condition and results of this settlement, in my opinion, are not satisfactory. The tenants all receive special assistance from the society ; several, even with this help, admitted they could not secure a sufficient maintenance without outside work ; a large proportion of the land was in poor condition ; both houses and the standard of living were very inferior, and many of the tenants were in arrear with their rent. As to the society, the costs of administration, expenses of education of the children, and the technical training, costs about 4*l.* 10*s.* per family each year in addition to the profits secured from the land worked by the society, this deficiency being met from charitable donations.

The failure of this settlement to give a comfortable living to those volunteering to work a small area as a permanent means of livelihood is owing, in my opinion, to the unsuitable situation and poor soil. As to the former, the cash return to each family is mainly from the proceeds of a cow, which, at Frederiksoord, distant from any market, is of the value of less than 4*s.* per week ; while in England for the same product 7*s.* 6*d.* per week could be obtained. Then, again, in the district of Frederiksoord, the wages average 1*s.* 2*d.* per day, with a possibility of getting a little extra at haymaking, while in England any small holder can spare four to six weeks at hay and harvest time, and if then assisted by a family, can frequently secure a total return of 10*l.* for that period. As to the soil of the colony, this was formerly either peat or sandy waste, and totally unsuited to intensive culture. It cannot grow wheat, and from almost every other variety of crop except oats, a less than average yield must be expected. I was able to see the acreage returns from the farms worked by the society for one year, and they fully supported what I thought was probable, for beans gave about half-the average English yield and barley less than one half. Then at Frederiksoord there is no good pasture such as can be found to some extent in England, and which gives so valuable and certain return without labour.

Chairman—continued.

To pay interest upon capital, to defray all costs of management, and to obtain a comfortable living, a small holder here must get an income of at least 20*l.* per year in excess of what a Frederiksoord tenant now does. The amount of the latter, putting produce consumed at the market price, may sometimes be as much as 40*l.*, though it would generally be nearer 30*l.* If a tenant was established under exactly the same conditions in this country as to soil, and obtained only the same returns, the increased value of saleable produce would make up half the additional income. It would, however, be difficult to find soil of so unsuitable a character in this country; and on average quality land the crops could safely be relied upon to yield not less than 50 per cent. more than could be secured at Frederiksoord by the same labour. A small holder under favourable conditions in this country will thus obtain an increased yield, a higher price for saleable produce, the possibility of returns from pasture land, and more profitable outside employment when not wanted on the land. The experience of Frederiksoord would seem to indicate that with these conditions, an English family on a settlement of small holdings of no larger area than at Frederiksoord, could secure

Chairman—continued

an adequate living, even if they possessed no better working powers or experience than a Dutch town family.

"*Home Colony*" *Settlement, Germany.*

One attempt has been made in assisting families in connection with the Voluntary German Colonies. In 1886 a colony was acquired for this purpose about three miles from Bremerhaven. The sum of 3,600*l.* was given for the land; nearly 3,000*l.* was expended in the erection and fitting of the buildings; and upwards of 1,600*l.* in stock. The small holdings so created were then let to colonists at rents sufficient to cover the interest on the capital; the colonists when they first come to the colony being housed in barrack buildings, subsequently being promoted to be "Home Colonists," having separate cottages. The colony was started with 12 of the former class in 1886, and in 1893 there were 35 of the former class and 15 of the latter. I have been unable to gather any reliable information as to the status and position of the tenants at the present time, nor have I visited the colony; but am told generally the results up to this year are satisfactory.

Friday, 24th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. THOMAS PHILLIPS, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

9412. WHERE do you reside?—At Llanelly, South Wales.

9413. You are the secretary of the South Wales, Monmouth, and Gloucestershire Tinplate Workers' Union, are you not?—Yes.

9414. How long have you acted in that capacity?—Nine years.

9415. How many operatives, men, women, and children, do you estimate are employed in that trade in your district?—About 30,000.

9416. The tinplate trade was almost confined to your district, was it not, until lately?—It was confined to South Wales and Monmouthshire prior to 1891.

9417. Now you have competition?—Yes, in America and on the Continent.

9418. In consequence, the trade has been in a somewhat crippled condition, has it not?—Yes, with the general depression that exists as well.

9419. The people have suffered from want of employment, have they not, to a very great extent?—Yes, immensely.

9420. Have you formed an estimate of the number, or have you any reason to conclude what the numbers are, that have been affected; can you give the Committee the figures for the different counties?—Yes.

9421. To take Glamorganshire, what are the figures?—There have been 5,250 men thrown out of employment there.

9422. How many works were there in Glamorganshire?—Forty-four works, containing 250 mills.

9423. Of those, how many are working?—There are 145 mills working, employing 7,250 men.

9424. And how many mills are idle?—One hundred and five, employing 5,250 men.

9425. How many men have been totally idle from the commencement of 1893 to the present time?—About 6,500 totally idle in the whole district.

9426. I am taking Glamorganshire only; what is the number there?—Two thousand five hundred and fifty.

Chairman—continued.

9427. Then there are some who have been partially employed?—Yes; 2,700 have been partially employed during the same period.

9428. And how many men have been working during the same period?—Seven thousand two hundred and fifty.

9429. Dealing similarly with Carmarthenshire, how many works are there there?—There are 28 works, containing 155 mills, employing 7,750 men.

9430. How many of those mills are working?—Ninety-seven mills, employing 4,850 men.

9431. And how many idle?—Fifty-eight mills, employing 2,900 men.

9432. Again, will you tell us how many have been totally idle since the beginning of 1893 in that county?—Two thousand and fifty have been idle.

9433. And half-time idle during the same period?—One thousand six hundred and fifty.

9434. What has been the number working during the same period?—Four thousand and fifty.

9435. Will you give the Committee similar figures for Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire; how many works are there there?—Twenty-one works, containing 109 mills, employing 5,450 men.

9436. Of those mills how many are working, and how many idle?—There are 51 mills working, employing 2,550 men.

9437. What has been the number of mills idle?—Fifty-eight, employing 2,900 men.

9438. Since 1893 how many men have been idle?—Two thousand nine hundred.

9439. How many have been continuously idle since the commencement of 1893?—One thousand nine hundred and fifty.

9440. How many have been working half time?—One thousand three hundred.

Chairman – continued.

9441. What is the number of men working during the same period?—Two thousand two hundred.

9442. What is the summary for all these counties: how many men in the whole of them have been totally idle since the commencement of 1893, according to your estimate?—Six thousand five hundred and fifty have been totally idle, and nearly 6,000 have been partially idle.

9443. Making a total of nearly 12,500?—Yes, nearly.

9444. As against that, how many are there in full work?—About 13,500.

9445. Are those all men, or men, women, and children?—Men, principally.

9446. It includes some women and children?—Yes.

9447. From what source do you derive your knowledge of these figures?—From our books; we get returns from the different centres every six months.

9448. You think you can reckon upon them as being correct?—Yes, they are very accurate; we have taken great pains to get them correct.

9449. Those are not all men belonging to your union, I presume?—They are not at present; because they cannot pay their subscriptions.

9450. But I suppose there were even originally some who did not belong to your union?—Yes. We had somewhere between 8,000 and 9,000 belonging to our union at the best of times; the others were not members of our union.

9451. The figures you give embrace not only the union men, but non-union men out of employment?—Yes; the total number employed in the tinplate trade.

Mr. *David Randell.*

9452. You have taken especial care, I understand, to ascertain these figures by sending out to the various secretaries of the districts for returns?—Yes.

9453. Can you state very shortly how this state of affairs has been brought about?—It was principally, I believe, by forcing the price of plates up in 1891 and in the autumn of 1890, anticipating the Tariff Bill coming into operation in July 1891. Then there was such an overproduction up to that time, to realise the big prices that were going, that the depression has continued to a great extent since: and America itself is producing perhaps 2,000,000 boxes of plates to-day.

9454. In consequence of that, in July 1891, I think the whole of the tinplate trade was idle for a month?—Yes; it was idle for the whole of the month of August.

9455. Do you think this depression is likely to continue?—I am afraid we shall have two or three ragged years.

9456. Would that be in consequence not only of the American competition, but also of the attempts to forster the trade on the continent?—Yes, in several places: Spain, Italy, and France especially.

9457. You spoke of America manufacturing 2,000,000 boxes of plates; for how many mills would that give work, and how many people?—It would give work to about 7,000 people.

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

9458. What is the condition of the men and their families in the present state of affairs?—Hundreds of them are quite destitute. I have visited some houses where there is not a bit of furniture in them, nor food of any kind.

9459. Is it the fact that the men who owned their houses have had to sell them in order to tide over this year of depression?—Yes, in very many cases they have sold their houses, and in other instances they have been mortgaged.

9460. Have they been mortgaged up to the full value of the house?—Yes, and in dozens of cases money that was saved in the Post Office Savings Banks, *et cetera*, has been spent by the men in maintaining themselves during the period.

9461. That is to say, a large number of men of thrifty habits who had saved some money have exhausted the earnings they had laid by in that way?—Yes.

9462. May I take it that others have practically lived on the credit of the tradesmen?—Yes; for the last 18 months especially.

9463. May I take it that these men are all skilled artizans?—Yes, very nearly all of them.

9464. Do you find a reluctance on their part to apply for poor relief?—Yes, a very great reluctance.

9465. What are the reasons that they give you for their reluctance?—I believe the main reason is, going against their political interest; that they would be disfranchised if they accepted charity or relief from the Poor Law. I think they shun that as much as anything else.

9466. You mean the stigma that would attach to them from the receipt of poor relief?—Yes.

9467. And that they would be deprived of their franchise?—Yes.

9468. With regard to the remedial measures during this time, I presume there have been in various centres local relief funds?—Yes, in all the centres for some time.

9469. So far as your union is concerned, to which you are secretary, what assistance has the union given to the men?—There was a special fund raised at the beginning of 1892 which amounted to 3,500*l.*, and that was distributed on the basis of 7*s.* 6*d.* for each man and 1*s.* for each child. That was a special relief fund, independent of the union funds entirely.

9470. Your rules do not provide, do they, for relief in the ordinary sense?—No; but they were relaxed in this instance so that we would be able to assist men out of work, and we did so to the tune of 6,500*l.*

9471. In that way you subscribed an additional 6,500*l.*, making a total of 10,000*l.* that your union has distributed among the unemployed from December 1892 up to December 1894?—Yes.

9472. This year, I presume, the resources of the union have been exhausted, and you will not be able to render the men any material aid?—We have not been able to render the men any assistance at all this year.

9473. I assume you describe this state of affairs, with all these thousands of men out of employment, as being an extraordinary condition?—It has never existed in the tinplate trade for the last 30 years.

9474. In

Mr. *David Randell*—continued.

9474. In your opinion, some exceptional remedy ought to be dealt out to meet this emergency?—Yes, in my opinion, that is very necessary.

9475. I suppose it is really a grave condition of things, becoming more acute day by day?—Yes; it cannot be sadder; and things are growing worse every week.

9476. Suggestions have been made to meet special circumstances of this kind by aid from the Exchequer; do you advocate any relief of that description?—Yes; I do not believe there is any other possible method under the circumstances to give them assistance, unless there is something special done.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

9477. Can you give us the rate of wages in the tinplate trade before the distress began?—A very good workman would average somewhere about 2*l.* a week.

9478. That would be the maximum rate, I suppose?—Yes.

9479. What would it range down to?—It would range from a few shillings over 2*l.* a week to perhaps a few shillings under. The maximum average would be 2*l.*

9480. For the best workmen?—Yes.

9481. Has there been any change in the rate of wages since the period of distress?—The standard has not been changed, but reductions have been effected by percentages varying from 12½ to 15.

9482. The men have accepted the reduction of 12½, have they?—Yes, they have, for the last seven or eight months.

9483. Not before that?—No.

9484. Notwithstanding that the distress was already very acute?—Yes.

9485. Can you tell us any towns or places where the distress was specially great?—In the neighbourhood of Pontypool and Landore, near Swansea, and Kidwelly, in Carmarthenshire. All the men have been idle at Kidwelly for the last seven months, and they have worked very indifferently there, as regards the general body of men throughout the trade, for the last three years.

9486. Do you know what measures were taken in Landore and Kidwelly by the Poor Law authorities?—Yes; they gave the stone-breaking test, nothing else; and the men earned something between 5*s.* 6d. and 6*s.* a week, doing their best.

9487. What rate per hour did they give, do you know?—I could not tell you that.

Mr. *Mather.*

9488. When my honourable friend Mr. Randell asked you your opinion as to the remedy for this state of things, I understood you to say that the only remedy would be a grant from the Exchequer to assist this number of men out of employment?—Yes.

9489. In what way would you use the money if you got a grant from the Exchequer?—I think the machinery, so far as we are concerned, is already there.

9490. Would you distribute money in certain sums?—We have secretaries to the different branches. The number of men who are idle or working are divided into about 142 branches.

9491. I do not want to know how you would distribute it, but simply whether you would distribute the money so much per head of those out of employment?—Yes, and so much for a child.

9492. You would go on doing that until the money was exhausted?—Yes.

9493. What do you do when the money was exhausted?—We would hope better times would come soon.

9494. You would simply give the money in charity, and these men would keep on idling all the time the money lasted?—Yes, unless they got work.

9495. You would go on giving them money until it was exhausted, and for that money they would be doing nothing; is that your remedy?—Yes.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

9496. Could you tell us at about what date these withdrawals from the savings banks began?—Ranging from the end of 1893 until now.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

9497. I suppose you have never seen such a time of depression in the tinplate trade before? Not for the last 30 years.

9498. I assume that is caused by the Americans going into the trade themselves, who used to be large customers of Wales?—Yes, to a great extent, and the general depression that there has been throughout the world.

9499. Is it not possible for the men to accept a much greater reduction of wages, as compared with what they had before, in order to compete with the difficulty that has arisen?—The reductions that have been taken have been no remedy for the last seven months. Plates are cheaper to-day than they were before the reduction was accepted by the men.

9500. I know at present plates are very cheap; but still, with all the cheapness, you are not able to overtake the American market?—No, that is impossible, I think; it has been left too late.

9501. Do you think these men who have been engaged in the tinplate work would make any hand at it if they were put upon the land to do land work?—No, I am afraid not; or very few of them.

9502. There have been times of depression in the trade before, have there not, and they have recovered?—We had a spell of depression in 1879, but nothing so severe as at present. The trade was not so extended then as it is to-day, and the depression was not felt so keenly.

9503. A good many mills, apart from the tin plate trade, are engaged in making what is called black sheets, are they not?—Yes. It is a very small proportion; it was a large proportion 18 months or two years ago.

9504. Is it your opinion that, looking at matters just now, there is no hope for the tinplate trade in the near future?—Not unless new markets are opened somewhere.

Chairman.

9505. With regard to this number of between 6,000 and 7,000 men, who, you say, have been totally

Chairman—continued.

totally idle since the beginning of 1893, have they done anything to any great extent in seeking out other industries, going to other parts of the country, or in any other way trying to get employment?—Yes; in Monmouthshire especially we have hundreds who have been trying to work underground, and did work underground as long as they could get it; but they have been discharged. Underground work at the collieries is not very prosperous now, and they limited the working to four days a week. Then these men who had been discharged could not get work when they came back to their tinplate works, because the managers could not take them on.

Mr. *David Randell.*

9506. A large number of men have gone to America, have they not, in the hope of getting work there, and many of them have returned here again, in consequence of the unpreparedness of work there, several of the works not being complete?—Yes.

Chairman.

9507. Will you explain a little more how it is that these men who went to America (to which country the tinplate trade has gone) fail to find employment there?—There are too many gone there; and these men had been so long idle that they found it better to come back, because the special work for themselves was not ready for them to go on with out there.

9508. And yet the Americans are competing with you at home?—Yes, to the extent of two million boxes; but the Americans have been taking to the extent of six to seven millions from us.

9509. But I suppose the article you produce is required, and if the Americans are not in a position to go on with the work it would look as if you might still supply the trade?—Yes, we will continually send some to America, no doubt; but the proportion will be so small compared with what we have been sending that the distress will be very great for some years, unless other markets are found for tinplates.

9510. Has any idea been suggested or any effort made in the direction of finding some other industries suitable to these same men; I mean not that they should go underground or adopt a new mode of life altogether, but that they should find work in some other industries more or less similar to their former occupation?—No, we have none in South Wales. The closest approach to tinplate work would be the copper works; and they have been very badly off for some years.

9511. You are aware that there are other parts of the country where the trade, owing to the shiftings to which trade is always liable, has disappeared, but the community have set themselves to supply the place of the trade that has gone by some other industry; has the same thing occurred in your district?—There is no instance of that that I know of in this case.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9512. As regards the wages, we had a witness from South Wales, who said that if a considerable reduction was made in the wages he thought they could compete with America. What do you think of that suggestion?—The labour in America is 5*s.* a box; our labour is something like 2*s.* 6*d.* a box. So that if we gave 50 per cent. away we could not compete with the American, because if he gave 50 per cent. he would have only half as much as we have to pay altogether.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

9513. If America pays 50 per cent. more in wages than you do, how is it that you cannot compete with America?—It is because of the tariff. We have to pay 5*s.* 2*d.* on every box that goes into the country in consequence of the tariff.

9514. Is it not the fact that wages in America, although nominally much higher, are, in consequence of the price of food, and so on, much less than they are with you?—I do not think so.

9515. Does 1*l.* in America go as far as 1*l.* with you in Cardiff?—£.1 in Cardiff would, I presume, go as far as 27*s.* in America.

9516. Then, although wages are so high nominally in America, the difference is not really so great?—No; it is boarding and clothes that are dear, so far as I can find out.

9517. Then, as a matter of fact, there is room to compete with America by reducing the cost of production, is there not?—No; I believe if we worked for nothing we could not compete with America to-day, because, whereas we give 2*s.* 6*d.*, in America they give 5*s.*; and if we gave away the 2*s.* 6*d.* we could not compete.

9518. What proportion of the cost of the article does that 2*s.* 6*d.* represent; what do wages represent out of the total cost?—All round I should say 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* on the box.

9519. What is the value of a box?—9*s.* 6*d.* or 10*s.*

9520. Then about 25 per cent. is wages?—Yes.

9521. Then the great bulk of the cost is not wages?—No.

9522. You think there is not much margin for reduction?—There is not, so far as wages are concerned.

9523. There are a great number of works still going on in South Wales, are there not?—Yes.

9524. How can those works go on still if it is impossible to compete?—I daresay they make for special markets on the Continent and for home consumption as well.

9525. Would they make a special quality of tinplates?—Yes; there are different grades, and, perhaps, one works manufactures the article, and turns it out better than its neighbour.

9526. Do you mean in America?—Yes; or in Wales.

9527. Why cannot all works do the same?—I cannot say.

9528. If there was a State grant to help all the people while out of work, would not that tend to retard the time when they would accommodate themselves to the changed circumstances?—So far as our workers are concerned they would rather work in the tinplate works for 7*s.* 6*d.* than they would anywhere else for

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

12*s.* or 15*s.* They run back from everywhere to their old work even if their wages are higher in other places.

9529. You have no solution to suggest for the difficulty, except a State grant?—That is all.

9530. If you had a State grant, would it not be reasonable that all other parts of the country should require the same?—Yes, I suppose so; and I do not see why they should not have it either.

9531. Do you think the State could help all of the unemployed all over the country?—This is such a general depression that I do not believe the world has felt the like of it before. There are now some signs of things bettering all over the world, and when things were better this would soon disappear. In the usual depressions which have existed, and which may of course come again, the workmen would not come to anybody for relief; but this is an extraordinary depression that the world has not felt the like of before.

Mr. HAROLD EDWARD MOORE, F.S.I., F.R.H.S., re-called; and further Examined.

Chairman.

9532. THE paper you put in on Continental Farm Colonies is printed in the evidence of the last occasion. Perhaps I may ask a question or two with regard to each of the colonies. In the first place, as to the voluntary farm labour colonies in Germany, I see that you deduce four conclusions from your examination of them; the first being that no colony can be used for the accommodation of both vagrants and the unemployed working classes?—Yes.

9533. Those two classes must be dealt with separately, in your opinion?—Yes. That is certainly a conclusion that I think almost any one inspecting the colonies would come to. I see that Professor Mavor in his report in the Government Blue Book on the Unemployed notices the same point.

9534. Then your second conclusion is that where a man unaccustomed to agricultural work has to be employed on a farm, the proper course is to employ him upon the reclamation of uncultivated land?—Yes, that undoubtedly is the case, in consequence of the extreme difficulty in getting the labour well regulated if the land is in cultivation.

9535. You think that a man who is a willing worker, a man of industrious habits, for instance, like the tinplate workers we have just been having evidence with regard to, could do a profitable amount of work in reclaiming uncultivated land?—Certainly. I think that is a class of man that could compare favourably with the agricultural labourer for similar work.

9536. What do you mean, when you say his labour would "compare favourably" with that of an agricultural labourer?—It would be cheaper to get the work done by that class of man, provided it was such work as you would usually employ navvy labour upon; that is to say, it would be cheaper to have the labour of such men who had previously been unskilled in agricultural work, provided they cost nothing beyond the cost of their maintenance.

9537. Your third point is that a willing worker on such work can give such value as will more than provide for his maintenance; but you think the expenditure on the maintenance of those engaged in this class of work must be recognised as an investment of capital; that is to say, I suppose, that the increased value he gives to the land is the return that is got for the cost of his maintenance?—That is so.

Chairman—continued.

9538. Then, fourthly, you say that, side by side with this uncultivated land, there ought to be some land of a better quality?—Yes, that is necessary, as otherwise there would be no produce to maintain the number of men who were upon that particular colony.

9539. A question has been raised with regard to the general scheme that has been put before us, as to what would happen if the supply of unemployed fell short. Supposing there is a period of depression, and a great deal of labour has been obtained, and you employ it upon the reclamation of a certain piece of waste land, and then these men happily at some period find their own natural work, what becomes then of the colony?—It would not affect the colony to any extent, except that it would defer work to a subsequent period, which, if the men were available, would be done immediately. It might mean that the cost of supervision might be rather heavier if that work was extended over a longer period, but otherwise it would have no financial effect.

9540. Is that work of a sort that requires to be done with the season?—No; as a rule one would only undertake the reclamation of waste land in the autumn and winter months, as an alternative to the cultivation work in the summer, when more labour is employed on the cultivated land. We should not undertake such a thing as land drainage or ploughing up any waste land except in the autumn after the harvest is in; it would be uneconomical. So that, assuming we were dealing with an area of land such as this derelict land in Essex, which has been described, that labour would not be placed on that land until the autumn; it would be uneconomical to undertake it at any other season of the year.

9541. What would these men do in the summer months?—I think those who have had some experience, at all events, would have a large amount of employment in the ordinary hand surface tillage on growing crops.

9542. And in the auxiliary trades we have heard of also?—Yes, to a small extent in the auxiliary trades. But I do not think there would be very much labour wanted upon them, at least not in proportion to the comparatively large number of men that are wanted upon the colony.

Chairman—continued.

9543. Do you know if they have found this difficulty in Germany on those voluntary colonies there?—In Germany, as you may notice from my remarks in my paper, the colonies have been founded almost invariably on waste land, or sandy heaths that would otherwise not have been cultivated, and they are employing a very small proportion of the men upon the actual agricultural work at any time. It is principally in the nature of capital expenditure in the case of those colonies. In fact, the colonies, from an agricultural point of view, are worked with practically the same expenditure of horse labour as if there were no men upon those colonies. The only way in which the men can be profitably engaged on agricultural work is as an auxiliary to steam power, using the most modern steam appliances and supplementing steam by the hand labour of those men in substitution of much of the work that is now done by horses.

9544. You go on in your paper to speak of the forced labour colonies near Berlin, and the inference you draw from them is, that "the result of these forced labour farms indicates that with a better class of men on a voluntary colony, under the more favourable conditions which we could obtain in England, such additional return per man could be obtained as would not only make up the deficiency shown by forced labour farms, but provide all costs of administration and interest on capital." You think that that system might be adopted with advantage here?—I have noted in my paper that the cost is only 3*l.* per man; that is without the cost of administration (which is very heavy on a forced labour colony); and I should naturally assume, even in the absence of any evidence which supports the same conclusion, that the 3*l.* deficiency could be easily made up, and a sufficient sum beyond that to pay for the administration in consequence of the extra power put into the voluntary labour that we should get here.

9545. Taking Holland, the Veenhuisan colony is not very instructive for our purpose, I think?—No; my opinions as to the failure of this colony seem to be exactly the same as those formed by Mr. Willink, to judge from the evidence already before the Committee. At the time of writing I had not read Mr. Willink's evidence (I have since done so), but I had read his book upon those colonies.

9546. You agree substantially, I understand, in the opinion he has formed?—Yes, certainly; as to the results of this colony.

9547. In Belgium you found the same lesson taught, namely, that "voluntary candidates and forced labour vagrants" should not be mixed together?—Yes, that seems to me quite clear from the result of the Belgian experience.

9548. The Swiss experiment appears to be an instructive one; have you any particular remark to make to the Committee on that?—I have not visited the Swiss colony referred to in my paper. I first heard of it from Professor Mayor, and I have had some recent correspondence with the director of the colony in Switzerland, and it is from that source that I have been able to derive the figures that are given here.

Chairman—continued.

As I have stated in these notes, it seems to have been founded upon the only principles likely to be satisfactory in the case of colonies.

9549. With regard to the larger experiment in France, that you have actually visited, I believe?—Yes, that I was on at Easter this year.

9550. That experiment, I believe, is considered in France to have been a success?—Yes, it certainly seems to be looked upon there as an entire success.

9551. Does it conform to the ideas you suggest as most likely to produce a good result?—Yes, it seems to have quite conformed to those ideas; the only point being that at the commencement of the colony it was entirely waste land, and consequently there was a subsidy necessary for the first year or so; but now that there is sufficient produce coming from the colony the number of men is going to be increased.

Mr. *Mather.*

9552. Is it your opinion, from the experience you have had, and the personal visitation you have made of all the colonies, so called, which exist in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and France, that such colonies are not at all based upon the principles which are relied upon for success in the scheme now before the Committee?—I think the scheme before the Committee differs very materially from the conditions under which these foreign colonies have been tried, and their nearest approach to it is undoubtedly the French colony.

9553. Therefore you would not take any of the financial results of those foreign colonies as necessarily bearing upon, or to any extent qualifying, the results which have been set before the Committee in the scheme now under discussion?—No, not necessarily so. I think there is ample evidence in England as to the results of labour upon the land, without relying in any sense upon continental experience, although I think continental experience is useful to refer to.

Chairman.

9554. Your answer leads me to ask you about the colony at Hadleigh. The Committee have been told that you have examined that colony; will you tell us what you found there and what you think of it?—In 1891 I was engaged professionally in connection with the colony, and I was largely instrumental in laying out the system on which it was worked during the first year. Since then I have not been specially interested in it; but I have visited it from time to time and know, therefore, as to the work that has been going on.

9555. Will you tell the Committee what you know of it?—Simply dealing with the financial results of the colony, the first balance sheet was published at the end of 1891, and that balance sheet showed a profit of 43*l.* in its first year's working, after paying all the costs of the men, the rent that was included in the ingoing valuation, and all other expenses attaching to those men that were employed in the land work, exclusive of the general administration costs.

9556. That being on an expenditure of about what amount?—The balance sheet shows an income

Chairman—continued.

income of 6,862*l.*; with payments of 6,819*l.* That is, of course, disregarding altogether the capital expenditure upon the actual cost of the colony.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9557. I understand there is no charge for interest on capital in that?—There is no charge for interest on capital in that item.

Mr. *Mather.*

9558. What class of persons were put upon the colony?—The class of men varied a great deal. The first thing that was done with all the men volunteering was that they were put on a piece of test work, which was digging gravel. We required a large quantity of gravel for the purposes of the colony, and it was felt that that was an efficient labour test. Every man coming on the colony, therefore, had either to go into the gravel pit or else was employed upon digging the foundations for the houses. Of the first 160 men coming on to the colony, I think, about 30 left the colony during the first week, not being satisfied with this requirement forcing them to work on arrival.

Chairman.

9559. Where had they come from; had they come from the East of London mostly?—They had all come from London; they had passed some time in the shelter of the Salvation Army generally speaking; one or two came direct.

Mr. *Mather.*

9560. What class did they come from; were they the submerged tenth, or what?—They were decidedly from the submerged tenth. We had all classes to deal with. The men that were the most difficult to deal with were the men of education. We had one University man, I remember there; but the men who were best, and who formed the largest proportion, seemed to me to be the Army reserve men who had been drifting about in London with no occupation of any kind, having no special experience and no skill. They formed exceedingly willing workers, and were able at once to do such work that we could get our land improvement work carried out there at considerably less cost than if we had paid ordinary wages to ordinary men accustomed to that class of work.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

9561. Had you there any genuine unemployed skilled workmen *bonâ fide* short of work?—There were a few skilled workmen; but, as a rule, the men coming seemed to be those describing themselves simply as labourers.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9562. Do I understand you to say that the cost of management was included in the 6,000*l.* or not?—The cost of managing the farm was included, but not the general costs of administration; that is to say, the London administration, and the cost of sending the men down to the colony, and the cost of clothes were all considered

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

as general administration, and were not charged against the farming department. What was included in the 6,819*l.* was the whole of the expenses and payments made to all the men engaged upon farming work. When they came down they were referred to different departments; and during this first year, particularly, very large numbers were upon building work.

9563. What was the capital?—The total farm capital has never exceeded 7,000*l.*; it has varied from 5,500*l.* up to 7,000*l.*; that is, of course, independent of the capital sunk on the building (which is a large sum), and other work not pertaining to the farm.

Mr. *Mather.*

9564. Do you mean Salvation Army work?—No, I mean the money sunk in such things as building, and in starting speculative industrial undertakings.

9565. But the Salvation Army have large meeting rooms, a church, and so on, on the land, have they not?—Only 600*l.* was spent on that.

9566. But that is all on the colony, is it not?—Yes.

Chairman.

9567. That capital is apart from the purchase of the soil?—Apart from the purchase of the land.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9568. The 5,000*l.* does not include the purchase of the land?—The 5,000*l.* is the actual working capital invested in live and dead farming stock.

9569. As tenant's capital, in fact?—Yes, as tenant's capital.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

9570. Does your expenditure include tithes, rates, and taxes?—Yes, it would include all that.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9571. Does it include rent?—In the first year it would include some charge for rent; there was a heavy valuation. It includes an amount of over 2,000*l.* paid as an ingoing valuation, including rent on all the fallow land and all the wheat land for the previous year and a-half; but that is the only period in which any rent has been included in the accounts of this colony.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9572. Was 170 about the number of the men all the time?—The number did not average so many as 170 in the first year on the farm.

9573. About how many would there be all the year round?—Possession of the colony was taken on the 1st of May and this first balance sheet was up to 30th November. At the time of possession being taken on 1st May there were no buildings there to accommodate any number of men, and the men came down gradually as the buildings were ready for them. I think the number reached about 200 in October.

 9574. I suppose

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9574. I suppose you have not the balance sheet with you?—I have not the balance sheet with me.

Chairman.

9575. You were dealing with the year 1891, and you told us there was a small profit of 50*l.* or so; will you go on with your account as to the financial result of the colony?—In the two next reports dealing with the years ending September 1892 and September 1893, there were deficiencies in both years; but judging from the criticisms of the balance sheet, that deficiency seems to have arisen entirely owing to the employment of men in industrial work, and a comparatively small number seem to have been employed upon the land. I see in the Blue Book on "Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed" it appears that in June 1893 out of 241 men upon the colony only 48 were employed upon land work.

Mr. *Mather.*

9576. They were trying to convert the whole place into a workshop for manufacturing goods for the market, were they not?—Yes; the principal industry seems to have been brickmaking; 130 men were engaged in brick works at that particular time.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9577. That was because the farm did not pay, I presume?—That is a question upon which there might be a difference of opinion.

Mr. *Mather.*

9578. It would seem to be just the contrary; for you have showed that in the first year when the men were kept to the land they made a profit, but when they started workshops they began to lose money?—A most important point on this farming question is to be noticed last year. Apparently at the beginning of last year it was found the industries did not pay, or were a substantial loss, and in the balance sheet up to last September 1894, the farm returns showed a profit of 532*l.*

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9579. Have you the balance sheet?—I have not the balance sheet, but I have the figures of receipts and payments. The receipts were 17,782*l.*, and the payments were 17,250*l.*

Mr. *Mather.*

9580. It would appear that when the men came back to the land they began to make a profit again?—I could not say the number employed upon the land; but the last time I was in the colony, some few weeks ago, I was told that those industries were practically given up, and 150 men were now employed upon the land.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9581. I understand you have not got the balance sheets here?—No; but I have got extracts here showing the amount of the capital at the end of each of the four years.

Chairman.

9582. As I understand, you are not stating these facts of your own knowledge, but you are merely, for the convenience of the Committee, stating what you gather from the publications relating to the colony, as checked and illustrated by your own observation of the colony itself?—Yes, that is all. I am giving figures accessible to any member of the public taken from the four balance sheets of the colony.

9583. May I ask what is the book you have before you to which you have been referring?—It is a book called "Labour upon the Land," published in the Social Science series by Swann, Sonnenschein, & Co., summarising the results upon various colonies; it is a collection of papers read at a conference last September.

9584. Will you continue what you were saying?—I was simply saying that these four balance sheets published by the colony show the total capital expenditure upon the colony (that is to say, the amount charged in the balance sheet to capital account) to be in the first year ending 30th November 1891, 36,200*l.*, and in the succeeding three it was 69,300*l.*, 89,900*l.*, and 94,400*l* respectively.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9585. Is that on the farm colony?—Yes; that is the total capital invested and brought forward in assets in the balance sheets in each of those four years.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9586. Ninety-four thousand pounds is the total capital last year?—£94,000 is the value of the assets claimed on September last.

9587. On what acreage?—The total acreage is about 1,150 acres in possession; but I believe there are certain farms that have been purchased that are not being worked by the army, which may be included in this capital.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9588. Do I understand you to say there were about 300 people employed?—The number varied from time to time. In June 1892 there were 235, and in June 1893 there were 241. This last is the number taken from the Blue Book on "Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed"; since that time they seem to have averaged about 300.

Mr. *Mather.*

9589. Does the amount you have given us include the expenditure on the full gauge railway which has been made, and other work of a public kind that they have undertaken?—Yes, this capital includes the whole expenditure they have made on the colony.

9590. Nearly all the men who come to the colony are men of depraved character or men who have more or less lost their character when they come to the colony, are they not?—Yes.

9591. It is a colony established for the purpose of saving souls, and not for the purpose of saving the land. That is the definition they gave to me when I was there. They do not care what it costs so long as they raise these men from a life of depravity; they choose the submerged

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

merged tenth by preference, and give first place to the worst characters, not caring what it may cost, provided that by a year or two years' residence they make them fit to go out to the colonies with some kind of training, or can restore them to a healthy life. I understand that is the sole object that they care about. They do not care anything about expenditure. They do not pass the men through the colony but keep them to reclaim them, do they not?—According to the last figures they have had 1,600 men through the colony, and they claim to have reclaimed a large proportion of them.

Chairman.

9592. You spoke of a university man being among these men on the colony; are you able to say at all how these men come to be on the colony?—The majority of them come from drunkenness; I should imagine that about 85 per cent. of the men at the colony come there through drunkenness, and have lost their position through that cause; almost all the men seem to have come through that cause.

9593. Will you continue what you wish to say about Hadleigh Colony?—Of course the experience of Hadleigh Colony is principally useful in consequence of the detailed evidence that it affords as to the ability of these unskilled men when directed at the early stages of this work. There was a special inquiry, presided over by Lord Onslow, as to the useful or otherwise expenditure of these funds; and before that inquiry Mr. Bird, one of the advisers to the Board of Agriculture, was called as an expert witness, and he agreed that there had been no expenditure upon the colony during the first year of which he would not have sanctioned the full cost to be advanced by the Land Improvement Commissioners. He stated that the whole expenditure upon the land improvement work seemed to have been of a profitable character, and seemed to have been carried out at a cheaper cost than if it had been done by ordinary labour.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9594. Are you referring only to the land improvement work?—I am referring only to land improvement work. I am not referring to cultivation at all.

Chairman.

9595. When it was acquired and started, was it cultivated or uncultivated land?—When it was acquired there were about 300 acres of cultivated land, and about 700 acres that had gone out of cultivation, in addition to some reclaimable saltings.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9596. Do you mean that the 300 acres which you spoke of as cultivated land was under crop?—It varied, of course. It had been worked up to that time. Much of the heavy land on the marsh had gone out of cultivation; while the upper portions on the hill had been cultivated on the ordinary system of husbandry, with ordinary crops.

Chairman.

9597. Had the part that you say had gone out of cultivation been long out of cultivation?—It had varied a good deal. The marsh land had not been cultivated for about 12 years, while some land on the slope of the hill had been cultivated in the last four years.

9598. Will you continue with any observations you have to volunteer upon the subject of the Hadleigh Colony?—Another point which was of some interest, and from which perhaps one might gain some experience was, that some men who have come down on the colony without any training in land work, seem to have a great desire to work land for their own use. Under the regulations of the colony a certain amount of labour is required for the benefit of the colony; but an experiment was tried two years ago of letting men have some allotments, in addition, for their own benefit. A certain area of land was laid off for those allotments, and when I saw them last year, at all events, they seemed all of them in remarkably good condition. I spoke to some of the men who were tenanting those allotments, and they all seemed satisfied with the results of this work. They were growng produce, and the Salvation Army realised on their account the produce of those allotments. They were certainly exceedingly well cultivated, and some of the men at all events had been able to get some experience in this actual cultivation work which they had never done till they came to the colony.

9599. That exemplifies the transition which Mr. Mather described in his scheme, from the farm training colony to the farm settlement?—That is so. It would have been desirable that the Salvation Army should have tried the experiment on a larger scale, and had set apart a certain area of larger extent. These allotments are very small; the total area being only about seven acres. There was great competition upon the part of the men to get the small pieces when offered.

9600. What I understand from you is that a man arriving without any knowledge or experience of cultivation of the soil at all, after a certain time spent in the colony in reclaiming and so forth, becomes able to cultivate an allotment or piece of ground for himself?—That certainly seems to be the case in some instances at any rate. Then another matter of interest in relation to the colony is the manner of cultivating, and the crops which have been yielded by the land that was out of cultivation at the time it was acquired. The first work that should have been undertaken in the first year was reclaiming the marsh land, ploughing it up by steam, and then employing some of this labour upon it. That work does not seem to have been done at first, but it was done later, and some land, to the extent of 80 or 90 acres, this year is bearing crops, which, at the time when the Army came into possession, was a type of the heavy derelict Essex land which has been described to the Committee. I was there in July last year, and I noticed particularly good crops growing upon certain areas of this land. One was a crop of rivet wheat which was an exceptional yield. I

Chairman—continued.

have been told since that this crop yielded 60 bushels to the acre. Of course it is only rivet wheat and not the ordinary wheat, but I should think it was possible that the yield was what I was told. That is land that was uncultivated two years before, and it had been allowed to go to waste on the ground that it did not pay for cultivation.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9601. What proportion of the men who cultivate the land consist of outside professional labourers that are attracted to the farm by the slightly higher wages, on purpose to teach the submerged tenth; what proportion of those skilled men had allotments?—I cannot tell, but I do not think the allotments are let to anybody except a colonist.

9602. You have not absolute information upon that point?—No.

9603. It is the fact that there is a very large nucleus of skilled Essex labourers there who get higher wages than they find outside, is it not?—From the Blue Book on "Agencies and Methods of Dealing with the Unemployed," it appears that there were 55 skilled men employed in industries.

9604. I am not speaking about carpenters and plumbers and bricklayers; I am talking about the men who do the skilled agricultural labourers' work; is it not the fact that if there are 200 men at General Booth's colony at Hadleigh employed in agricultural work, something like between 40 to 60 at different times of the year are skilled labourers paid above the normal wages?—The last time I asked that question, I was told that the maximum number of agricultural labourers had been 15. It is necessary to have skilled agricultural labourers for the horseman, but except for the horseman and certain other work with live stock, the whole of the labour was claimed to be done by the men from London.

9605–6. What about the men in the piggeries and cowsheds and in the glasshouses, or in the shrubberies?—I cannot say. I should, perhaps, state that at the end of 1891 I resigned my position and reponsibility in relation to the colony, in consequence of the protest I made against what I thought to be the totally unnecessary and uncalled for capital expenditure that was then contemplated, being intended. I have not been connected with the colony since that time.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9607. You objected to the large increase of capital expenditure?—Undoubtedly. In my opinion, the expenditure in developing certain works that they did there was an uncalled for expenditure, and I could not sanction that money being expended out of the Darkest England Fund. I considered it was for the purpose of a farming colony, and not to be an industrial concern.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9608. You mean the expenditure, I suppose for the bridge and the piggeries?—My protest was against a capital expenditure which I thought was unnecessary upon buildings, and 17,000*l.* upon brickworks and railway, and some very elaborate expenditure in other directions, and, in fact, on organising industries which showed last year, as Mr. Mather has said, a loss of 1,700*l.*, and have now been given up. That expenditure was contemplated at the time of my resignation; I did not wish to injure the movement at all, more especially as I had gained my knowledge of it professionally; and, consequently I have never made the causes of my resignation public, and, indeed, I promised General Booth not to do so.

Chairman.

9609. The cessation of your connection with the colony was not on account of any fault you found with the management of the colony except in so far as you thought they were going into branches of industry that were unnecessary in a purely farm colony?—It was also partly on account of their agricultural management. I considered they ought to have done what was subsequently recommended by Lord Onslow's Committee on the evidence, I suppose, of Mr. Bird and myself, viz., that there should be some competent agricultural expert in control of the agricultural work of the colony. There was no such expert, and I thought the colony could not be successful without it. Before my resignation, at the end of 1891, in a letter I wrote to Mr. Booth, I stated that "without a competent official responsible for the executive direction of the land improvement work for at least four months to come I do not think I could, in the position of a consultant, prevent the colony from being a failure so far as the landed work and the training of the men in that department is concerned." That expert that I wished to be appointed was not appointed, and my resignation was the result.

9610. Is it managed by the Salvation Army alone?—Entirely now.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9611. Would the expert whom you recommended have been a consulting or an executive expert?—I advised certain work and said, I would not take the responsibility of that work being carried out unless there was a man appointed whom I considered competent to supervise the execution of the work.

Chairman.

9612. Have you told us all you think essential on the subject of the Hadleigh Colony?—I think those are the principal points to be learned from it. I may say that as the result of the farming work last year a profit of 532*l.* was made. Of course, as I explained, the farming department is quite different from the industrial department. I have no doubt the profit is correctly shown at 532*l.*, for the balance sheets are very properly made up; the valuations are made by proper experts, and no doubt that surplus on the farming work is a genuine one in that way. As against the 532*l.* there is an admitted loss on the industrial department of something like 1,700*l.* in addition to the cost of administration.

Mr. *Mather.*

9613. Have they given up the industrial department now?—So far as I could judge from my visit a few weeks ago, they do not seem to be working the brickworks. Two years ago I thought the industrial work must stop when the finding of the additional funds necessary to carry it on came to an end.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9614. If the brickmaking has diminished, is it not a fact the outside building operations have proportionately increased?—I cannot say. Whatever outside operations they have got, it is perfectly evident from the last balance sheet that they have been a loss.

9615. Do you know that the Salvation Army has been building dwelling houses and farm buildings and other buildings outside their colony?—I have heard they have taken contracts for that, and I need hardly say I strongly object to any such thing. There is one point concerning outside competition upon which I formed strong opinions; that is, with regard to market gardening. It is unquestionable from investigations I have made in the district, that market gardeners have been thrown out of work by the competition of this colony in the Southend market. Of course the competition was not a competition in price; indeed, I think the Salvation Army produce got rather higher prices than the produce of the outside market gardeners; but it was the question of a limited market like Southend. Southend was already supplied by the market gardeners in the district, and I believe that some 30 or 40 outside market gardeners have been thrown out of work, undoubtedly owing to competition in the limited market of Southend without reduction in price.

Mr. *Jackson.*

9616. How could the competition be successful if there was no reduction in price?—Because it is a limited market; there is a demand to a certain extent, and if some new producer comes and produces a very large quantity of market garden produce, of course, there is not a market for the extra produce.

9617. Does not a man buy in the cheapest market?—To a certain extent he would, but if the produce is superior for the same price, people will naturally take that superior produce. In a great many instances the Salvation Army produce is superior to that grown outside the colony.

9618. That is the same thing as competition in price, is it not? If you get a better article for the same price it is practically the same as competition in price?—What I meant was that the Salvation Army claim that they have not done anything to reduce the price, and I think their claim is correct; it is not a competition of price in that sense.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9619. It is a competition in quality?—Yes.

9620. Have you seen any of the houses that have been built by these men on the colony?—I do not know which the houses are that have been built by the colony.

Chairman.

9621. I do not think that we are concerned with the operations of the Salvation Army beyond the question whether the farm colony promoted by them has been successful to some degree or not. That is the point to which you have directed your attention?—Yes.

Mr. *Mather.*

9622. The workshops are closed now, are they not?—I cannot speak definitely as to that; I have only given my attention to the question of how far the experience of the colony showed that the men could be profitably used in the hand labour on agricultural land.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9623. If there has been outside building competition with external industries in other directions than agriculture that has been contrary to your view and wish?—Undoubtedly; I do not think a farm colony ought to go into anything except agricultural work.

9624. Does your general experience in connection with all the colony schemes in England and abroad lead you to believe that a sober and steady unemployed man would resort to the colony when he could not get ordinary employment?—I should have said the experience both of the Wanstead Flats and the Abbey Mills experiments showed that he would do so at all events as a temporary means of maintenance.

9625. As regards the work at Abbey Mills and Wanstead, was it not carried out under practically normal wages in the one case and trade union wages in the other, and consequently it only ordinary employment?—In the case of Wanstead Flats, I thought it was not so.

9626. They had piece-work which in many cases exceeded the normal wages?—I think, undoubtedly, any colony must be based on piece-work.

9627. As apart from Wanstead Flats and Abbey Mills, do you consider in the light of your experience that a sober, steady, married and unemployed man is willing to break up his home and his local associations to go to a colony such as Hadleigh or the Belgium or German Colonies, necessarily of a penal or disciplinary character?—I do not think any man would break up his home to go to such a colony, but I do not think the colony need be of a penal character.

9628. Do you know any colonies which are not of a penal or disciplinary character?—Take the French Colony; that is open to any man who volunteers for a place there, and occasionally for a single vacancy they have as many as 40 and 50 of the Paris unemployed applying for that vacancy.

9629. Have you seen the French Colony?—Yes.

9630. What type of men mostly go there?—They seemed to be very willing workers.

9631. Are they not mostly men from the night shelters in Paris?—They are mostly from the night shelters in Paris.

9632. Do you compare them with an average bricklayer and painter, who loves his home and does not care for a degrading association of such

Mr *John Burns*—continued.

a colony?—I should look at it from this point of view, that I think the respectable men would be much better workers on the colony than the men from the shelters.

9633. At all events, these sort of men are not the men to drift there?—Not to the same extent, because skilled men seem better able to get employment.

9634. You tell us that at Hadleigh 85 per cent., judging from your experience, are there through drink, or the results of drink?—Yes.

9635. Do you think that a sober and steady workman out of work would select that type of man as his associate, generally speaking?—I do not think they would; and that is the reason why I emphasise so strongly, in my notes upon the German colonies, that it would be impossible to expect those two classes of men to go to the same colony.

9636. I gather from you that for the unemployed who are averse to penal and disciplinary conditions, a labour colony of the Hadleigh and German and Belgium type is not an attractive place?—No, the German experience shows that the respectable class of men will not go to an open colony.

9637. May I take it that these sober, steady, respectable men will not go to a colony like Hadleigh, where 85 per cent. are there through drink, and which might be regarded as, shall I say, a country home for inebriates, or an institution for the treatment of inebriety, tempered with the work on the soul?—They claim, of course, not to be inebriates.

9638. You do not need more than one look to see what they are?—Evidently the majority of them have been.

9639. Do you consider that even given better economic and social results from a labour colony, such as Hadleigh, it is a wise, a reasonable, and humane thing to have 300 men penned up in a labour colony there, without their wives or their sweethearts; do you consider that a colony, even if it were economically successful, would be justified if concurrently with its economical success you had moral degradation, such as a single man's colony must necessarily involve?—I do not think that a single man's colony need involve moral degradation.

9640. Have you ever lived in a garrison town?—I have.

9641. Do you say that seriously, after having lived in one?—I do not think it applies to this case. It is pointed out in this draft scheme that there will be married men on this colony.

9642. Are there any there yet?—I am referring to Mr. Mather's scheme.

9643. Have you had any experience of any colony where married men and women colonists have been placed?—None, except at Frederiksoord in Holland, as to which evidence has been given already.

9644. That is rather different, I think. You said that 94,000*l.* had been put into the Hadleigh Colony, and that 300 men were in training, if you like, or doing work there. Can you tell me the proportion out of the 300 men who are officials?—I cannot say.

9645. You cannot tell of that number the proportion of skilled labourers?—No, a description of the condition of the colony will be found in the Blue Book on the unemployed, and I presume if it is wanted an officer from the Salvation Army will give evidence upon that.

9646. Have you seen the complaints of the Camberwell men who were sent down to Hadleigh?—I have heard some of them; but I have also got here a report of the Camberwell guardians as to the result of the experiment, in which they suggest it might be continued.

9647. Have you considered whether it would not be better to give an average of 40,000*l.* a year to the Essex farmers to take on a certain proportion of these men in connection with the ordinary labour they employ. Have you considered whether that would not be, to the community and to Essex, more profitable than having a separate colony of the submerged tenth alone?—I have heard of that suggestion, but it seems to me there would be some difficulty in it.

9648. Would not the proportion of reclamations be greater if the 300 men were distributed over 50 farms in the neighbourhood in Essex than herding the 300 men together?—The difficulty would be as to the management and the ownership of the land. A colony cannot be successfully carried out unless those working it are the owners of the land.

9649. Do you not think that a trained farmer would be better qualified to superintend 10 to 15 of General Booth's labourers (provided that the conditions were in other respects the same) than men who, however full of spiritual enthusiasm, did not possess the technical knowledge necessary for agricultural success?—Yes.

9650. Would not that provide the men means of getting back to decent and steady employment?—It depends so entirely upon the class of men who have the direction of the labour; but in certain cases it might be.

9651. What restraint is put upon these men leaving the colony to seek for employment?—I cannot say at all. I am of course not here to give evidence upon the Hadleigh Colony.

9652. Should not a colony as a means of providing work for the unemployed, offer a man a very easy medium of getting back to his regular employment?—I think it has been proved that a colony when it is on the voluntary system is useful in that way, from the earliest result of the German colonies. The German colonies when first established were for the respectable members of the unemployed working classes, and as a result out of the 1,200 men coming upon the first colony in a period of 14 months 830 had situations found through the colony, and 130 others went to situations found independently of the officers of the colony.

9653. But as years went on that did not take place, did it?—It did not take place because of the deterioration in the quality of the men coming to the colony in consequence of its being an open colony.

9654. Because of the repugnance on the part of the steady, sober, unemployed to associate with the nucleus at the colony of the criminals or men of criminal taint?—Yes, but that can be avoided

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

avoided in the organisation of the colony, such as that described in the draft scheme.

9655. In what way?—By the principle of a selection of the men on the part of those governing the colony. The colony is kept for the respectable members of the working class, each man to be approved before admission.

9656. I gather from you that it would help to make the labour colony a success from the point of view of the sober and steady unemployed, provided greater discretion were shown, and the men were put through a sifting process?—That is a point that would have to be carried out.

9657. What would you do with the men who refused to go through that sifting process?—They would have to be dealt with on a colony formed for the vagrant class, if a colony is wanted for that class, as in Belgium and Holland. That opens quite a fresh question, as Mr. Willink suggested, namely, whether it is worth dealing with that class in that way; but a free colony started for the working classes can only be successfully maintained for the *bonâ fide* working classes by the most careful selection, as is done in France.

9658. Assuming one labour colony was made a success would not an indefinite extension of these labour colonies in close proximity to large towns set up competition with the ordinary products produced by free labourers under normal conditions, and consequently defeat the object which the first labour colony had in view?—I see no reason why they should do so under careful management.

9659. You have heard the complaints, I suppose, about the Salvation Army matches and Salvation Army bundles of wood. You yourself have volunteered the statement that market gardeners in the neigbourhood have been injured by the competition from Hadleigh?—Simply because there are complaints arising from what one may presume to be mismanagement in one colony, it does not follow that there will be complaints in regard to all colonies.

9660. Would not an indefinite extension of labour colonies, either well or badly managed, mean that just in proportion as they were well managed so the products would enter into competition with the free labour outside?—I think under good management the labour colony ought to be so directed that the products do not enter into competition with the labour outside.

9661. How can that be effected?—That is covered in the draft scheme which Mr. Mather has placed before the Committee by various suggestions.

9662. I want to know how the non-competition of labour colony industry would arise?—By the production of products which are required for consumption or use upon the colony itself, and putting into the market for outside sale only such products as are not now produced in this country.

9663. Let us take your ideal labour colony with no industry employed at all but exclusively agriculture and market gardening; you cannot draw a line between market gardening and agriculture; supposing you have 1,000 men on General Booth's colony, at Hadleigh, growing cabbages,

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

turnips, cucumbers, and tomatoes for the London market; those men could not live on those products; they would have to sell the surplus which they did not require to buy boots and other things; how would you dispose of that surplus?—I should only grow such crops for sale for which a demand could be obtained without competing with products now grown in this country; that could be done in more ways than one. First of all, the principal employment on such a colony should be arable dairying, and the principal products would be milk and butter, which would not compete because there is an underproduction of those products in England at the present time.

9664. Will you stick to my illustration of cabbages and potatoes; supposing you have a thousand men on the Hadleigh Colony engaged in some agricultural operation, the growth of cabbages or potatoes, either for the Southend or London market. The more successful the colony was, the greater would be the product. Where would their surplus commodities go?—They ought not to grow any such thing as cabbages or those vegetables beyond the extent required for their own consumption.

9665. What would they grow other than what was necessary for their own consumption?—They would grow, in the first place, crops for the maintenance of cows, and turn that product into butter, because butter is a product that does not compete with home products.

Mr. *Jackson.*

9666. How do you make out that butter does not compete with home products; is there no home product butter made?—There is home product butter made, of course, but it is insufficient for the supply of the needs of this country, as is shown by the fact that butter is annually imported into this country from abroad to the extent of about 15,000,000*l.* sterling.

9667. Would you not make the competition greater with the existing grower in this country if you enlarge that 15,000,000*l.* to 16,000,000*l.*?—Certainly not, because the existing grower would get his market just as he does now.

Chairman.

9668. You seem to assume that the additional production of butter in this colony would exclude the foreign butter, but not interfere with the home butter?—Certainly; because if we produce sufficient in this country for the consumption of the people here the whole of it will be sold here. We have such superior facilities in competition with any foreign product that, no matter what quantity we produce within the limits of our demand, we can successfully compete with the foreigner.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9669. Irrespective of the cost of production?—The cost of production of such a thing as butter is decidedly less here than abroad.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9670. Supposing the local farmers were selling milk at Southend at 4*d.* a quart, and supposing the Salvation Army were producing milk and

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

butter at Hadleigh, and by virtue of the subsidy which the Hadleigh colony get from philanthropy and charity, and practically paying no wages, were able to sell the same quality of milk at 3*d.*, what would become of the agricultural labourer tending the cows producing this milk at 4*d.* a quart?—I should say it was improper management on the part of the colony to allow that.

9671. You have to have your colony paying the same wages as outside farmers to put them on an equal footing?—The allowance paid in the colony would be based on the ordinary piecework rate current in the district.

9672. To compete fairly and equally the labour colony would have to pay the same wages for the production of milk as the outside farmers; would that be good management?—Certainly. I do not think that, using the unskilled labour, it would be really cheaper than what the ordinary farmer is paying.

9673. Even given your conditions, would not the same thing result with milk as resulted with the market gardening, viz., that even if you did not undersell in price there would be competition in quality, and consequently the professional agricultural labourer would be thrown out of employment?—If the product is butter, that could not occur; if it is milk, it is just possible it would, because it would be improper management to send milk into the market from Essex, on the ground that the market for milk is already sufficiently supplied.

9674. If that is so, would you still suggest a dairy in the colony?—I suggest a dairy, but I am putting the product not in the form of milk but of butter.

9675. Would it not then become an industrial colony, and as such come within the lines of your condemnation?—Certainly not, because butter is a product that would not injure the outside products; if we produce another million pounds of butter that would not affect the value of the outside product of butter. We should get the same price for it as proper factory-made butter now realises.

9676. You admit that the competition with the market gardeners has done the local market gardeners harm?—Certainly, I think it has.

9677. Do you know that General Booth's bricklayers and carpenters and labourers receiving from 4*s.* to 8*s.* per week and their allowances on the colony in the building trade, are bringing down the local wages of the carpenters, bricklayers, and joiners to the extent of throwing them out of work?—I have seen that alleged.

9678. If it is true with market gardening, painting, plumbing, and bricklaying, would not the same thing apply to buttermaking or any other agricultural products?—No, because the things are on a different basis. In the case of butter we are dealing with a product of which an insufficient quantity is produced in this country; it is not a competing industry at all.

9679. Would you not prefer that the total cost of the labour colony should be added to the general cost of the products by reducing the hours of the men generally?—I suggest that any profits on a colony of this kind would go directly to the men engaged upon it.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

9680. You misunderstood my question; would it not be better instead of spending 34,000*l.* a year on a labour colony, the surplus products of which would compete with outside labour, to add that 34,000*l.* to the enhanced price of ordinary products by giving more men employment so as to prevent them from going to the colony at all?—I do not see how it could be done.

9681. It is done by, at present, charity; it would be done in the price of the products; do you not see that?—I do not quite follow you.

Chairman.

9682. I do not think we need press you any further upon that point. We have sufficiently before us, I think, that your view is this: that there would be no unfair or reprehensible competition with agricultural industry if a colony such as you advocated devoted itself merely to growing sufficient to maintain the men on it, and, as regarded other industries, grew or produced not butter only but beetroot and flax and new developments of that sort, which would not interfere with the ordinary commodities produced outside; that is your view as I understand?—Yes, that is as pointed out in Clauses 20 and 22 of the scheme submitted by Mr. Mather.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9683. The Royal Commission on depression of trade, which means un-employment, stated that England's means of production were in excess of its demands both for home and abroad. It also affirmed that the tendency was for England's power of producing wealth to outstrip consumption. It also stated that the ratio of increased power to produce grew faster every year, and that is how the unemployed were created. Do you think you will remove the unemployed, which is the result of over production, by those labour colonies, the products of which would accentuate that very difficulty?—I should say that the question as to production, looking at it from the agricultural point of view, is that we are now producing about half the quantity that we were 30 years ago on the soil of this country, so that I do not see that the question of over production will come in, even if we go to the extent of extending these colonies to such an extent that we produce now the same as we did from the land 30 years ago.

9684. Do I gather from you that with the unskilled labour you hope to compete with the professional labour, without protection?—I think it is possible to do so, bearing in mind the possibility it affords of the employment of the most improved system, and other machinery in conjunction with it.

9685. How do you reconcile that answer with other parts of your scheme which go in exclusively for hand labour as against steam, because it employs more?—I think it is; I think it is uneconomical for such an operation as digging, for instance. I think it would be quite uneconomical to put a man at such labour as digging

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

digging up the land. I think land ought to be all steam-digged, and then hand labour employed on it after treatment when it has been steam-dug, because by the hand labour after treatment you get superior results from the hand labour to what you would get by any other means.

9686. My last question to you is, that you would prefer that unemployed men should be employed on labour colonies at work which they have hitherto not been used to, rather than reducing the hours of all to prevent them going to the labour colonies altogether?

Chairman.

9687. Have you entered upon that point?—I have not considered that point much, but I think any man ought to have a right to work as long as he wishes to.

Mr. *John Burns.*

9688. Even on the labour colony?—Certainly, if he gets a reward from it.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

9689. In the paper you have given us, you have said that the German Colony at Wilhelmsdorf was founded for well-conducted men out of employment. Is it not the case that the Dutch colonies in 1818 were practically founded for the same class, which I understand is the same class which Mr. Mather desires to help?—Yes, I should presume that was so at that time.

9690. Is it not historically correct that both these Dutch and German colonies have ceased to benefit that class, and that they have become more or less used for a lower class, and are now disciplinary, if not absolutely penal?—That does not apply to the Dutch Colony at Frederiksoord, but the one at Veenhuisan, in a similar manner to the German colonies, have practically become penal. The only difference between them is that the German Colony is controlled by a private society under Christian influence, while the Dutch Colony is controlled directly by the Government.

9691. Practically, my facts are correct, that with the good intentions in one case, 60 years ago, and in the other case 13 years ago, the good intentions have not been succeeded by the results that were expected of them?—It was owing to the fact which was not recognised at that time (as Professor Mavor points out in his report on these colonies) that a voluntary colonist would not go at the same time to a penal colony. Now it is recognised.

9692. And your suggestion is that you can really select the *crème de la crème* of the people who happen to be out of employment, and you will get them to go out in the country to live on these farms?—Certainly. I think I may say to a sufficient extent, at all events, to occupy the colonies that are suggested to be first started, and then before any large sum would be invested in these particular colonies, the experience of those colonies themselves will show whether they should be extended or not.

9693. You say, among the experiences you gained from the German colonies, the men unskilled in agricultural work can immediately undertake the reclamation of agricultural land;

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

that is a correct quotation from your words, I think. How can you deduce that from the experience at Wilhelmsdorf, where you inform us that eight horses are made use of to cultivate something like 1,000 acres?—The eight horses are used after the reclamation, and all the hand work carried out at Wilhelmsdorf is in reclaiming this land. Taking into consideration the improved value of the land at Wilhelmsdorf and other colonies where the valuation has been more precise, the improved valuation of the land shows that the increased value equals, or nearly equals, the cost of the labour.

9694. And you have seen from the Dutch colonies that land which is thought to be so-called improved, has not really been of the value which has been placed upon it, so that this enhanced value of this land created by pauper labour is a very uncertain and speculative quantity?—The increased labour of the German colonies is indicated by the valuation for assessment purposes, which annual value is carried out for the purposes of rating, and other assessments.

9695. You told us that in Germany the whole system is extravagant. Is it likely that, that being the case with the Germans, who are so methodical and careful, and having occasion to be so owing to their (on the whole) national poverty, that English people are likely to succeed where the Germans have failed?—So far from the German colonies being considered extravagant, they are considered an exceedingly economical method of dealing with the class which is received there, otherwise they would not have extended so much.

9696. I am taking your statement that you think the German management is bad?—The cost of administration is very high, but the fact that the paupers maintained in the Berlin workhouse only cost 3*l.* a year, as compared with about 16*l.* in England, shows they are economical.

9697. You inform us that the management is bad, and with all their attempts to be careful they have failed financially altogether, and I suggest that the Germans, being so much more methodical than we are, the chance is that any public body in England would fail still more than the Germans have failed?—I should rather gather from the financial results of these German colonies that they are extremely economical if we compare them with the cost of the maintenance of in-door paupers in our English workhouses, the only class with which they can fairly be compared.

9698. The German and Dutch colonies have practically now become nothing more than tramp farms excepting the one at Frederiksoord?—That is the case.

9699. The Swiss colonies were founded in 1889, and the French in 1892. I presume you will allow they have hardly been long enough founded to form any reliable opinion on their merits?—I should have thought they had been founded quite sufficiently long. The reason I should suggest why both the Swiss and the French Colony give satisfactory results is because they have had the benefit, just the same as we

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

have now, of the experience derived from these older colonies, and consequently they would be able to go on what would be recognised as correct economical lines, and avoiding the errors and mistakes that have been made in the earlier colonies that have been founded elsewhere.

9700. But if the German colonies founded in 1882 have failed within the last few years to attain their main object, is it not more prudent to hesitate to form an opinion from a colony founded in Switzerland in 1889, which is only 16 years old, and one founded in France, which is only three years old?—The German Colony that was founded in 1882 never has had any idea of being self-supporting. It was a means of giving work to those applying for charitable relief more in the nature of test-work than any other work, and the whole theory underlying the German colonies have been on that basis. The establishment of the French colony was quite different. A committee was appointed by the parish municipal council to investigate as to the results of colonies, and that committee reported accordingly, and reported as to the basis on which it has been founded.

9701. Apparently, the report you handed in for the French Colony was for the first year of the foundation of that establishment?—It was partly from the first report.

9702. Therefore it cannot be of any real value. Are you at all inclined to believe these statements as to the cost of the agricultural operations done by pauper labour as compared with ordinary labour, or would you not think them to be in no sense reliable?—I think as to the expense of harvesting no doubt it is correct, and I think that is where labour colonies in England would have a special advantage. It must be remembered in harvest time the ordinary labour is so very much more expensive than at ordinary agricultural times.

9703. But he does not require anything like the supervision that a pauper does?—No; if we take the words "pauper labour" as meaning unskilled labour, it depends on whether the men are working by piece-work or not. If a gang of men who previously had not any experience in the work are told off to load a cart of corn, for instance, it is rather remarkable to see that they are able to do it almost as rapidly as an ordinary agricultural labourer.

9704. I am surprised to hear that statement, because I have taken tramps fresh from the road and given them very elementary jobs, and they have been disastrous failures; are you prepared to say that a tramp without any previous experience can pitch hay or crops?—I do not think they can do it so well the first day or so, but I think the fact of their being on piece-work will sufficiently stimulate their powers to make it certainly a cheap kind of labour as compared with the agricultural labourer, who at that time gets, at all events, 5*s.* a day.

9705. I see in Mr. Mather's statement he presumes that a cottage and the out-buildings suitable for eight acres can be erected for 140*l.* Are you prepared to endorse that statement?—That is only given as an example in order to prove whether or not it would be possible to

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

minimise the cost, which is a detail which has to be considered. It is perfectly possible that a cottage could be erected for that money.

9706. Of what material and where?—It depends on the material of the district. If bricks are made in the locality, a pair of semi-detached brick cottages, with three bed-rooms, can be erected for 250*l.*

9707. With a kitchen and a scullery?—Yes, a kitchen and a scullery, and three bed-rooms over.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9708. And a water supply?—Water supply from a well.

9709. Is the well included in the 140*l.*?—It would be included in the 250*l.* I have had cottages built in Essex of that class and at that cost.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

9710. What thickness of brick?—Nine-inch brickwork. I have had cheaper cottages built in Wiltshire of the local chalk, and occasionally in Sussex, where we can get very cheap stone. It is difficult to get a detached cottage for anything less than 125*l.*, but where one is building a pair it is possible to get them for less than that.

9711. In what part of Wiltshire have you heard of these cottages being erected?—I have seen some cottages erected of chalk with cement outside, a detached plain cottage, built at a cost of 120*l.*

9712. In what part of Wiltshire?—Winterslow.

9713. Then you put 20*l.* for the cost of the additional out-buildings?—The out buildings would cost about 30*l.*, as a rule. Of course they are built of timber, being sufficient to provide accommodation for the cow and the stores, for the pigs, and so forth, and with iron roofing.

9714. Do you know of any of these farm colonies, other than Frederiksoord, where men and their wives have been treated together?—There are numerous cases of small holdings, and many instances are given in the Reports in the Blue Books and in the Reports of the Agricultural Commissioners, but not with the advantages that are available on such settlements as are suggested.

9715. Are there numerous instances where men with their wives can be treated?—Not connected with the colonies, but independently. The cases are very numerous where a man and his wife have got a small living on the basis that is put down in this scheme, but there is no place of which I am aware where they are concentrated on a colony with special advantages which they get by being there, and as a sole means of livelihood.

9716. Have you heard that the result of Frederiksoord is, that practically there is a state of stagnation in the social advancement of the families, and that they cannot benefit their position, and that they are as much dependent on outside charity as when they first joined the place?—They are dependent on outside charity to the extent I have stated in the statement I have made, but there are schools of forestry, and schools of agriculture, and the children are assisted in technical training to a far larger extent than is found in our rural districts of England.

9717. But

Mr. Lawrence—continued.

9717. But the people are not made more independent; that is the point of my question?—They are independent, living on their holdings to that extent, except that the rents that they pay are not sufficient to pay the cost of the administration of the colony.

9718. You criticise the success of the Dutch colony by saying it is founded on very bad land, but we have had information from Mr. Willink that the adjoining land in the hands of freemen has been successful in supporting the people on it?—I think that is very possible, because at the time the Dutch colony was acquired, in 1818, the whole of the waste tract was obtained at the time it was acquired, and it is not at all impossible that the adjoining lands were in a better condition. Personally, I should think, in any case they are so far from a market that good results cannot be expected even from the adjoining land.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

9719. I understand that you regard it as of the essence of your scheme that the colonists should be picked men?—Yes, certainly that is necessary.

9720. Would not there be a considerable danger of the respectable classes being crowded out by the same classes which fill the Belgian and the German colonies?—I do not see how that could occur if the principle of selection were strictly maintained in the same manner, for instance, as it is in the French colony at the present time.

9721. Do you think there is an opening for the establishment of colonies for what I call the master class in England?—Tramps, you mean.

9722. Loafers and tramps?—I think it would be very possible to establish such a colony, but I think it would have to be under quite a different system to that contemplated in the scheme. It would have to be a different scheme of control.

9723. I entirely agree; but my point is rather this: do not you think that it would be a security for the success of this class of colony if, alongside, or simultaneously with it, or before the establishment of your class of colony, there was established a colony somewhat on the Belgian or the Dutch plan for the loafer, the vagrant, and, perhaps, the ex-criminal?—I think it would be decidedly useful to have such a colony established, but I do not think it would be a necessity, nor would it affect the successful working of the volunteer colony, provided the principle of selection were always carefully adhered to.

9724. You do not agree with me that it would be a help to the successful realisation of your plan?—I think it would be a help.

Mr. *Heneage.*

9725. What do you mean by picked men?—That the colonists should be men who volunteer for work on the colony, and it should then be considered by the director as to whether or not they are suitable colonists, and who then pass a successful trial as to their capability for land work.

9726. Then you mean with regard to picked men, men picked with regard to their capabilities and not on account of their being out of employment, and not tramps?—They would not volunteer to come on the colony, unless they were unemployed. They would not be likely to have work on the colony if they were able to get better occupation elsewhere, and it is simply the selection of those among the unemployed. Certainly these colonies cannot take every man who is unemployed, so that we suggest that the right of selection amongst those men who are unemployed should be with those who are directing the colony.

Mr. *Heneage*—continued.

9727. I ask the question for this reason, that Mr. Mather in his evidence said that his idea of picked men was simply men who were out of employment from no fault of their own, and were not tramps or men of that class. You put it that you want to pick your men out of the men who are unemployed?—If a colony was sufficiently large to take every man with the qualification, then I should say we would have them, but as long as the colonies only have room for a comparatively small number, I should maintain the right of selection on the part of those directing the colonies.

9728. In the interest of making the colonies pay?—Not necessarily on that ground, but no doubt depending to a great extent on the men to be moved.

Mr. *Mather.*

9729. The selection that I defined for the colony was the unemployed working classes, the well conducted and of earnest desire who presented themselves before the Poor Law authority having the right to admit to such farm training colonies, and having desired on their part to receive relief only through work that they could do on the usual terms of working, whether they were unemployed in domestic service or other industrial occupation, that no examination as to character, no selection in any shape or form of one man over another was to be exercised, excepting that they qualified by being out of work and belong to the respectable working classes, but I gave a preference to married men who had a number of people depending on them.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

9730. You told the Committee on the last occasion that you knew thoroughly the working of the Hadleigh Colony?—I know the lines on which it was laid down.

9731. The words you used were: "I know thoroughly the working of the Hadleigh Colony." You have given us to-day two balance sheets, one of 1891, showing a profit of 43*l.*, and one of last year, showing a profit of 532*l.* on a total receipt of 17,782*l.* That is so, is it not?—That is so.

9732. Then the last balance sheet shows a profit of something like 2¾ per cent. on the turnover?—Yes, it would be so.

9733. You have not either of those balance sheets with you?—No. In referring to the work of the colony, I meant more particularly to describe the work as to the employment of these men upon the land, and not so much as to the financial results of the colony as a whole.

9734. I quite understand, but you have given us certain figures, and you must allow me to test them

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

them to a small extent. I think you told us that the capital expenditure up to the close of last year on that farm amounted to no less than 94,700*l.* odd?—Yes.

9735. That works out at about 820*l.* an acre, and you consider that capital expenditure is vastly in excess of what it need be?—Certainly.

9736. Can you tell us at all what part of that capital expenditure was properly attributable to Hadleigh as a farm colony?—I can, to some extent.

9737. Is it one-half or one-third?—I have the balance sheet of 1893 here, and I find that the cost of the land was 27,000*l.*, but I think the questions as to the balance sheets would be better answered by someone on behalf of the Army, and I have no means of access to them otherwise than is possessed by every member of the Committee.

9738. I propose to take you very shortly through it for that reason. Can you tell me if in the balance-sheet anything is allowed for interest upon capital?—I think not.

9739. Is anything allowed in the nature of rent?—No, nothing is allowed in the nature of rent.

9740. Supposing the land cost 27,000*l.*, there is no allowance for any interest upon that at all?—No, there is no such allowance.

9741. And there is no allowance for any interest on working capital?—I do not think so.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

9742. So that the profit of 532*l.* last year is arrived at by excluding two items which you yourself would admit to be rather important ones?—Certainly.

9743. That is so, as a matter of fact. I am not asking your opinion about it?—That is so.

9744. I think you said that a farm colony of this sort could not be satisfactorily carried out unless the land belonged to the persons who were working it?—That is so.

9745. Do you mean by that that no interest upon the purchase-money of the land should be charged against the colony?—No, I simply meant by that that it would not do for an ordinary tenant, who would not have the benefit of the improved value resulting from the working of the men, so that an ordinary tenant could not take it.

9746. I wish to make that point clear to the Committee that your reason for saying that the land should be owned and not hired was that the benefit, if any, of the reclamation should go to the capital account of the owner, in a sense, that one owner was occupier as well; that it should not go into the pocket of the landowner?—That is so.

9747. But supposing compensation was given at the close of the tenancy for any improvements of that character, your objection would disappear?—It would; but it would probably be very difficult to get any place for tenancy on those principles.

9748. But as far as the principle is concerned, that is the only difficulty that you see in the way?—Quite so.

Mr. HENEAGE took the Chair.

9749. And you quite admit that some charge should be made among the working expenses for any interest upon the capital required to purchase the original land?—Certainly; but in cases where that interest is chargeable, certainly on the other side, ought to be added as income, the actual improved value shown as the result of this cultivation. Even on the cultivated land the result of land tillage would give a considerable improved value.

9750. Improved value in the way of cropping?—Improved value to the freehold.

9751. How do you bring into your balance-sheet the improved value to the freehold; that would come in your capital account?—That would come in the capital account.

9752. You cannot bring it into your yearly profit and loss account?—It depends on how it was worked. If it was a tenancy, then it would be brought into the profit and loss account, because it would be in the nature of improved tenant-right, for which a payment can be claimed at the end of the tenancy, and consequently in that way it would come into the annual profit and loss account.

9753. That would appear in the same column as other valuations?—Yes, that is so.

9754. Coming for a moment to the Hadleigh Farm, you told us that when the Salvation Army purchased it, it consisted of some 1,160 acres?—Yes, that was the area, I think.

9755. Of which 300 were in actual cultivation, and the balance, some 700 acres odd, had gone out of cultivation?—Yes.

9756. Was it a purely arable farm?—Some part of the land was old grass, which would be uneconomical if ploughed up, but not a large portion of it; I should think not more than 200 acres.

9757. That is to say, there were 300 acres under crop or in fallow?—Yes.

9758. And 200 of grass. Would that be seed or pasture?—Pasture.

9759. Actual old pasture?—Yes.

9760. And that would not be ploughed up?—No; of course it is more valuable as it is as old pasture, and consequently it would remain.

9761. Then we must strike that out of the uncultivated 700 acres, because it is more profitable in the state in which they found it?—Yes.

9762. That reduces the 700 to 500?—Yes.

9763. That 500, I suppose, included a few seeds?—No, the 500 is all land with grass growing on it, with more or less growth but no bottom growth, but some, of course, better than the other. Some land had been sown down and the other part had not been sown.

9764. Can you tell me, how much of the land had been laid down, and whether it was a temporary layer or permanent grass?—Two hundred and twenty acres, not 300, were arable at the time

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

time possession was taken. I have the figures here now. There was less than 150 acres of old grass, so that the balance must have been arable that had gone out of cultivation.

9765. There were 800 acres of arable which had gone out of cultivation, and some seeded itself and some had been laid down?—Yes.

9766. And you do not know the proportion of what was seeded and what had been laid down?—No, I have not got the proportion here.

9767. You told us that the marsh land was ploughed up?—A portion is. I should think about 150 acres more are now under cultivation than was under cultivation at the time the property was acquired.

9768. All marsh land?—Partly of land on the hill and partly of land on the marsh. There is a large area on the marsh. There is then a steep hill, the property rising 200 feet above sea level, and then about 150 acres of flat land on the top of the hill. The land which has been brought under tillage is partly on the marsh and partly on the hill slope.

9769. You did not get your hand labour to work until it had been ploughed?—These hill slopes were too steep to profitably cultivate by either steam or horse labour in any way, and they being sheltered and facing the south with a suitable sub-soil, were adaptable for fruit. The whole of that land has been dug and double trenched by hand, amounting to 25 acres, and fruit has been planted on it.

9770. Hard fruit or soft?—Strawberries and raspberries, and fruit trees on certain portions.

9771. Can you tell at all how that part of the farm has paid?—Last year it was supposed——

9772. Please do not tell me about "supposed," tell me whether you know or not?—I cannot say definitely.

9773. You cannot say whether that has paid or not?—It is claimed by the Salvation Army that it has paid.

9774. Do they represent the fruit cultivation has paid?—Certainly.

9775. But you do not know?—No.

9776. And you do not know what they have charged on the credit side?—At the time that work was beginning I had a sample dug in order to see how much it cost, and I found that the cost of digging in the form that we had it done, by a gang of 30 men that we put on this particular work, was from 8*l.* to 10*l.* per acre. The land at the price it was purchased was 12*l.* per acre, so that after having this expense upon it it would cost 22*l.* per acre, when planted with the fruit, in addition to the cost of planting. That is the work which is referred to before Lord Onslow's Committee by Mr. Bird as being undoubtedly a profitable experiment, and there is no doubt that the land was worth the capital expenditure that had been made upon it.

9777. You say that any figure on that point must come from the Salvation Army officials and not from yourself?—They would be able to give the actual annual returns.

9778. I do not want to ask you about things that we shall get better from others. Now, come back to the land that was ploughed, with the exception of this land, which, being on a slope, was too steep for profitable employment

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

(as you had not got Cornish men about) under the plough; you ploughed the flat land?—Yes, the flat land on the marsh has been ploughed.

9779. Before you steam-ploughed?—Some part was steam-ploughed, and the remainder horse-ploughed; I am not certain that it was not all horse-ploughed.

9780. Then that I suppose was all done by skilled men?—Yes.

9781. Not by any of the men for whose benefit the colony was instituted?—No.

9782. When did their work come in, was it harrowed?—Their work would come on the hand harrowing, and also in one of the cases that was quite at the earlier stages in the first year in taking off the turf and burning the surface of the soil.

9783. First of all, this land had to be ploughed and harrowed, and the seed bed made and sowed down, and the seed rolled in, and I suppose that was done by skilled agricultural labour?—Some part of it.

9784. And, until you wanted the land hand-hoed, you had no employment at all for the casual men?—I am not quite certain how it was done, but undoubtedly the method by which it ought to have been done was that the hand labour ought to have been put on immediately after the ploughing, and the preparation of the seed beds should be done entirely by hand-labour. Part of it was so done; whether the whole of it was done I cannot say, but the profitable employment of the hand labour would have been in substitution of the harrow and after the steam-ploughing. After the steam digger has gone over the land it is left in hard clods, and the next labour is by putting on the hand labour with a fork in order to break those clods and form the seed-bed.

9785. Can you tell me the comparative cost of doing that compared with harrowing and rolling?—Yes, I tried the cost of piecework of the same nature that has been put in evidence by Mr. Hill in the case of the Wanstead experiment, and agree with what he said, viz., that the digging would be one rod per day. I found, with the cultivation after the steam-plough, one man could do four rods per day, as compared with one rod per day if he dug.

9786. Four rods after the steam-plough, as compared with one rod with the spade?—Yes; my experiments quite agreed with Mr. Hill in that way; that one rod was as much as a man could do if he dug. The four rods a day cost 2*l.* an acre, so that the cost of treatment by hand labour was 2*l.* per acre as compared with about 30*s.* for harrowing and preparing the seed-bed by horse labour.

9787. That is so, a cost of 10*s.* an acre more?—Certainly with probably far better crops.

9788. You have spoken of a very large crop of rivet wheat. Do you know what that cost to produce per acre?—I do not know what it cost at all.

9789. Or what it fetched; you have not gone into the question of whether that was a profitable crop or not?—Mr. Hawthorn, who was responsible for growing it on his method, considered that the crop was worth 15*l.* per acre, and has made

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

a statement to that effect. I probably should not have supported that opinion.

9790. What rate of wage have you calculated on Mr. Mather's system?—Simply on piecework arrangements throughout.

9791. You pay these colonists at the same rate that an ordinary labourer alongside would be paid?—That would be the only correct method, it seems to me, of assessing the value of labour. We give a certain proportion for the cost of his maintenance, and anything in excess of that he gets as a grant to himself, or it is sent to his family.

9792. Do not you think it would be putting the ordinary labourer at a disadvantage that any man who had passed your test of selection should be able to come to one farm in the parish, and get employment any time, whereas the ordinary labourer might be thrown out of employment at any time, and could not command the same wages as a matter of right?—I do not think there is any difficulty in that way.

9793. It does not occur to you as a hardship that there might be two farms side by side, on one of which a man not belonging to the parish would have a modified right of employment at a standard wage at all times, and next to it there should be a farm at which the well-conducted labourer who lived in the parish all his life should not have a right of employment?—No, I do not think so.

9794. You do not see any difficulty or any hardship in that?—No; more particularly as the work of these men on the land to be cultivated would probably mean increased employment of some skilled agricultural labourers.

9795. Then all your calculations are based on the ground of paying the full agricultural wage?—Certainly they would be. I may take as an instance of this what has been already given as an example: suppose the produce of this farm to be converted into milk by keeping 100 cows. That would mean keeping eight skilled labourers for milking and the care of that live stock, as well as the unskilled men, and this farm being worked in that particular manner would not only employ the unskilled man from London, but would give increased employment to the skilled men in that particular neighbourhood, at all events, in this particular part of the work.

9796. If this is to be a commercial success on the basis of the ordinary wage, what is to prevent ordinary private employers doing it?—There would be no reason why a private employer should not do it, except the difficulty as to the improvement of the land, and also the difficulty in the abuse which might be made of the system of supplying labour on these terms to a private individual.

9797. What do you mean by "supplying labour on these terms"?—On the terms of allowing any individual farmer to have men subsidised or nominated by boards of guardians, and who are prepared to give their labour on that particular basis, getting nothing beyond their maintenance, unless their piecework justified it. That would be supplying labour on cheaper terms than the ordinary employer would be able to get.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

9798. Then the root and basis of it all is that labour is to be employed on cheaper terms?—It is simply the case of men who volunteer and are prepared to give the work.

9799. If men volunteer and are prepared to work for less than the current rate of wage, is it necessary to set up all this machinery to enable them to get work on those terms?—They do not work for less than the current wage; they take the current wage, but they get less for it. They simply get their maintenance and do not get the full agricultural labourer's wages, because they are less competent.

9800. It is a kind of truck system; they have got to take payment in kind?—To a certain extent it is, except that they gain by being maintained cheaper than they could maintain themselves. A man being sent to the colony would have probably better food and less responsible work than an agricultural labourer getting his 14*s.* a week and an independent cottage.

9801. That is the net result, that a man would have better food and a happier life than the agricultural labourer, and he would be entirely quit and free from the care and responsibilities of his wife, a responsibility which would be looked after by the guardians. That is what it comes to, is it not?—I do not think it would be sufficiently attractive for him to wish to continue it as a permanent livelihood.

Mr. *Round.*

9802. You were referring to the balance sheets of the Salvation Army; have you seen them?—I have simply had the ordinary public access to them; nothing beyond that.

9803. Are they made out by competent agricultural valuers, or by an accountant?—I think the value is made each year by a competent agricultural valuer, so I think to that extent the balance sheets are perfectly correct as to the agricultural results.

9804. There is still a large portion of the Hadleigh land that is not reclaimed and brought into cultivation yet?—Yes, there is a large area yet.

9805. Do you know what they did with the labourers during the severe and prolonged frost?—I do not know at all.

9806. How could you deal with a quantity of men in the country during a prolonged frost?—I think there would be some difficulty, but we partly cover it by the suggestions made in this scheme in Clauses 22 to 26, with reference to the different industries; that would be mainly utilised during the winter weather. Such a thing, for instance, as the industries named in Clause 22 particularly would be kept all through the winter, and then we should have the ordinary work which an ordinary farmer would have to do, such a thing as threshing wheat, which ordinarily would be done by machinery. In the case of a hard winter we should have it done by hand labour in the same way that the ordinary farmer would, but we should be able to use that hand labour to a far larger extent.

9807. With regard to this scheme Mr. Mather has put before us, take Clause 32, "Estimate for current expenses of the cultivated land, 4,900*l.*" Does that include the cost of fodder for horses, or

Mr. *Round*—continued.

is it assumed that the farm would produce that?—That amount is made up of detailed items.

9808. You do not put down that one of fodder?—Yes, I include the cost of horses.

9809. It is a most important item?—I include in that estimate 12 skilled labourers and the feed for eight horses, and a sufficient allowance for steam digging, which I estimate would be hired.

9810. That I suppose would be the current expenses of a farm in the ordinary way for ordinary crops. It would not be for special crops?—I have estimated the crop of 600 acres. I have gone on that basis. I estimate that this 600 acres would be 60 acres of garden produce; 60 acres for seed growing, 120 acres wheat, 120 acres barley, and 240 acres green crops for the maintenance of the cows. The ordinary four-course rotation, with the addition of garden produce for home consumption and seed growing, which I think is a most important department of farming to employ these people.

9811. Would that estimate also include the harvest labour or not?—Yes; I have taken into account the harvest labour. The harvest labour would be cheaper in consequence of having this large number of men, instead of having to pay the extra current wages, but I have allowed, I see, in my estimate of expenses 400*l.* for the ordinary skilled labourer in harvesting.

9812. As to Clause 33, where, you see, the annual value of the crops might be expected to be 9*l.* an acre, is that the annual value of the ordinary crops?—That would be rather a high value for ordinary crops, but I have worked it out in detail on the same area of farming that I have just named, and I find that that detail comes out at 5,700*l.* The returns vary from 5*l.* per acre for the lowest value of green crop fed to as much as 20*l.* per acre for the comparatively small area which would be used for the garden produce consumed on the colony. I think 20*l.* an acre would be a moderate value to put upon that area.

9813. Would the 9*l.* an acre include the straw?—Certainly; that would include the value of the straw.

9814. With regard to a statement made by Mr. Mather in his evidence. At Question 9296 he is asked, "What price does he get for his

Mr. *Round*—continued.

milk? (*A.*) I think 5*d.* a gallon." Then the next question is, "Is it 5*d.* per barn gallon on the farm? (*A.*) Yes, I think that is about the price"?—I think that should be 5*d.* per Imperial gallon.

Mr. *Mather*.

9815. Have you thoroughly investigated the bearing of this scheme, either in part or as a whole, on the question we have to deal with before this Committee, viz., in the employment of the unemployed well-conducted working classes?—Certainly.

9816. Taking that fact as a point of view, do you think, with the experience you have gained of the Hadleigh Colony, a colony which has formed to-day among my honourable friends the chief feature of your evidence, although you have no intimate knowledge of it at all, that any part of this scheme as submitted to the Committee is based upon either the principles or the practice of the Hadleigh Farm Colony?—Certainly not. I only referred to the Hadleigh Colony as simply an instance of experience gained upon details, as to the actual value of work applied in certain particular directions which I knew of in that colony.

9817. Do you think the provision of this scheme, for its practical working, for its financial success, and for the value of it in relation to the employment of such labour as it provides for, in any sense compares with either the labour employed at Hadleigh, the financial condition of Hadleigh, or the principles on which Hadleigh has been found, and is carried on?—No, I do not think it is on the same principle in any way, or that the results gained at Hadleigh will be of very great value in considering that question otherwise than from the one point I have just mentioned.

9818. It is only in so far as the Hadleigh Colony has proved that all sorts and conditions of men sent to the Salvation Army Colony, composed chiefly of the submerged tenth, that their labour can be usefully employed on land in this condition; it is only so far that you bring the Hadleigh Colony forward as bearing on the success of this scheme at all?—That is all.

Tuesday, 28th May 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Thomas Henry Bolton.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE A. H. DYKE ACLAND, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. BRAMWELL BOOTH, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

9819. YOU attend here on behalf of the Salvation Army, do you not?—Yes.

9820. Will you tell us what the proper definition of your position is in the Salvation Army?—I am chief of the staff.

9821. Would you in the first place tell us something about the origin of the work which led to your dealing with the unemployed?—Up to 1890 or thereabouts the army had been conducting principally a strictly religious work, amongst the poorer classes chiefly, both of this country and some other countries. In carrying out that work, I may say, without going into details, we have been from time to time very strongly impressed with the fact that some special means should be adopted for helping the unfortunate and overcrowded parts of the working population to a better condition of life; and General Booth made a number of careful inquiries which were extended over a period of about 18 months or two years specially with a view of discovering what could be done to aid the more destitute and more unfortunate of the people. As the result of those inquiries he published a book, of which you no doubt have heard: and he explained there somewhat in detail what his views were, what the considerations were which had led him to adopt those views, and what his hope was with regard to a special plan which he thought might be carried into effect for remedying the state of things, at any rate, as regards certain classes of workless people.

9822. When did the definite plan for doing something for the unemployed begin?—At the end of 1890.

9823. Will you tell us in what way you have worked out your classification with these unemployed people?—We found there might be roughly taken to be three general divisions of the unemployed. The first comprised those who were efficient workers of good standing in their respective trades, and of good character, but who were from various causes occasionally thrown out

Chairman—continued.

of employment; for instance, sometimes from ill-health, sometimes from special causes, such as extensive labour disputes, and sometimes from the fluctuations of trade generally. Then we found another class who were a little lower than the last, comprising those who might be said to be sinking down, who had generally lost their footing with their unions, if they had belonged to trade unions, and who were scarcely so proficient in their various trades, and were getting into a state bordering on destitution.

9824. The work of this second class, I presume, was still more irregular than that of the first class?—Quite so. There was a third class, made up chiefly of the homeless, the idle, the vicious, and, I suppose I must add, the criminal. Now, in considering the evil in that form, it appeared to General Booth that there could be only three methods of meeting and remedying it.

9825. Will you tell us what those three methods of meeting and remedying this state of affairs were?—Only three methods seemed to him to be practicable. The first was to make more work; and that seemed hardly likely to be realised in view of the fact of the increase in machinery and the increasing competition of foreign labour in Germany and in India, and so on. There was an alternative to that in a more equal distribution of existing work; but the experiments which had been made, and which have since been made, with regard to the eight hours' day, and so on, have confirmed his view, hardly justified him, as he thought, in hoping that that could be, at any rate, upon any very large scale, a remedy for the difficulty. The further alternative seemed to him to be some plan by which the number of workers could be reduced. If the work could not be increased, the workers surely should be reduced by being taken away from the overcrowed market and put to some part of the world where they could live without trampling upon somebody else.

9826. When

Chairman—continued.

9826. When you say they should be reduced, do you mean reduced in some given place?—Yes, reduced in number in some given place.

9827. By removal, or otherwise?—By removal. General Booth felt that was the most likely plan; and the question then naturally arose, could they be removed, and, if so, where to?

9828. What was the plan you arrived at after you had come to that conclusion?—We found that there were very large tracts of beautiful fertile land in the colonies which could easily be made to support all our surplus population; and from the reports of our own men and others whose business it was to make such enquiries, the General concluded that it would be quite possible, under certain conditions, to establish upon suitable land in the colonies large numbers of the unemployed workers here in a manner which would secure their being happy and thriving colonists.

9829. Have you carried out that principle to any extent?—No. I ought to have said, perhaps, at the beginning of my remarks that the social scheme of the Salvation Army has been as yet, and must be treated as being, only a partially completed effort. We have from various causes, which it is not necessary to go into here, the principal one among them being want of money, been prevented from carrying it out to a complete issue. We have a very strong hope that we shall now be able to do something in the direction of the over-sea colony, which is the third stage of the undertaking; but at present we have done nothing in the way of transferring people from this country to others, for our over-the-sea colony, which is the ultimate material aim of the whole enterprise, but we have trained a number of men for emigration, and sent them abroad to our friends, and through existing agencies.

9830. Then emigration forms a definite part of your scheme, but as yet you have not been able to carry it out?—The transfer of the workless people to the colonies has not been carried out.

9831. Will you go to the part of the scheme which has been carried out?—Before I go to that, perhaps you would allow me to remark further, that the General arrived at the conclusion that it was possible for these workless people to live and thrive in the Colonies from the experiences of some of the people whom we have known and whose cases have, in sufficient numbers to enable us to form a judgment, been put before us. People leaving this country, with comparatively little capital but with the determination to work hard, have been able to secure for themselves, comparatively speaking, positions of comfort and plenty, working upon the land in the colonies.

9832. Do you propose to apply this over-sea colony plan to all the three classes that you mentioned?—Yes and no; yes in this sense, that we should apply it to a suitable selection from all

Chairman—continued.

the three classes. Then the General having determined upon the desirability of taking the people away, and the possibility of arranging for them to live when they got away, he was confronted with the question of what was necessary to carry the enterprise out. Now, in the first place it was necessary that some method of immediate help to the individual himself should be forthcoming. The workless man, no matter which of the three sections he is found in, wants immediate help and advice. The distant prospects may appear interesting; but he must have a hand stretched out to him there and then, and that help must be, we felt, based upon certain sound principles. In the first place, it must be economical; that is to say, it must not be too costly; secondly, it must not be of the nature of mere charity; it must not be of a character which would damage the person whom we seek to help, or in any way disturb or weaken his self-reliance, independence, and freedom. Further, we felt it must be on such a scale and on such conditions as would enable us to classify carefully the persons whom we take in hand. We felt, further, that it must be of a nature which might enable us to train the men, and, if you like, educate them to some extent. We felt also that it was necessary to give them some opportunities of receiving advice and counsel which might help them in attaining improved moral conditions. It is at that point, perhaps, I ought to say, that while we have laid it down strictly, and have, I think I may say (and I think I know what I am saying), adhered strictly to the rule we have laid down for ourselves, that in no shape or form would the benefits or opportunities of our social work be administered with any regard to religious or irreligious feelings or prejudices, yet we do rely very strongly indeed upon the benefits of religious and spiritual advice with a view to improving the moral condition of the people we want to benefit. That necessity for immediate help, in order to carry out our plan, originated in the formation of what we call our City Colony operations. I cannot possibly stay to describe in detail all those various agencies, and it is not necessary for your purpose that I should; but I may say there is a network of agencies carried on by us in connection with what we call the city colony to meet the wants of the different classes of persons who require this immediate help. We began with an effort to provide food on the lowest possible scale of charges in the simplest possible form for those who are left with barely a copper. We are now supplying about 25,000 meals a day. Then we have a system of shelters for the homeless, which is devised upon a graduating plan; there is first the cheapest and roughest accommodation provided for the poorest and lowest, or perhaps I ought not to say the lowest, because often the poorest men are not the lowest. We give them a night's shelter in a warm room, a seat to sit upon, and a slice of bread, plenty of hot and cold water, and clean towels, and we charge them a penny for that night's accommodation.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, TOOK THE CHAIR.

Chairman.

9833. A SLICE of bread is the only food, is it, included in that penny?—Yes, that is included in the penny. Then for the slightly better class of man, who has not gone quite so low, or who is coming up again, provision is made whereby for 2*d.* he can get a bunk to lie down in with a mattress and a pillow, and a covering, and also towels and hot and cold water. Then there are places for 3*d.* a little better still, and again for 4*d.* a little better still, and again for 6*d.* a little better still; the total accommodation in the shelters being for 5,420 persons.

9834. Are these shelters scattered through the east-end of London?—They are scattered throughout London. There is also one in Bristol, one in Leeds, and one in Bradford, and for women one in Edinburgh and Cardiff. I have here a schedule of the various shelters for homeless men and women.

9835. Will you hand it in?—Yes. (*The same was handed in.*)

9836. Will you continue what you were saying?—We find in the shelter work for the unemployed one very great advantage, or rather, I might say, two almost equal advantages. One is that you have got an opportunity of coming into immediate contact with the individual sufferer; he is there; you can speak to him and inquire into his condition and the circumstances which have brought him to his present condition of want, and can find out what his position has been, and advise him what he should do to get on to the level of decent society again. In the second place, it enables us to classify the men. One of the most horrible misfortunes of misfortune is that it makes such strange bedfellows; the deserving man who wants to work, has, merely because he is without a penny, to come down to the level of the biggest scoundrel who is equally without a penny. The shelters enable us to divide, separate, and take out the man who appears to be more deserving, and who has not gone down so low, and is willing to work; in fact, to classify the men, in short. Then, there is the further step of finding employment. That is one of the most difficult parts of the whole enterprise; but we are able now, and have been for some time, to employ in our city colony between 1,300 and 1,400 men and women. Those men are employed in various occupations; the principal one of which is the collection of what we call salvage waste material, waste paper, cast-off clothing, and leather, which material is manipulated, classified and treated, some of it cleansed and sold to manufacturers, who work it up again in their manufactures.

9837. How is it collected?—Some of it is collected by horses and carts, but the majority of it is collected by men with hand barrows; they go out each man, having a certain round to visit, which round has been worked up for him by another man who acts as a sort of traveller, and he collects the waste material from house to house. When he has got as much as he can comfortably trundle, he brings it in.

Chairman—continued.

9838. People are glad, I presume, to get rid of the waste?—Some of them are; some we pay a certain sum to for allowing us to come at regular intervals and take the waste; but the majority of it is got from people who are glad to dispose of it. Then there are also some other employments; they are not very extensive, I am afraid. I wish they were a little more so. There is some upholstering, for instance. We try, of course, to give a man who knows a trade work to do at the trade he is accustomed to; for the reason that he thinks better of himself for one thing if he is working at something approaching his own trade, and also because he is likely to earn more in that way than in any other; but the majority of these people are employed in dealing with these waste materials. Now, it may interest the Committee with regard to that labour, which we call our labour factory work, if I just give some particulars as to the time the men remain with us.

9839. Will you please do so?—20 per cent. of the men received in the labour factories are men who stay with us for less than one month. Many of those are men who are only in temporary difficulty: they come just to get lifted over a hiatus, so to speak. Of that 20 per cent. I am afraid I must say about half are thoroughly idle, worthless, fellows, who will not work, and never have worked, and never mean to work, and who ought to be locked up. Then 34 per cent. stay more than a month, but less than three months; 33 per cent. for more than three, but less than six months; 22 per cent. stay over six months, but less than a year; 8 per cent. stay over 12 months, but less than two years; and the remaining 3 per cent. stay over two years. The last two, the 8 per cent. and the 3 per cent., that is to say, 11 per cent. of the whole, are men who work their way up and become, generally, a sort of overlookers, gangers, over the other men.

9840. Will you tell us as to the paying of those men; would that point come next?—I will take that point now, if you like. Those men are not paid any wages; they come on the understanding that they will be fed and clothed and housed, and that the quantity and character of the food they get will be determined, in a certain degree, by their willingness and industry at their work; and in order to make that work out, we have adopted a system of rewarding the men by tickets, each of which has upon it a face value, which ticket they take and exchange again for its equivalent in food at the place where they are fed and lodged. So that an idle man, or an unwilling man is found out immediately, because he does not get tickets on such a liberal scale as the industrious man; the man who has idled away his morning, when he comes to dinner, perhaps will get a 3*d.* or 4*d.* ticket, whereas, the man who has been industrious and worked well may get a 6*d.* ticket. The 3*d.* man sits side by side with the 6*d.* man at table, but he has finished his dinner before

Chairman—continued.

before the 6*d.* man, and has the satisfaction of seeing his friend continue. That stirs him up.

9841. That has a stimulating effect?—Yes; I am afraid I have not here a copy of the regulations which the men actually sign on going into the labour colony; but they are similar to those which they sign on going on to the farm; in substance they are the same, although not exactly the same in detail. This is the Agreement that is signed by the colonist on coming to the farm colony: "The Salvation Army Farm Colony, Hadleigh, Essex. Agreement by colonist. I, being by trade a but, being unable to find work, now wish to go upon the farm colony. I agree to obey all the rules and regulations made for the good conduct and management of the colony, and to carry out all the instructions which may be given me by my officers there. I promise to abstain from all intoxicating drink while resident in the colony, and I pledge myself not to enter any premises where drink is sold, and to discourage others doing so. I understand that any departure from these rules may be followed by my instant dismissal from the colony. I understand the regulations as to grants as printed on the other side, and am willing to work for my food and shelter only for one month upon the colony, and after that time shall be satisfied with the grant allowed me (if any) by the superintendent under whom I may be placed." Then in connection with the City Colony, we have also methods for dealing with special classes. Perhaps I need hardly go into it at any length; but, for instance, we have a number of homes for fallen women, which are very successful. We receive about 1,500 women annually, and of that number there are permanently satisfactorily reclaimed and restored to virtue and honesty about 75 per cent. A number of those women are women who have been industrious workers in the past, but who have fallen and lost all. Then we have also special methods for dealing with the purely criminal men. We have accommodation for over 100 criminals. They are dealt with separately. We do not mix them with the men of better character, but they are otherwise treated on very much the same principles as the ordinary workless men. The work amongst them has been fairly successful also.

9842. In this city colony you deal solely with units, do you not. I mean, supposing a man has a family dependent on him, and comes into your colony, have you any relation with the family?—We deal with some married men; not a very large proportion, I am afraid, but still we deal with some. In that case we make the man a money grant in lieu of his food, and we pay him every day according to what he earns by his labour, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a day, just to carry him over. Those married men are generally good intelligent decent workmen, who are most anxious to be temporarily helped in a time of stress, and what we give them in that way is sufficient just to keep them from the workhouse and despair.

9843. That money goes to the family?—That money goes to the family. Then as to the

Chairman—continued.

Home for Criminals, which I have just mentioned; the criminal work is difficult, but we have had some very encouraging results. We find that after a lapse of two years from the men leaving our hands 86 per cent. of them are earning an honest living; 10 per cent. were doubtful, though not lost sight of by us, walking in dangerous ways, but still somehow in touch; the remaining 4 per cent. were known to have returned to bad courses. We hope to be able to extend that work; because we think it is work which perhaps is more needed than any other of its kind. The criminal, when he comes out of prison, is probably the most abjectly hopeless and helpless creature on God's earth; his old friends do not want him, his new friends will only lead him further in bad courses; society is against him, and he is against society. There is nothing for him but to steal or to starve; and as a rule he prefers to steal, and then we have to support him again. We have to keep him in either case, because he puts his hand into our pockets if he is out of prison, and we have to put our own hands into our pockets if he is in prison; so that in either case he has the advantage of us. We hope to extend the criminal work.

9844. What sort of work do you give these men to do?—Similar work to the others. Some of them are very much less amenable at first to discipline. Many of these men have been in better classes of society than one would expect; for instance, of the men received into our criminal home last year, 8 per cent. belonged to the professional classes; lawyers, the clergy, and medical men; of the commercial classes, there were 30 per cent.; of skilled mechanics, 30 per cent.; and of unskilled workers, only 32 per cent. Many of the criminals are very slow to go to hard work, and they have to be put to very simple work; some are engaged at mat-making and boot-making, which they have been accustomed to do in prison, but which at first is very unremunerative.

9845. Can you tell us how long they stay in the homes, as a rule?—I think the average stay of the criminals is about six months, or perhaps a little more, in the home. Then, of course, we are very careful to keep touch with the men who go from our criminal home; we go to some considerable expense in order to do so (and that is one thing that makes that work more costly), because we feel a serious sense of responsibility in sending a man who has been in prison for stealing to a situation. We usually tell his employer his history; and, as a rule, the majority of employers are willing to help to keep us in touch with the men.

9846. You usually do find them situations?—Yes, we find them situations. I have some figures here which may interest the Committee in that connection. The majority we find situations for; a few enlist in the Army, and a few go abroad, but no very appreciable number. With regard to the criminals, if I might go back for a minute, a number of the women who come to the working homes for women are also criminals; they have been in prison, and we adopt the same plan with them.

9847. Will you proceed with what you were

Chairman—continued.

saying about your colonies?—The City Colony, having given immediate help to a man, having enabled us to classify him, and having enabled us to some extent, at all events, to train him and discipline him, and accustom him to orders, the next step is to place the man somewhere where he can receive some training which will fit him for the conditions into which we propose to transplant him across the sea. Hence, the Farm Colony. Now, with regard to our farm colony. I may say, in the first place, the word "farm colony" is something of a misnomer. The farm colony is really intended to be a farm colony first, but second an industrial colony: a colony in which men can be trained in such work as will be required of them when they come to seek a living across the sea. I do not know how far the Committee will be interested in hearing from me about our farm colony.

9848. I think we should like to hear what you have to say about it. We have heard a good deal of it from indirect sources?—The farm colony is situated in Essex. The total acreage is about 1,800 acres of land, and there are about 1,000 acres of water around it, which is part of the property, in addition to the 1,800 acres.

Mr. *Mather.*

9849. The water is down on the marsh, is it not?—The marsh is separate from the water. I am including the marsh in the land. There are about 1,000 acres of the Ray, which is a creek or inlet of the Thames. We are on the mouth of the Thames.

Mr. *Round.*

9850. There are some saltings which are covered by water when the tide comes in, are there not?—Yes. Out of that total acreage we are actually in working occupation of about 1,270 acres. I have a plan of the property here. I do not know whether the Committee care to see it.

Chairman.

9851. Will you please put it before the Committee and explain to us what the property consists of?—Of the total acreage about 1,270 acres of land are, as I said, in our occupation. The remaining 600 acres, or thereabouts, of the land which belongs to us is at present let off to tenants, some of whom were in occupation of it before we purchased it. You will observe that the main line of the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway to Leigh runs through the middle of the property. We are in occupation of all that you see on the map here, except certain properties held on unexpired leases which will fall in presently. Castle Farm is the centre of the estate. The principal buildings are situated on this part of the property. There are a few agricultural buildings, stores, a library, a bakery, a Salvation Army Hall, the cottages of employées and labourers, and some houses for offices. There are also other houses, and two cottages *here* (*pointing to the plan*). This house is used as the residence of the governor of the colony. *Here* (*pointing*) is a very good house in which we receive visitors who come to see the place. We fitted up this house for visitors, and

Chairman—continued.

we make them pay for what they get. The land slopes from this point on the north to the railway (*pointing to the plan*), and we have two brickfields *here*, with smaller ones up above. Then down on the Ray we have built a wharf at which we are loading and unloading continually, barges bringing manure and materials from London, and sending materials away. From the wharf we have built an ordinary narrow gauge railway; and from where the railway stops to the top of the hill we have a rope elevator which pulls small waggons up and down; so that we can convey, at a very small cost, our manure and refuse stuff from the waterside up on to the high land beyond Castle farm, which is the best land we have at present. The pieces coloured yellow on the map are what are called "Saltings." They are all reclaimable, and will be no doubt taken in and become a valuable addition to the property.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

9852. Reclaimable by building a sea wall, do you mean?—Yes; we have a sea wall now inside the Saltings.

9853. What is it that you have been reclaiming?—We have not reclaimed, strictly speaking, very much; but a lot of this marsh land below the railway, almost on a level with the river, was, when we came on to the estate, in an exceedingly bad and an almost useless condition. We have worked that land. It may virtually be said to be reclamation, although in the technical sense of the word it is not. We have brought it into cultivation. We grew last year about 16 acres of wheat in a field near the brickfield; it is true it was rivet wheat, but we got about 60 bushels to the acre, and nearly two loads of straw. Of course, it was rather high cultivation, and that means expensive cultivation: but I think it more than paid its expenses, and it will do if wheat goes on improving as it is at this moment. Now, we are carrying on on this land in the way of agriculture the ordinary farming operations, and dairying and market gardening. We have about 365 acres of land under what may be considered really vigorous cultivation in connection with the farm, and we have 200 acres further not quite so good. Then there is some grass land. There are 104 acres of fruit which we have planted, which promises to be a good investment; and we have, besides, about 103 acres devoted to ordinary market gardening. Then, with regard to industries, we did some building, though not very much.

Chairman.

9854. Did you do any building beyond what you require for yourselves?—Yes, we have done some outside. We have built, for instance, perhaps about half-a-dozen cottages in the neighbourhood; certainly they have been built chiefly for friends of the Salvation Army who asked us to build them; but still we have built them. Then we have a small carpentering shed where we do some carpentering; that is chiefly for ourselves. We make boots and shoes for the colony, training men in making them, so that they can make them for themselves by-and-bye when they go across

Chairman—continued.

across the sea. We also make bricks; we have not made any this year, but we made some last year. We have lost some money upon bricks. I shall come to that matter again presently. We have also a bakery. Then there are some small industries. We make, for instance, some of our own household furniture, chiefly with the idea of training the men who are doing that work, so that after their transfer they would be able, out of the rough material such as they would get, to construct the necessary articles for their own use. Now, leaving the actual *matériel*, so to speak, of the colony, and coming to the men, we have now upon the colony 298 men, of whom 242 are colonists. We have accommodation for more, and the number fluctuates. We have been up to 400, but I thought you would prefer to have the exact figure at the moment.

9855. What do you mean exactly by the word "colonists"?—I mean a man who being out of employment has put himself into our hands for labour and training, and whom we have transferred from the city; from the street corner, so to speak, to the colony, and who works there under the conditions mentioned in the agreement to which I have already referred.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

9856. The colony is the farm, I understand?—The colony is the farm, and the farm is the colony.

Mr. *Mather.*

9857. The colonist will ultimately go over the sea, I presume?—Yes, that is our intention.

9858. After you have trained them?—After we have trained them for that purpose. Of the 298 men upon the colony, 242 are colonists in that sense, 40 are paid employees, many of them local men who are engaged, some of them as carters, as horsekeepers, and for the market-garden packing, and in going to and fro on the local roads to the railways, and so on. That number, perhaps, is as high as it ought to be; but we have not been at all anxious to get rid of men or to dispense with the services of men belonging to the locality who might reasonably expect to be employed upon a thriving settlement; and, therefore, we have not at all excluded the local people from some share in the labour. They are paid the ordinary local rates. There are eight men engaged as paid superintendents over the various departments, and besides that there are on the staff eight officers. It may interest the Committee also to know that of those persons only 14 of the total are persons who were Salvationists before they went on to the colony. Now as to those men's previous trades, they are roughly in about the following proportions: about 60 per cent. were unskilled workers; about 30 per cent. were what you would call mechanics, and the remaining 10 per cent. were from the educated commercial and professional classes, lawyers, and so on. Their present distribution on the colony, taking the total 298, is as follows: On the land engaged in agriculture there are 235; engaged in industries, including building and bricks, 52; management, 11; making the total of 298. Those are nearly all single men. A few of the officers are married, and a few of the colonists are married. We have some cottages on the estate, and we have fitted them up; and the same principle is followed there as I have mentioned in the case of the city colony, viz., an allowance is made for the wife and children. It would, perhaps, interest you if I made a short digression to mention the experiment we made with regard to the London paupers who were sent to the colony. Of course the pauper is a very important section of the unemployed worker, and he is a very difficult section too.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

Chairman.

9859. I asked you to define the colonists; will you now define the paupers. What do you mean by a pauper: do you mean a man who is habitually in receipt of relief?—I should say that a pauper, generally speaking, was a man that received assistance from the rates. He is divided again into the out-door and in-door pauper. The paupers we have received have been in-door paupers.

9860. You would not class a man as a pauper, I presume, who for a short time, and from accidental circumstances, was driven to the rates?—No, certainly not.

9861. You mean a man who habitually lives by the rates?—Yes.

9862. Are these in-door paupers that you speak of?—Yes, all the paupers I spoke of on our colony have been in-door paupers. What happened was this: the chairman of one of the London Boards of Guardians came to us and said: "Our workhouse is crowded to overflowing, we do not know what to do; we are in despair. Will you take some men if we make you some small money grant for the men you receive." We said, "Yes, we are quite ready to try the experiment. We are not over hopeful about it, but we will try it." Permission was obtained from the Local Government Board to our receiving 50 men, with a grant from the parish of 5*s.* per week per man towards his support. We had also men from one other Board of Guardians, I think. We have had altogether 110 men. We considered that 22 per cent. of them were totally incapable for work from physical causes; one or two were not quite what they should have been, poor fellows, in their heads; and some were very ill and had to go straight into hospital, and so on. Deducting that 22 per cent, leaving them out as of no account, 74 per cent. of the remainder are reported by our superintendent to have worked fairly satisfactorily at the work that was given them to do. Of course, in the first place there was some shuffling, and a desire to put off on to others what they should have done themselves, but nothing out of the ordinary. There are very few people who love hard work, and I should be very sorry to think that the paupers are to be specially condemned because they do not happen to show altogether an affection to it. Of the 110 men, 41 per cent. are still at work with us, and in the majority of cases give reasonable promise that they will again be made into decent working fellows. The majority of that 41 per cent. are anxious to forget the stigma

Chairman—continued.

stigma of their workhouse associations; 16 per cent. have left us and have obtained situations, and, so far as we know (but I will not say that our knowledge goes very far) that 16 per cent. are earning their livelihood in situations outside. Of the remainder, 21 per cent. will not work; they never did work. Some of them say straight out, "I never did work, and I never mean to while I can live without it." One man complained very much on his arrival on the colony with regard to the accommodation that was afforded him; he said: "I ought to have had a feather bed; if I cannot have a feather bed here I shall not stop"; and he went back to the workhouse. Some of them, about a fifth, have turned out incorrigible idlers and loafers, and will never work while a foolishly benevolent community will provide them with bread and cheese without working for it. I would lock them up; I would put them into a settlement in which they had to work on the land, or work at something, or go without their food. If you say to a man who will not work, "Very well; you must dig that rod of earth, and you shall have your dinner; or if you will not, you will have to go without your dinner," in 95 per cent. of such cases they will dig it and earn their dinner; whereas, now it is a standing menace to your decent working man, who is tempted to be idle, because he sees these fellows living and getting on, and being fed and clothed without work. The younger men especially, and those who have been brought up under vicious surroundings, are tempted to say, "Well, I shall get through whether I work or not." These incorrigible idlers ought to be legislated for immediately, and separated from the decent workless man, who is continually scandalised by their conduct. A large portion of the community feel very wrongly towards a man who happens to be out of employment, simply from the fact that a small section of the unemployed are such incorrigible scamps. Then, leaving the pauper experiment and coming back to the main subject, I should like to mention this, because I think it would be interesting to the Committee as regard the general conduct of the men. In respect of, at least, 80 per cent., or perhaps rather more, of the men we have received on the colony, we can say confidently they are willing to work. Many of them undoubtedly have been loafers in the past, but they have never had a chance; they have never had a chance under kindly supervision, and especially they have never had a chance with a prospect of future permanent deliverance. With that we say 80 per cent. of them are willing to work.

Mr. *Mather.*

9863. Is the whole colony for what is known as the Submerged Tenth?—No, not exactly. It is intended for what we should call the Submerged Tenth (which I should say was the third or lowest class which I mentioned just now amongst the unemployed), but it is not exclusively intended for them.

9864. You begin at the third class, which you described?—Yes, but we have received men from both of the other classes. The colony is intended primarily to be a training ground for any workless man who wishes to be trained for service across the sea, irrespective of what class

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

of the unemployed he belongs to. He may be a deserving man, or he may be a very undeserving man, who now wishes to do well. The colony, subject to certain conditions, is open to all three classes; we have all three classes upon it. Then we say also, with regard to the men, that their behaviour is fairly good; we have only had to send away 10 per cent. of the whole for persistent idleness or drunkenness. We have had no disorder upon the colony during the whole time it has been in existence; we have never had occasion to call in a policeman to settle any disturbances or disputes or fights, or anything of the kind. All the men behave well, and the majority of them are fairly thankful; there is no lick-spittle about it, but they are fairly thankful for the efforts that are made on their behalf. And I think I may also say they are all improving. They improve in their physique, their health gets better, we make them better to look at, and they improve morally. Those who do not accept at all the religious influences and who pay very little attention to the religious work carried on on the colony, the attendance at which is entirely voluntary, even those who keep themselves out of its direct influences improve; their language improves, their manners are nicer, they are kinder to each other, and more considerate of the success of the whole enterprise, and those who do accept the religious training are remarkably and wonderfully changed and improved.

Chairman.

9865. Have you had any threatening of those species of immorality that sometimes are attributed to colonies of men?—Very little; I do not think, if I may say so, that the great mass of the ordinary working people of the country are so seriously open to reflection on that side as some people think they are.

9866. I asked the question because it is sometimes asserted as a danger?—Quite so. Drunkenness is a great evil amongst those men; but even in that direction our investigations have led us to conclude there is a good deal of exaggeration. As to the causes that bring men to that condition we have formed, after very extensive opportunities of examination, and careful investigation, the opinion that only about 34 per cent. of the whole would fairly be said to have come into their present condition through over drinking. Of course they are not all teetotallers; only about 25 per cent. would be considered to be abstainers; but only about 30 per cent., roughly speaking, are really brought to poverty through drink. It is often misfortune, bad health, accidents, commercial accidents, bankruptcies, fires, and that sort of thing, that throw men out; and then, after a certain number of weeks or months (it varies in different cases) they lose their standing with their unions because they are unable to keep up their payments, and they get out of the swim of employment, and become a drag on others. Now, passing away from the farm colony, that brings me to the next step in our proposals, namely, the Over-Sea Colony. Now, I am not in a position to say definitely that we have finally settled the site of our over-sea colony, but I can say that we have virtually made up our own minds as to what

is

Chairman—continued.

is going to happen. The matter is now a matter of negotiation between ourselves and one of the colonial Governments, and I am not in a position to speak of the matter, which is still a matter of treaty, so to speak; but I think it is probable that we shall be able, before the end of the year, to commence operations over the sea; and, although I claim that our scheme has done a great deal of good, quite apart from that, it will be then that there will come into operation the ultimate, the supreme object, of the whole enterprise, namely, after classifying, helping, and training them to take away your workless man from where there is not enough work to keep him, to where he can by his own labour get out of the land what will support him. Now, of course, I know the objections (or, at any rate, I know something of them), which are urged against ordinary emigration, and I should be the very last person to suggest that we should go down that street any more. But our plan for the over-sea colony is quite different from anything that, so far as I know, has been attempted before. We should take a man already fitted for the work he has to do, and accustomed to the circumstances in which he would be placed; we should take him from our colony here, put him on the ship, receive him at the port on the other side, put him in the railway train, take him straight to the spot at which he is going to work, and the next morning have something ready for him to do which he can do. For a time we should employ him at what will enable us just to support him until he gets a little accustomed to the climate and conditions, and then we should fix him on his own bit of land, with his own cottage, and start him off on his own account, keeping watch over him, buying his produce from him, and taking back from him in the shape of a graduating rent what his house and land have cost. Thus we should be obtaining three or four leading advantages. In the first place, he escapes all the wretched uncertainty and misery which an emigrant feels on landing in a strange country; he does not fall into wrong hands; nobody wants him to buy unnecessary implements or unsuitable land; he is landed among friends, who tell him what he ought to do. In the second place, it saves him from that awful isolation which has largely contributed to the failure of ordinary emigration, especially in Canada, and also in some parts of Australia. A man is planted down six, seven, eight, and 10 miles away from anybody else; the silence, the monotony and the separation are depressing in the extreme, and if they do not kill him they make his life miserable. His children cannot get to school, and he gives it up. In the third place, we should save him from the bane of emigrants, and, indeed, of all other persons, the money-lender; we will not let anybody lend him money.

9867. You mentioned the wife and children; do you propose to deal with individuals or with families?—With families in some cases. We think that no solution of the unemployed question is worth considering unless it ultimately proposes to take away the man who has got a wife and children. He is the most difficult part of the problem. Our operations have been, as you no doubt are thinking, limited in this direction to a large extent: we have only done a certain amount of work with married men; but that has been because we have not had this way of escape for them. But we can see our way to transferring them at a very small cost, and we think they can be fitted up, and after a few months a man can, with his wife's assistance, or such assistance as she and the children can give, get all he wants to live upon; and he will be in a country where every child he gets is an accession, whereas now he feels that every baby that is born is an encumbrance.

Chairman—continued.

9868. Do you see your way to carrying out a scheme of this sort with something like a reasonable chance of recouping your money?—We think we have a reasonable chance of recouping what we spend upon the man on the other side, and we think we shall get a large part of what is spent upon him on this side, as I think I shall satisfy you in a few minutes when I come to the question of finance. We think there will, however, still require to be provided from somewhere the cost of his transfer; we do not quite see how that is to be got over. But then I suggest that that is a very small matter if it can be shown that there is a reasonable expectation that his removal will result in his being permanently taken away from becoming chargeable to the rates here; and one thing I should like to ask this Committee (perhaps I might refer to it now, although it is not quite in its right place) to consider when you come to prepare your Report for the House of Commons, is whether you could not suggest that powers should be granted to municipal authorities, boards of guardians, or local authorities generally, to pay the cost of what we will call, for the want of a better word, the "emigration" of the men and their wives who seem likely to be able to get on in the Colonies, and who, if they remain in this country, are likely to become chargeable in any way to the rates. Boards of Guardians, I believe, now have powers, under the approval of the Local Government Board, from time to time to expend a certain sum (I think it is not exceeding 10*l.*) upon the emigration of paupers, that is, persons who have already become chargeable to the rates. But what I want is that that advantage should be extended to men who are not paupers in the ordinary sense of the word, who have not yet become chargeable to the rates, who have held off by their own industry and their determination to suffer anything rather than become paupers. I would suggest that Boards of Guardians should have power to pay the cost of sending such men across the sea. You can safeguard it by any provisions that are necessary: you can say, for instance, that the man must be a certain age, or must be of a certain condition of health, or that he must belong to a certain trade, or must not belong to a certain trade, or that his application must be made with certain recommendations; you can safeguard it in any way you like, so long as a Board of Guardians have power to say, "Now, here is a man of 30 years of age with a wife and children; he is a decent, honest, and industrious person, but he is starving. If he once comes on to the rates it is quite possible he will become chargeable to us altogether; and therefore, before we get to that stage with him, here

Chairman—continued.

here is a society or an agency which will send him abroad and undertake that he does not come back within a certain period," (if you like to put in such a provision as that) "we will pay his expenses." That would apply not only to us, but to other societies which would provide for emigrants.

9869. In such cases, do you draw a distinction between the case of what I may call ordinary emigration, that is to say, the mere departure from this country and arrival in another country of an isolated individual with no particular preparation for him on the other side, and the case of what is better known as colonization, where either the man or the family are taken over and settled on the soil in some place, preparations being made beforehand for him?—Quite so; it is for the latter that I contend; it is with regard to the latter that I should like boards of guardians to have power to pay the costs of shipping the men out.

Mr. *Mather.*

9870. Do you mean the cost of simply passing from shore to shore?—I think they should be landed on to the ground to which they are going. Paying the cost from shore to shore would be better than nothing, but why not fix a limit, why not say that it shall not exceed so much, for instance, that it shall not exceed, say, 10*l.* a head.

9871. For the whole journey?—Yes. There are many boards of guardians who would be very happy to get rid of some of their decent men who are prospective paupers for 10*l.* a head for the journey.

Chairman.

9872. Would that be 10*l.* per member of the family?—No; I would say 10*l.* per head, and 30*l.* for a family; because you would get sometimes men without children, and sometimes with one child, and sometimes with four or five children. But if the guardians were allowed to go to 30*l.* for a man and his family, I think that would meet it.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

9873. What would keep those individuals for the first year till the crop came?—When I make the suggestion, I would like the Committee to understand that I make it for general application; because I think there are others besides ourselves who would take advantage of it; but, so far as we are concerned, we should make arrangements that would secure the men being employed on their arrival. We would put them into the community, and for the first few months we would find them work to do; for instance, in building their own house, or preparing their own furniture, or their own land, and we would pay them perhaps what you would hardly call wages, but something sufficient to support them. When they were on their land and got going we should get it back from them spread over a period of years, in the form of a graduated rent.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

9874. Are you carrying out a similar system now?—No; as I said, we have not reached that stage in our present scheme. That is what we are coming to.

Chairman.

9875. May I ask have you ever read or looked at the Report of the Select Committee of this House which sat on Colonisation four or five years ago?—I have seen it.

9876. It went very elaborately into the question?—Yes. I know the substance of it; I went over it. I am aware that some cases where something of this kind has been attempted have turned out failures.

9877. Was it not the case that there were other cases, and very conspicuous cases, of great success where it was done on a comprehensive scale, as you indicate?—Quite so. Now, perhaps I should pass on to mention two or three items with regard to the finance of the undertaking. I have some more details with regard to the farm colony here; but I do not think I need go into them now. With regard to finance, there are one or two items which I might mention as to the City Colony, as to the cost of carrying on these operations in the City Colony. We laid it down for our own guidance, that for any scheme to be successful, to be comprehensive, or to be on any adequate scale, it must be based on certain leading conditions. In the first place, the persons benefited must provide the larger amount, the main amount, of the cost of doing it. Perhaps they could not find it all; but after, at any rate, the first outlay, they must provide the working cost by their own labour. We laid it down further, that if there was any margin to be supplied by the public or the charitable, that margin must not be more than could be looked upon as a reasonably economical investment. It must not be mere charity. The public must get something by way of relief from its burden for anything it paid, which you will observe is the very opposite of the Poor Law system. With the Poor Law, the more paupers you support the more paupers you manufacture. The more you pay for the Poor Law the more you will have to pay. Now, with regard to the city colony, our last year's results show that the cost of carrying on these various operations which I mentioned to you, namely, feeding and housing the poorest, the labour factories, the criminal work, labour exchange, &c., was 73,000*l.* for the year. We received back again from the people, either in labour or in payments out of the 73,000*l.*, 70,000*l.*; so that the deficiency required from the charitable benevolent public to make up the cost of carrying on these operations in the city colony was rather more than 3,000*l.* I should like to point out here that when we originally foreshadowed this scheme, it was laid down most distinctly by the General that he ought to be provided with the buildings, the machinery of the effort, so to speak, free of rental; whereas we now pay 6,000*l.* or 7,000*l.* a year in London alone for rents, rates, and taxes; and notwithstanding that we carried on all these operations last year, benefited thousands of persons, sheltering 5,000 or 6,000 every night, and received into the labour factories 2,000 or 3,000 persons, about 1,000 being there every day, the total loss was only 3,000*l.*; we think we can claim that that shows we are working on a pretty sound financial basis.

9878. Can you tell us something as to how that 70,000*l.* is made up?—The principal items are, in the first place, food and shelter. The outgo

Chairman—continued.

outgo for the food and shelter section was 22,400*l.*, and the income was 22,900*l.* and odd, say 23,000*l.* So that on that section there was a working profit of nearly 600*l.*

9879. The income consisting of the payments made by the recipients?—Yes, the payments made by the men and women in the form of pennies and twopences for their lodging, and halfpennies and pence for their food, and in some cases the labour which is calculated at a certain value, and in exchange for which they get shelter. During the severe weather we set apart one of the buildings for those who had no money at all, of whom I am sorry to say there were always some, and we said to the totally destitute man: "You have nowhere to go for the night; come here and chop our wood," or do something else which we happened to require to be done that was worth something. Some could do the work in half-an-hour, and some took an hour to do it, and when they had done it they had their penny ticket, their night's warmth, and their slice of bread; we always keeping definitely before our minds, "Do not demoralise a man by giving him anything he can work for, nothing without labour." Then the next largest item is the industrial section, in which there is an outgo of 22,100*l.* and an income of 20,400*l.* in respect of industries; showing a loss of 1,500*l.* or 1,600*l.*

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

9880. Does that include the bakery?—The bakery is part of our food depôt; it is included in the previous figures. Then on the women's work, which is a separate item, there is an outgo of about 10,000*l.* and an income of about 8,000*l.* Those are the principal items. Then there are some sundries, viz., slum work and the starving children's breakfast fund, and some other items, which make up the total. If the Committee prefer to have the figures more in detail upon the notes, I could send in more exact information.

9881. I think it would be very instructive if you would send us the information?—I will do so. Now with regard to the individual, and as to how this is distributed, we say that the feeding and the sheltering of the unemployed pays for itself virtually. Then with regard to his temporary employment in the workshops, it costs us 1*s.* 10*d.* per week per man; that is our loss; and as the average stay of a man in the labour factories is four months, or 16 weeks, that works out at about 30*s.* a man. Then with regard to the women, it is a little more; the average stay is 17 weeks. It is not so easy to find a woman labour which is convertible into money, and most of the labour done by the women is of the special class which the Salvation Army Organisation proper chiefly helps to dispose of. She sews and makes texts for the walls of our buildings, and ornamental Scripture work, and that sort of thing. She costs about 2*s.* 7*d.* per week; that is to say, the loss to the fund upon her is about 2*s.* 7*d.* per week. But then, of course, you have to bear in mind the remedial character of the work: that in respect of 70 per cent., or thereabouts, you get rid of the necessity, because you restore them to work and livelihood. Then, coming to the Farm Colony, perhaps I ought to refer first to the total capital expenditure upon the Farm. The total expenditure upon the whole farm colony stands in our last balance-sheet at about 94,000*l.*, of which 39,700*l.* was for the land. I have got a schedule here showing the principal items: the farm buildings, 3,900*l.*; dwellings, dormitory, room for men, and so on, 7,380*l.* That gives accommodation for about 500 people. The colonial buildings, bakery, library, stores, hospital, and barracks (which cost 600*l.*) together cost 3,700*l.* Implements, waggons, tools, &c., stand at 5,500*l.* Wharf, railway, tramways (there is a tramway three miles long), roads and sewers, 13,690*l.* It must be borne in mind, of course, that we really have to provide all that would be ordinarily called municipal expenses; we have to drain and make roads, and light, and so on. Then with regard to the brick-works, the two brick-works have cost 3,500*l.* with their machinery and plant. The stock, dead and alive, stood, at the date of the balance-sheet, which is just after harvest, at 15,730*l.* Then furniture and fittings stood at 1,430*l.* That makes up the total of 94,000*l.* Now, about 13,000*l.* of that represents property which was purchased, as I explained a while ago, being let to tenants whose terms have not expired and who pay a rental which pays a fair interest upon the capital outlay. That property will ultimately come into our use. The estate is generally considered to be a very good one for the work in hand, and nearly all this, if not quite all this, capital expenditure has been sanctioned before it has been undertaken by Mr. John Bird, who is one of the official advisers of the Board of Agriculture and who was sent to help us in the matter by Sir James Caird.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

Mr. *Logan.*

9882. Would you explain what you meant when you spoke of certain property let to tenants which would come into the use of the association?—Perhaps I had better explain how it came about. When you are buying property there is often property immediately adjoining you which has a great deal to do with the comfortable possession of what you want, and if it is to be got at a reasonable figure it is generally considered that it is good policy to get it. There are two small farms at one point, and a third at another point, which command some of our roads and rights of way, and so on; and they were in the market, but they were at the time in the possession of tenants. We bought the property, and those tenants' leases will in lapse of time expire, and then we shall take it entirely. Now the men on the colony are remunerated; that is to say, they get what we undertake to give them in return for their labour, in the same way as those in the City colony, viz., by tickets, and they spend on food on an average 5*s.* 10*d.* a week. Their food is supplied to them at what it costs plus the working expenses of preparing it; so that they spend about 5*s.* 10*d.* a week in those tickets. The further cost to us of management, and so on, brings up the total cost of a man to very nearly 10*s.* a week, exclusive of any money grant which he gets. Most of the men, after they have been on the colony two or three months, get a small money grant, part of which they bank with us with a view to have something to fall back upon when

Mr. Logan—continued.

when they leave, or with which to buy tools for themselves, or an outfit. The remainder, 1*s.* or 1*s.* 3*d.*, they keep as pocket-money, and spend it to buy newspapers, or to buy some tobacco, and so on. So that we reckon that the average cost of a colonist all round is about 11*s.* a week, and the average length of stay upon the colony of the men at present there has been one year and two weeks.

Mr. *Mather.*

9883. What determines the length of their stay at the colony?—We have been so handicapped for the want of this over-sea colony that really that has been left very much more to a man's own taste and fancies than we should have liked to have left it, and a great many men have no doubt gone away from the colony after they have been there six or seven months, and have got into a better condition of health, and so on, with the prospect of work whom we should like to have kept and sent across the sea if we had been ready with the over-sea colony. When they go it is generally their own choice.

9884. Do you ever turn a man away?—We never turn a man away, except for serious misconduct. For instance, if a man gets drunk, we caution him the first time; if he gets drunk the second time, if he is accustomed to receive a money grant, we stop it, or change his work and put him on to work that is less popular; and if he gets drunk again we dismiss him, not because we think he should be dismissed for getting drunk three times, although it is a very naughty thing to do to get drunk, especially if you are found out, but because it has such a bad effect upon the rest of the colony. It is in the interests of the general *morale* of the colony.

Chairman.

9885. You must maintain discipline?—We must preserve discipline.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

9886. Is your colony isolated?—No, it is not.

9887. Is it near to a big town?—We are within half a mile of a village which has two public houses, and we are within four and a-half miles of the town of Southend. We have a system of permits; we do not allow a man to go off outside of bounds, except by permission, and we have not found very great difficulty in enforcing that. A man must get a permit to go; it is generally the man who has a permit who succumbs to the temptation when he is outside.

Mr. Logan.

9888. Have you to discharge many in the course of the year for drunkenness?—We discharge just about 10 per cent. of those whom we receive for incorrigible idleness and drunkenness. The two things generally go together; the incorrigibly idle man is frequently a drinking man.

9889. Do you take any pains to follow those men afterwards at all?—Yes, we make a considerable effort to keep trace of them, and we do keep trace of about a third of those we send out. We reckon that two-thirds of those who pass through the colony go out to start again satisfactorily, and of that two-thirds rather more than one-third we find are permanently employed.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

9890. Those you discharge for drunkenness you say are about 10 per cent. of the total number you receive; do you say you are able to follow about a third of them?—No; I say a third of the remainder. We do not follow those we discharge. Many of them, no doubt, gravitate back to the large cities whence they came; some get into prison, and some get to the workhouse again. Some of them come back again to us.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

9891. Do you sell stimulants upon the colony?—No; the agreement which every man signs on entering the colony contains a clause in which he undertakes not to drink intoxicating liquor while he is on the colony.

Chairman.

9892. Going back to the financial aspect of it, what can you tell us of the result of the Hadleigh Colony financially; we have had it stated before us that your colony was a financial success as long as you confined yourself to what was considered to be the legitimate purpose of land reclamation and land cultivation, but that when you launched into fantastic occupations, like brickmaking and house building, and all sorts of nice things, since then you have been losing money; I just bring that before you as a general statement that has been made?—I will preface my reply by saying, first, that of course we did not set out merely to cultivate the land. The colony was not intended to be exclusively a land or a farm colony; it was intended, as I said just now, to be a colony for training persons for the conditions to which they would be transferred, and must, therefore, be in part industrial. But its main purpose was the land. Further, let me say, that I think I can easily explain to you how the impression has been created, that when we adhered exclusively to agriculture we were more successful. On the publication of the first yearly balance-sheet for the first year's working we were able to show a small profit (I forget how much, but less than 100*l.*) upon the working during the period the colony had been in our hands. But that was only a period of six months. We took it in May, and our accounts were made up in September or October, after six months. That figure was really no criterion of our working at all, because we took over the existing tillages, to a certain extent, and we worked the colony partly with the men we found upon it, and had very few men there. It was all preparatory work, and, so far as I am concerned, I attach very little importance to the result of the first few months' working in a scheme of such magnitude, and containing so many branches. In our second year we had a considerable loss (I am sorry I have not got the exact figures with me) on agriculture, and a small loss on the industrial work. In the third year we made a smaller loss on agriculture, though we were extending it each year; more agricultural work was done, more land was broken up, more land was brought under vigorous cultivation, and more fruit planted; and it was necessary in making extensions and improvements, especially in planting fruit

Chairman—continued.

fruit and breaking up new land, to wait before we could get the advantage of our expenditure. Our third year showed also a loss, though not so heavy, on agriculture, and still a loss on the industrial section; but the loss on the industrial section was almost entirely limited to the brickyard.

Mr. *Mather.*

9893. How much did you lose on the brickyard?—We lost on the brickyard through the absence of proper kilns.

9894. What did you lose in the year?—That year, speaking without book, I should say a couple of thousand pounds. I will come back to that in a moment, and explain how it came about; but I will proceed at the moment with my statement as to the finances of the farm colony. I may say we divide the work on the land into two departments; what may be called farming and what may be called market-gardening. In farming this year our accounts showed a profit on the year's working of 200*l.*, and on the market gardening a profit of 400*l.*; so that on agriculture last year we showed a profit of 600*l.* As regards the industries, there is a loss of 1,300*l.* or 1,400*l.*, chiefly, if not exclusively, on the bricks again. It is open to those who like to say so, to say that we ought not to have embarked on brickmaking; that we should have been able to foretell that we should lose money upon it. Perhaps we ought to have been, but we did not foresee it, and we think the loss on the bricks is accounted for by extraordinary circumstances. We had a very serious breakdown at the beginning of the year with our managing man, and we were left in a very awkward position with a great deal of the stuff mixed, and this raw labour to handle it, and no regular staff to deal with it. We are not making bricks this year, but when we begin again we shall have some better kilns, and we have no doubt we can make it pay. We have splendid clay; we have taken the very best expert advice we could get; and we are advised that the brickmaking will answer when we take it up under proper conditions. We have had to pay for our experience.

Chairman.

9895. I presume you look upon brickmaking as an art that it would be very useful for the men to know when they went to another country?—Exactly; we have been influenced chiefly by that consideration, although we have been so pressed by want of money that it certainly has been one element in our programme that we should make something out of the brickmaking, and I still think we shall recoup what we have lost. We are close to London, we are on the river, and have special facilities for getting our bricks to the market, and we have had no difficulty whatever in disposing of those which we have made at current market rates. The whole neighbourhood is developing very rapidly, and for the next 10 years there will be an enormous amount of building going on all round about. We think we have opened up a new era of prosperity to a large number of people in the neighbourhood.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

9896. What has been the total loss up to now since you started the colony?—I am speaking from memory, and I should like to be allowed to correct the figure afterwards, if I am wrong, but I should think it would be about 10,000*l.* in the four years, perhaps a little more. Then, of course, a large part of that loss has really gone into the improving of the estate. We have not taken credit for any of our accruing improvements. Over against that it is fair to say, against myself, that we did not charge ourselves with rent. We were advised on good authority that for the first four or five years, if we did not take credit for improvements such as we might take credit for, we might fairly remit any charge against ourselves for rent.

Chairman.

9897. You set the one against the other?—Yes. The estate has really very wonderfully improved in every way.

Mr. *Mather.*

9898. Have you any idea of how much per acre the estate is worth now compared with what it was when you bought it?—My ideas, of course, would be very favourable.

9899. I mean an estimate based upon the usual knowledge?—I think the value of all we have put into it, and more, is there. Our valuer, the man who makes our valuations for our stock for our balance sheet, is the same Mr. Bird whom I mentioned, who is connected with the Board of Agriculture, a very able man, and a man of very wide experience; and he told me, for instance, the other day, that he considered that the land upon which we had planted fruit is, most of it, fully worth 100*l.* an acre as it stands. The outside cost of it to us has been 60*l.*, including the original cost and the cost of cultivation.

9900. You paid about 15*l.* an acre, I believe, for the whole estate?—Yes, thereabouts.

9901. You think it is worth much more than 15*l.* all round to-day?—Yes.

9902. Probably 10,000*l.*?—It would be worth considerably more than what we have spent upon it.

Mr. *Bartley.*

9903. Could you sell it for more?—I do not know. As between a willing buyer and a willing seller you might, I think; but under the present conditions of agriculture, I am not sure from the point of view merely of agriculture. From the point of view of future development for building, I feel quite sure it could be sold for more. We have been offered, for instance, within the last month for some land there 500*l.* an acre.

9904. That has nothing to do with your agricultural improvements?—No; I say that from the point of view of agriculture, I really could not say how far we could sell it for what we spent upon it.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

9905. Is the 15*l.* an acre based on the valuation of the 1,000 acres of water; does it include the water?—The average would be about 15*l.*

9906. For the whole 2,800 acres, do you mean?—I can tell you exactly. I have here

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

the total amount of the Ray purchase, that is, the water purchase; but that includes some land that is in cultivation, and some saltings. It was 1,500 acres, land and water, and it cost 4,800*l.* I find that the average for the whole estate, including the water, is about 13*l.* an acre.

Mr. *Mather.*

9907. The fruit acreage which you have planted, I think you said, was 100 acres?—About 100 acres.

9908. That you think is worth about 100*l.* an acre?—Yes, the bulk of it.

9909. That could be valued any day from the crop it was producing in the year?—Yes.

9910. It would not undergo the same valuation as other land growing turnips or cabbages?—No.

Chairman.

9911. Can you say anything to us as to the conclusions at which you have arrived as to the plan on your present experience?—So far as our experience has gone we have come to the conclusion that, first of all, the persons we seek to benefit are willing to submit themselves to the conditions that we think are necessary in order to make them successful when they come to cross the sea. We have not found any fulfilment of the fears expressed when we began, that men would not submit to the necessary discipline, and that men would not be taken from the warmth and activity, and brightness of the towns, and would not be willing to stay long enough on the land settlement to be taught what was necessary for them to learn; we find they are. Further, we have come to the conclusion also that the men will work, and that even the most unfortunate class are willing to work. Further, we think the plan is the right plan, because it is economical; it is no longer up in the air that the men can earn sufficient to support themselves; they can, after the first few weeks in our hands, given ordinary conditions and average health, the men will earn sufficient for their own maintenance while they are in course of training, and some will earn a little more, though some will earn a fraction less; but on the average they will earn sufficient. Further, we think that the scheme shows itself to be based upon sound principles, because it looks to a permanent benefit of the people whom we take hold of; we take them away. Further, we think it is sound because it benefits those who are left behind; it is not a scheme by which any danger arises to the working people who do not need it; it relieves the overcrowded market, and therefore benefits the working people who are left behind. Now, there have been two or three objections urged against our working. I do not know how far it is necessary for me to touch them, but there is one I should like to refer to, because I noticed in the reports of the evidence given before this Committee which have appeared in the papers that references have been made to it. I refer to the question of undue competition and under-selling. Now, there are two branches of this objection; there is the alleged under-selling

Chairman—continued.

in the city colony in town, and the alleged under-selling in the farm colony. With regard to the town, the only cases that we have ever heard of, and the only definite branches of trade in which we have ever been accused of under-selling, have been the wood-chopping and the match-making. It has been stated that we have under-sold other traders, and thereby displaced labour engaged in the fire-wood chopping and selling business. Now, we have always denied this accusation, which is a very old one, and we regard it as being positively malicious and slanderous, because it has been so often contradicted that persons ought to be cautious about repeating it. We have never under-sold, and we have never entered into improper unfair competition in the wood-chopping business. We had, at a time when we were doing very much more business in that direction than we are now, because we have reduced that branch of work, having found other work which is more remunerative and easier to learn, to make a very careful investigation into the charges. We received several deputations from firewood makers' unions. I received a deputation myself from one union, and one of our leading officers received another deputation. We showed them our books, we gave them an opportunity of examining our workpeople, we sent them with an open permit to visit our factories whenever they liked, and as a result they expressed themselves as entirely satisfied both that we were not selling the same article at a less price than the market price and that we were not selling a better article at the same price. One of the deputations finished up, after expressing their great satisfaction, by giving a subscription of one guinea towards our funds, and leaving it on the table as a mark of goodwill. I do not know that I need pursue the matter further. If any gentleman has any question to ask me I shall be glad to answer it. With regard to matches, the matchmaking business is not, strictly speaking, a part of the scheme; it is no part of the organisation in the strict sense of the word. It is a sort of accessory, and it is not necessarily connected with the scheme itself, but it grew out of a great desire on our part to benefit a particular section of workers, namely, the match-box makers, who are generally women and children. It is work that they do at home chiefly. The piece of limp wood which forms the match-box is folded up, and a label fastened on it, and the person who does that is called a match-box maker. It is really folding a piece of wood up which is called the skillet, and putting a label upon it; for that work we found that women and children were paid 2*d.* and 2¾*d.* per gross, that is to say, they bend up a gross of those boxes, and fasten a label on, finding their own paste, for 2¼*d.* We made some inquiries, and we found it was a very shameful thing, and we thought that perhaps there would be sufficient sympathy with these people as a class to justify us in trying to sell matches for which we paid a little higher price to these workers. We accordingly took some premises, and got in some necessary machinery, and commenced to make matches

Chairman—continued.

matches in order that we might employ the match-box makers. We make only safety matches, thereby excluding our people from the danger of contact with phosphorus which produces the most horrible diseases, disfigurement and suffering, and instead of paying 2*d.* we paid 3*d.*, and instead of paying 2¾*d.* we paid 3¾*d.*, and so on, the 3*d.* and 3¾*d.* representing the small and the large-sized boxes. Our matches are good matches; they are made of the best materials; there is no phosphorus in them, and we have always sold them at the full price of the match market, which is really Bryant and May's, and we sell at their prices. So that we have no underselling. I am sorry to say that as a commercial venture it has not been very successful. We have lost 300*l.* or 400*l.* each year upon it because we cannot sell sufficient matches. Matches are inflammable, and are classed as inflammable goods, and the railway companies will only take them in parcels of a certain size, and under certain conditions, and that prevents their easy distribution. But we feel somewhat aggrieved, I might almost say that I feel some manner of resentment about this perpetual repetition of this story, that we undersell in the match business. Five years ago before we commenced making matches these stories were first published. The story was first published by a witness before a House of Lords Committee on Alien Labour in London, which was presided over by Lord Dunraven. I went there and denied it as a witness before the Commission on oath, and the man who first made the statement, who was an East-end minister, wrote to the "Times," and apologised for it, and said he deeply regretted he had made it, and wished to withdraw it. In spite of that again and again it comes up, and I believe it has been mentioned in this room. I hope I am not going to hear of it again.

9912. I think we have heard of it with regard to wood-chopping, but I do not remember hearing of it with regard to matches?—Yes, I think matches were referred to.

Mr. *Mather.*

9913. One of the Members put some questions about it at the last meeting?—Perhaps that was it. Then with regard to underselling on the farm colony, to that we make in substance the same reply. We deny it. We say that neither have we sold an article of equal value lower than the market price, nor have we sold a better article at the same price. I met myself a local deputation about 18 months ago, which came to me on the subject, a deputation of residents and growers who had believed themselves to be aggrieved. I assured them that it was no part of our desire or purpose or intention, but was absolutely contrary to the regulations we had laid down that there should be underselling in any department, and I asked them if they would furnish me with one or two cases concerning what they complained of, and I would investigate it. I have never heard any more from them, although I have written to them several times after my interview, and I contend they were never able to find a case. I do not believe there is one.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

Chairman.

9914. Of course you compete?—We compete in the same way as an ordinary trader competes. Nobody would object to my setting up to grow strawberries and sending them to the London market in my own interest and for my own profit. Why should they object to my doing it for the benefit of these poor and unfortunate creatures so long as I do not unfairly compete.

9915. They may make this objection, that you did it (if it was the case that you did it) by the advantages that you would have from the charitable funds at your disposal?—Subscribed capital.

9916. Yes?—The answer I make to that is, Yes, and the profits I make by it, if there are any, go to the objects for which the capital is subscribed. The capital earns something, and that something goes for the public benefit. I should quite understand the force of the objection if it was that the public capital enabled me to make a personal gain; but seeing that the public capital is only used for the public good, I cannot see where the objection comes in.

9917. But what people would say is this: Suppose Mr. Mather and I are market gardeners at Southend, and we are struggling on and keeping ourselves in employment, and our families in decent life. You come down there, and gathering together certain persons called unemployed men maintained by charity or by benevolent funds of some sort, swamp us in the Southend market, so that Mr. Mather and I are turned out of employment by your process, and lose our business. That is the sort of feeling that may exist?—In answer to that, I should say that I cannot find the persons we so swamp. I invited them to come forth from their caves, but they do not appear, and I do not therefore believe in their existence.

9918. You think there is room for you all?—I think there is room for us all. Secondly, I should say that the same argument in principle would apply to all trading, would it not?

9919. Except that one trade may be artificially fostered by the favour of the community and by the assistance it receives from the community, and that is hard upon the decent man who works away on his own account. That is the idea; I do not say it is my view, but that is the view that is put forward?—I contend that when we come to the facts it really is not so; that we have not displaced any growers, that I am unable to find any, and incidentally that part of our produce which we sell in Southend is purchased by people who are visitors who come from London, from whom chiefly the persons are drawn who produce the stuff we put upon the market, but also, I should say, our competition is for the public benefit at large. Even supposing we did, I would not say it would be impossible that we should have injured here and there an individual trader in some part of the world, but even supposing that there is some addition to the produce put upon the market for a moment, if in the end

Chairman—continued.

t results in taking away from the overcrowded markets some of the workers for whose benefit you enter into the business, the community is the gainer.

9920. The objection has more force in it where some such organisation as yours is maintained or assisted by a direct grant from the State in any way. In that case the State, which means the organised taxpayer, comes in and meddles with the arrangements of a trade by what they would consider underselling or over competing with the regular trader, getting the capital to carry it on for nothing; that is the feeling?—I should say that the same principle would apply to the case of the State. I should say that if the State, for instance, entered into the business, we will say, of boot-making, I give that as an illustration, because it happens to be a business we are not engaged in; if the State entered into that business for the purpose of employing superfluous workers upon that business, with a view as speedily as possible of ultimately removing those superfluous workers to a position and condition of things in which they would cease to compete with the remainder, in the end the State would be acting beneficially to the community. I do not say that I am going to recommend the State to do it, but I think the principle would apply. It must be borne in mind, of course, that all these people, I will not say all, but a great many of these people, who benefit become much larger consumers than they were before we took hold of them; they take the produce of other men's labour in exchange for their own. It is not all loss to the community.

9921. But if you benefit a man by giving him any employment, he himself becomes a consumer, and therefore adds to the consuming power of the country?—Yes, of the community.

9922. In fact, there is more trade in the country with a prosperous and thriving population than with a distressed and unemployed population. The thing is very obvious?—Passing away from this subject, I should like again to refer to what I said this morning. I am afraid I did not make myself quite clear as to my suggestion that I would very much like the Committee, if possible, to make a recommendation as to giving by legislation powers to local authorities to pay the necessary capital to transfer say, from shore to shore if you like, persons, not being paupers, who are in distress, and out of employment, and yet would be likely to make decent citizens on the other side. I do think it is a practicable suggestion, which, although it does not look very much at the moment, might work out to be a very great benefit to thousands of men.

9923. There are two things I would say about that, having been myself a member of the Committee on Colonisation. In the first place there are some colonies who will not take men, or who are very particular as to the kind of men they receive, and the conditions on which they receive them. You get over that you think, and probably with success, by sending out nobody for whom you have not made an arrangement, so that they may start fair with every prospect of being good and useful citizens in their new country. The other difficulty which I think

Chairman—continued.

you would ultimately encounter is that which was very strikingly brought before the Committee, namely, that in a very few years there would be no corner in the world available for the purpose: it would be filling up at such a pace that you could not regard that as any permanent solution of the difficulty?—I think there is something in that; but if you got rid of some considerable number in the meantime it would be a very great thing. There is, as you know, in Canada and Australia alone, to say nothing of the Cape, which has certain climatic difficulties, millions and millions of acres of land which could be occupied, rivers full of fish, woods full of game, and fertile soil which is only waiting for population. I remember the late Sir William Fox, who was Prime Minister of New Zealand for some time, saying to me that he regarded as the very best investment New Zealand had ever made, the borrowing and expending 600,000*l.* on the transference from Europe of 10,000 families into New Zealand. He said that it paid the colony over and over again, and I am quite sure it paid Europe.

9924. Of course the cost of transfer to New Zealand means so large a sum that it would be hardly within contemplation at first?—But it paid them.

9925. I do not know that they are so anxious to get them now as they were?—No, they are not.

9926. Your suggestion on this occasion is a very valuable one, and the Committee will no doubt give it every consideration?—It would be entirely in the nature of a permissive arrangement. There would be no compulsion; unless the board of guardians or the local authority see its way they need not do it.

9927. Is there anything else you wish to say on your own account?—I think there is nothing that I need refer to further, except it is to repeat my suggestion that if possible (although I do not know that this comes within the scope of this Committee's inquiry) some recommendation should be made for legislation for people who will not work.

9928. Some sort of penal colony?—Yes; where a man must dig or else he cannot eat. I feel sure a very simple arrangement could be made empowering municipal authorities; again, what they want is power to say to a man who is obviously and notoriously an idle fellow, that he must work or his rations will be cut down to a very small minimum; to, say, oatmeal.

Mr. *Mather.*

9929. May the Committee understand that your movements both in London and also at Hadleigh are of a reformatory character as well as of a training character for the purpose of emigrants?—Yes, for those who need it specially, a reformatory; for those who are not needing special reformatory influence, but only employment, employment.

9930. But you find amongst the people with whom you have to deal generally a large amount of depravity as well as poverty, I presume?—Yes.

9931. And,

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

9931. And, unhappily, as you say, they go together very much?—Yes.

9932. And you rather seek to raise the very fallen, those who are in the third state, as you describe; and in all your efforts, and therefore in all your expenditure, you are looking for two objects: the one is to reform the character, and the other is to enable that character, when reformed, to obtain a decent livelihood?—Yes.

9933. And these objects are never separated; you always regard them as one?—We regard them as two objects, but indissolubly joined.

9934. Leading up to one end?—The man being able to live under decent conditions. Of course, if you have a drunkard, you must deal with his drunkenness; if you have got a very idle man, you must deal with his idleness; and if you have a sick man, you must deal with his particular sickness.

9935. Of the class you deal with, supposing you did not hold out the hand of fellowship and help, would they necessarily come into the hands of the guardians of the poor, or are they such persons as those who have been in the hands of the guardians and dislike it, and then come to you in preference?—No; I should say that about one-third of those we receive have been at some time or other in the hands of the guardians, or in the hands of authorities in some form, either out-door or in-door.

9936. One-third only?—Yes; of the remaining two-thirds, I should say fully half, that is 33 per cent. of the whole, were decent hard-working industrious men; mechanics, artisans, whose condition of want is produced largely by misfortune or by circumstances that they are not to blame for.

9937. And would this class of persons, this one-third of respectable men, appeal to the guardians under any circumstances, or do they come to you in preference to going to the guardians?—I do not think they would appeal to the guardians unless they came to the last resort of starvation.

9938. They have not fallen low enough to come within the net of the guardians?—No, not yet.

9939. You spoke very strongly, and in a disparaging sense, of the whole system of relief given by the Poor Law to the poor of the country; you said it was a wasteful system, and that it multiplied the cases with which they had to deal. May I ask whether the scheme of the Salvation Army, both as to your refuges and shelters, and industrial occupation in the town, and your training colonies for immigration purposes in the country, if these means were substituted under some control for the present Poor Law system under the guardians, do you think a great benefit would accrue to the country?—I think so, and I think it would accrue, not merely because I happen to be associated with the Salvation Army, but I think it would accrue because those principles which we are working for are sound ones, and they can be applied by others. There is nothing in the Poor Law system, or very little (I am speaking comparatively now), that is remedial. A man goes into the workhouse with his wife and three or four children, or he goes into

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

the workhouse with three or four children without his wife. He cannot get out of the workhouse again. There is no way out except he takes his wife and children, whom he cannot take. If he does take them, they go on to the streets to tramp together, and there they multiply, and the community has to support them. I live at Barnet, in the county of Hertfordshire, and I am interested in tramps and people, naturally, coming through my own county. We have got a great influx of tramps during the last five or six years, at least we think so. I understand all the adjoining counties think that they get an influx of tramps from Hertfordshire, and we think we have a large influx of tramps from other places. Our chief constable was giving me an example of the kind of thing which goes on. He has known a man for the last 14 years as a tramp. The man was out of work, being a labourer and agriculturist, and he started tramping, and came into the house, out again, in again, and out again. He gets married. His wife comes into the house; a baby is born; they go out again; another baby is born, a third, a fourth, a fifth, and sixth, and now there are eight of them. They are all tramps. They are all in and out of the house, and it is only a matter of time when there will be 16, and they will all be tramps.

9940. And they are doing no useful work?—Nothing. That system, I think, is wrong. I would take them and make them work.

9941. As a matter of fact, to put it in a very rough-and-ready manner, if the country were to make a contract with you, the Salvation Army, to take the entire control of all the paupers, and all the poor and the tramps, and the indifferent and the idle, you would make a good return for the money paid to you, and make a very handsome profit out of the amount now spent by the Poor Law unions of the country?—That is a very liberal way of putting it, and it would be a very large order for the Salvation Army; but what we do now aim at is to carry out experiments so that we may show the country that these principles are applicable to all conditions of the unemployed and the unfortunate classes.

Mr. *Round.*

9942. I want to clear up this point about the cost of the land?—We put it at about 13*l.* an acre.

9943. You bought 1,800 acres of land which you paid 15*l.* an acre for, and 1,500 acres of saltings for which you paid 4,500*l.*, and that together makes 31,500*l.*, and not 39,000*l.*?—I am afraid I have not given you quite the right figures. The actual extent of the whole property is 2,900 acres, of which 1,500 acres are either water or saltings. They are not all water. The total cost of the whole estate is 39,738*l.* I make that roughly about 13*l.* 6*s.* or 13*l.* 5*s.* an acre all round, land, water, and saltings. If you would like to have a more particular statement as to the exact amount paid for the various parts of the estate I could easily supply it, because, of course, our valuations give the exact value of each part.

 9944. When

Mr. *Round*—continued.

9944. When you speak of reclamation, you merely mean that you brought back into cultivation land that had previously been cultivated and allowed to go out of cultivation?—Yes. I explained when the word "reclamation" was used that in the strict sense of the word we had not reclaimed any land to speak of. I believe we have an acre or two of saltings, but nothing to speak of. We brought back again into good cultivation land which had been remaining neglected and allowed to get into a very bad and rough and wild state.

9945. Can you tell me what proportion of the acreage was in that state which had been arable land, and that you brought back into cultivation?—I am afraid I cannot without referring to documents. I could tell you what the proportion of the part we are in occupation of is, but part of this is let. I can get it for you if it will interest you.

9946. Your point of view is the reclamation of men?—Yes; but still, in reclaiming men, we want to teach them how to deal with rough land.

9947. I am speaking from an agriculturist's point of view; you do not look upon it in any way as a solution of the land difficulty in the eastern counties?—No; but I do think that soon we shall be able to show some very remarkable results in the way of vigorous cultivation. I think our crops last year were very satisfactory from that point of view.

9948. You merely utilised the land as a means of reclaiming the men you put upon it, and doing useful work in that way?—Yes; but at the same time we want to do the best agriculture we can, and I think with regard to our wheat last year, and also some other crops, roots, and with regard also to some of the fruit crops (which is another branch altogether), we get very remarkable results. It is full soon to speak, however.

9949. I quite agree with that; but take the rivet wheat that you grew, could you tell us the expense of the cultivation of that?—I am afraid I cannot off-hand; I know that, worked out at the price of wheat a month or six weeks ago (it is better just now), there was a profit of some 30*s.* or 2*l.* an acre.

9950. That, of course, was a very remarkable crop?—That, of course, was a very remarkable crop. We have adopted a special system of sowing.

9951. Then as regards the fruit cultivation; do you know what your expenditure has been upon that, in bringing the land to a proper state?—The capital expenditure you mean.

9952. We know what it cost to buy, 13*l.* an acre; do you know what the total amount is that it has cost you to bring it into a proper state of fruit cultivation?—It varies; but it has cost about 55*l.* or 56*l.* an acre, including the cost of the land.

9953. What state is that land in now at this moment; the trees that you put upon it?—They are very good.

9954. What was the result?—Part of last year's crop was very good, but then part of it was slack, owing to the fact that it was only the second year.

9955. You could not expect it to do much at present?—No. Last year was, however, the third year, and was a very great improvement on the second; but this year will be the first year in which we can give actual returns of fruit crops, to compare with the best known authorities on the subject.

9956. What kind of fruit have you been growing?—Low bush fruit, gooseberries and currants, raspberries, and some apples and plums, including some damsons. The currants and raspberries, so far, have done the best. We have also some 25 acres of strawberries.

9957. Do you define a colonist as a person who requires to be trained?—In many cases, of course.

9958. Is that what you mean when you speak of a colonist?—Yes; a man who has to be trained for the conditions into which we hope hereafter to transplant him. Of course, amongst these colonists, there are men who were brought up on the land, but they need to be taught other things, and *vice versâ*.

9959. With regard to your experiments with paupers, they were confined to indoor paupers?—Yes, entirely with indoor paupers.

9960. What do you mean by an indoor pauper?—I stated that a pauper was a man who received any assistance from the rates, but these paupers with whom we dealt were exclusively indoor paupers, and were the most difficult to deal with.

9961. A pauper, in the ordinary acceptation of the term in England, is anybody who receives any assistance from the rates?—Yes.

Mr. *Wilson* (Durham).

9962. In gathering up the men for your home colony, do you make any discrimination between those who come to you?—The plan adopted is this: When there is a vacancy for men upon the farm colony, one of the officials connected with the farm colony meets one of the officials of the city colony, and together they examine the men who have been previously reported by their foreman as suitable to go to the colony, and they would be required to pass a doctor's examination as to their being fairly well, and not suffering from any disease which could injure the others; and they are to express their willingness to abide by the regulations and sign that small contract which I have put in, and then they are taken on. We reject men who are unfit physically, and we reject men who are, in our opinion, too old, although we have men down in the colony as old as 55 or 56, and they have done fairly well; but as a rule the age is about 35.

9963. You would not consider your colony a very large element in the solution of the question we have in hand, the employment of the unemployed?—As I stated at the beginning, the effort we are making is really in the nature of an experiment in certain principles which, if it can be carried out successfully, we think could be extended to an unlimited degree. What we are trying to show is that they are sound.

9964. Provided you can find room?—Yes, we think that room could be found for a very great many, at any rate for some years to come.

9965. Then I may take it the test for a man being transferred from your city colony to the colony

Mr. *Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

colony in the country is physical ability?—And willingness to work and obey orders.

9966. Have you any regard to trade?—No, we take any trade; we take men, of course, who have no previous trade.

9967. I think I gathered that the idea was that your system was not complete except you had a colony abroad?—Yes.

9968. Would this colony abroad be what I may call a self-containing colony, embracing all trades?—Yes, largely so.

9969. That is to say you would have within it certain aspects of agriculture and various industries?—Yes.

9970. Have you any principle of selection in your mind as to the men who should go from this country to your foreign colony?—We have not got quite up to the time of making the selection; but our idea is to select men who will fit into the first primarily immediate wants of the colony which is being established. We should have to send tailors, for instance, and we should have to send builders, and some bootmakers.

9971. I will take an old one and a young one, or one weak and one strong, presenting themselves to you, would you take the old and the young, the weak and the strong, alike to this foreign colony across the sea?—I do not think we ought to take more than a certain proportion of old, at any rate at first. Our idea would be to try and make the over-sea colony, by a fair sampling, fairly represent the men here. We should not exclude entirely old men, and we would not altogether take young men, but we should take both in fair proportions.

9972. I understood you to say it would be economical if the guardians who administer the Poor Law were to pay the passage out of the men who were either on the rates, or might probably be on the rates?—Especially the latter.

9973. In that case would not they send out the old and the young indiscriminately?—There would have to be some provision made to guard against that. For instance, if it was done in the case where we were suggesting it should be done through us, we should stipulate that we had some voice in the selection of the men.

9974. But if you stipulate the guardians should pay for the strong and healthy to go to your foreign colony, would that not be leaving the weak?—We would take a proper proportion. We would do as we have done in this experiment with indoor paupers in this colony. We took a fair proportion of men over 50, and a fair proportion of men under 30. We tried to make

Mr. *Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

it as fair as we could. My point with regard to the guardians paying is this, I say it is well known from my own personal knowledge in dealing with Poor Law guardians and dealing with the poor, that the relieving officers are very well aware when a man is likely to come on to the rates. They know it months before he comes, in many cases; I want to prevent his coming on to the rates in the strict sense of the word, and beginning that demoralising business of living without work; and I say, to give the guardians power to say, "Well, now, here is a decent fellow, if he gets once on our hands we shall never get rid of him; let us pay up and send him and his wife away."

9975. At the present time, and during the past few months, have not a number of men come on the rates that last year at this time there was no probability of coming on?—I think in the last winter, yes; but I think that was an exceptional and an abnormal season.

9976. And owing to the depressed state of trade?—Yes; I hope we may not have to face quite so serious a time again.

9977. I hope that myself. I want to get the fact whether you would take out those who were not only willing to work but were able to work when they got there. A man might be willing to work whose strength was gone, but would you say you would take out to your foreign colony a fair proportion of the weak, and what I may call the used-up men?—Yes, in the hope that we should be able to give them such aids as they could manage to subsist upon.

9978. But there are people who are used-up?—People who cannot work at all?

9979. Yes?—I do not think it would be fair to ask us to take them; the proper place for them is the hospital.

9980. I do not mean who are ill and want a doctor, but who are getting down to the verge of life, and who are not able to work at hard muscular labour. Would you have the guardians pay for the transition of men who could work when they get there, and leave the men in this country who would labour, but really could not work if you took them out; willing to work but whose strength was about gone?—No; I do not think it would be practicable. I do not think that the country to which it was hoped to send such people would receive them. I do not think, therefore, the question arises as to whether we would be expected to do it or not. I do not think that would be received, and I do not think it would be quite fair to the new country.

Mr. T. H. BOLTON took the Chair.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

9981. You have told us you have at Hadleigh 298 men, but that you have accommodation for a very large number, namely, 500?—Yes.

9982. From that it appears that only about three-fifths of your accommodation is utilised at the present time?—Yes; perhaps next month it may be restored to the full extent of the accommodation; we fluctuate very much.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

9983. Although you have given us certain percentages of success and failure, so far as I gather, you have not given the total number of men who have passed through Hadleigh since its establishment. Can you give us that figure?—I am afraid I cannot now.

9984. Would you obtain that for the Committee?—Doubtless I can get it.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

9985. You have told us that 30 per cent. of your colonists are skilled mechanics. That strikes me as a large percentage?—Thirty per cent. of the men coming into our hands. I think I said that with regard to the city colony. As a fact, it is about one-third.

9986. I took it as a general statement with regard to Hadleigh. What evidence have you that these men are skilled mechanics. Have you anything beyond their own statement?—We have their own statement, and then we have their ability to do the work.

9987. You do test them?—Yes.

9988. Supposing a man told you he was a bricklayer, would you test his skill as a bricklayer?—Yes, we would, because we have bricklaying to do. In the same way if a man told us he was a painter he would get painting to do; and equally, if a man told us he was an upholsterer he would get upholstering to do.

9989. Do you think this 30 per cent. is reliable, and that there is 30 per cent. of your colonists who have a knowledge of the skilled trades?—I think so.

9990. Could you analyse this 30 per cent., either now or at some future time, to show the trades of which the 30 per cent. is made up?—I can send you the exact figures from which they are made up.

9991. With regard to the pauper experiment, I think you have had paupers from only one London union?—The figures I gave you relate to one.

9992. But have you had paupers from other unions?—Yes, we have.

9993. With regard to the other unions, did you have them from two other unions?—One.

9994. Two altogether?—Yes, from two unions; but we also had, to be quite accurate, a dozen men sent down from West Ham; they were not exactly sent down by the union, but they were helped by the Unemployed Committee there.

9995. You have given us in detail an account of the paupers who were sent from one union, namely, Camberwell?—Yes.

9996. You had some stipulation with the Camberwell guardians as to the ages of these men?—We said we would take them at about the ordinary ages; I have the list of the ages here.

9997. That was not my point; was that the only stipulation you made with regard to the age?—We made two or three stipulations, one, that the men must be willing to undertake to conform to our regulations; then they were to pay us 5*s.* per week per man, and then we were to have the men addressed before they were selected, so that our officers should have an opportunity of laying before them some of the conditions under which they were to be taken.

9998. Did you understand they were picked out by the Camberwell guardians as specially suitable men?—Yes, I think they were.

9999. They were picked men?—Yes.

10000. And yet of these picked men you found 22 per cent. were totally incapable of work?—Yes, they ought never to have been sent, and that is admitted now, I think, by the guardians themselves; they simply say, Well, we did not know.

10001. Then you told us 41 per cent. are still with you; are you still receiving payment for them?—Yes.

10002. Five shillings a week?—Yes.

10003. They have been some months with you?—Yes, some of them; some of them have been six or seven months.

10004. During the whole of that time you have been receiving from the rates 5*s.* a week for each one?—Yes.

10005. A question was put to you on rather a delicate point, and I hope you will excuse me reverting to it, because it seems an important point; that is, with regard to the dangers which are likely to arise in a celibate establishment, such as yours is. Is your management alert and conscious of the possibility of danger, and alert to any indication of unnatural crime in your establishment?—Yes, I think so; I think our men who are in close contact with the colonists, certainly are thoroughly wideawake with regard to that and similar difficulties. I repeat what I stated to the Chairman, that I think many people are greatly in danger of exaggerating the extent to which the purely working classes are affected by those evils; I do not think there is anything like the amount of immorality and unnatural wickedness amongst them that is often thought; I believe they are far better in those respects, far cleaner than is very often stated.

10006. Since the colony was established has any man been dismissed on suspicion or proof of anything of the kind?—In the farm colony no, but in the city colony one or two have.

10007. Just one word with regard to your scheme about the guardians having power to contribute; your idea is, that the guardians should have the power to pay these sums in regard to persons whom you describe as prospective paupers; it is rather a point you make, that they should not be actual paupers?—Yes; I do not want men ever to have the stigma.

10008. I quite understand and fully appreciate and sympathise with your feelings, but my question is this: what knowledge have guardians, as such, of the existence of prospective paupers?—From my own knowledge I am able to say that I believe relieving officers (those are the officers through whom the guardians come actually into contact with the poor) have in multitudes of cases prior knowledge as to the probability of a man's asking for relief. In many cases, I believe, men go to the relieving officer, in fact, I know they do, and ask him whether there is any way of getting help without being classed as paupers, and relieving officers often know men, honest, straightforward fellows, who are bound to come in the course of a few months or weeks on the rates.

10009. We have had a good many witnesses from boards of guardians, and I think they have generally stated they have no knowledge of distress until application is made to them; of course, the application makes the man a pauper?—I do not think that the guardians, as a board, have the knowledge; I think that would be quite accurate; I think, as a board of guardians sitting round the table, they know nothing about the

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

the men except they are men on the street, and may be very excellent men, but I think there are officials, especially those officials (and I am glad to think there are many who are so) who are personally interested in helping the people who do know very often when men are likely to be pushed into a corner, and they should have power to say, "This fellow is a decent fellow, and he ought never to be allowed to become a pauper; put him in a schedule, and have certain recommendations with regard to him, and say, 'Now, look here, we will help you to get away.'"

10010. I think your original suggestion was, that these powers should be given to local authorities, which would, of course, extend beyond guardians?—I think it should extend to all local authorities who have the control and management of the poor.

10011. With regard to your building operations; apart from building in connection with your own colony, what has been the extent of your building operations in the neighbourhood of Hadleigh?—We have built about half-a-dozen cottages, and I daresay, on the average, they have cost 200*l.* or 300*l.* each. If it would be of any interest to the Committee I could easily give you a list.

Mr. *Round.*

10012. Are they single cottages or in rows?—They are single.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

10013. Do I understand you to say that your people at Hadleigh have not built more than six single cottages or double cottages?—I am speaking off my book, but I should say in that neighbourhood it is half-a-dozen small houses, the rents of which will vary from three or four shillings to five or six shillings a week, and they have been built, as I have said, chiefly for friends of the Army who have desired to help these poor fellows, and have said, "Can you build me a cottage?"

10014. Are these six cottages the full extent of the building which has been done by your staff or colonists at Hadleigh?—Outside our own building, I think so.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10015. I venture to suggest if you were to refer to your builder's book you would find more?—I do not recollect anything further. If I find I am wrong I shall be very anxious to correct myself, but I think you may take it that is about it.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10016. These six are what you have built on contract; you have not built them for yourselves, but built them at a price for other people?—Yes, we built them for outside persons in the neighbourhood who had property there, and who have paid us for building.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

10017. Really as a means of providing employment?—Yes, and also contributing to the funds of the establishment.

Chairman.

10018. Are they separate or in a block?—They are single.

10019. Detached cottages?—They are not built in a row.

Mr. *Logan.*

10020. Is it, in your opinion, through their own fault that the bulk of the people you get come to you, or why is it they come to you?—In a way, yes, it is through their own fault in a large number of cases; but then the measure of responsibility must be determined so much by factors which are out of sight. It is very difficult to say exactly. Here is a return with regard to a particular 698 men, or say 700 men, who at a particular time, a few weeks ago were in certain of our labour shops. With regard to their downfall, these are the reasons they give in respect of 700: 237, or 34 per cent., attributed their downfall to drink; 165, or 24 per cent., attributed their downfall in a general sort of way to bad trade, they could not get work; 296–300, or 42 per cent., are classed here as "other cases;" three principal causes, pure misfortune, ill-health, and old age would account for that 42 per cent.

10021. So that the people who come to you, are to a very great extent failures; the temporary unemployed, who are mainly the cause of this Committee being appointed, do not come to you?—About one-third of those we deal with, I stated in the early part of my evidence, are persons who are out of employment through no fault of their own. The other two-thirds I should say, more or less, have themselves to blame, drink, vice, and so on.

10022. Having given so much time to curing this social disease which exists in England, have you ever thought of any way of preventing it?—I am a religious man, and I think that the true and ultimate remedy for all these evils is to be found in the service of God, and the moral and spiritual renovations which follow that service; but speaking from, if I may say so, the lower level of ordinary social thought and everyday thought of the present time, I should say that the Government or some authority ought to insist on the better distribution of the workers in order to deal with poverty. I come back to where I started, that if you have got more workers than work you must either find more work or do something with the overplus workers.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10023. What about reducing the overwork?—I dealt in your absence with that alternative as being one which I know to be held by some persons, that a better and more equal distribution of work would meet the difficulty, but I give it as my own opinion that the experiments which have been tried with the eight hours' day, and some other matters of a kindred nature, do not seem to indicate that that is going to meet the difficulty.

Mr. *Logan.*

10024. You were saying just now that you hoped the Committee would make a suggestion, that the guardians should contribute to send men out of England; I understand that to mean

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

mean that men to go out of England must consist, if not actually of the very best of the men, still the men you would desire to send away must be useful men; has it never occurred to you, Mr. Booth, that this Committee might suggest, that as there is a vast amount of work to be done in England, possibly some means might be found of setting the men to work in this country instead of sending them abroad?—Of course, I was asked to come here to-day to give evidence as to what the Salvation Army is doing in respect of its social operations. I was not expecting to be asked whether I could make any recommendations to the Committee outside our own work; but I daresay the Committee may be able to light upon work which can be usefully done. I saw a suggestion the other day by some good gentleman that you should pull down all the slums of London and rebuild half London, and that you would find occupation for the unemployed, at any rate, a large part of them, for some years to come in doing that, and have a good investment when you finished. I daresay there are other things which might be done of a temporary nature.

10025. I know that you are here to help the Committee, if you can; but it struck me as somewhat strange to hear you, and I have heard others, suggest that some of our best men should be sent out of this country to do work elsewhere, while at the same time there is any amount of work to be done in this country?—That brings us back to another question. I think, purely from the human side, the happiest conditions in which a man can live are those connected with, and associated with, the tillage of the land; and I think, if you want to make, humanly speaking, a man happy and prosperous, and make him glad that God has given him a large family of children, and put him in a condition where he is likely to do something with regard to the future, you should place him where he can get a living out of the soil. Such are the conditions of things here, that it is very problematical whether a man can get a living out of the soil in this country. I am not here to say that he can, and I do not wish it to be understood that he cannot, but it is difficult under existing conditions, and unless you are prepared to go in for a wholesale system of protection, and to put back the timepiece, and do some things you cannot do; but there are countries where he can live, and where we know that men brought up very much as multitudes of men are here have lived; they prosper and they thrive; we know they do, and therefore I say it seems a rational thing that you should send them where they can do so.

10026. Is not the only reason why they can thrive on land elsewhere, as in Australia, for instance, or in New Zealand, that they can get that land for a very small price, whereas here, in this country, they have to pay a big price for it?—That is one reason, but another reason is more forcible, climatic conditions; another reason would be, that the produce of the land is easier to get than it is here.

10027. In what way is it easier to get; supposing you go abroad and compete with us, they grow less per acre than our men grow, infinitely less, taking Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; and in addition, not only do they grow less, but they have got carriage, in some cases, of 6,000 miles to pay, and yet they can undersell our men at their own doors; it is not protection that gives them that power?—Does not that rather support the view I am suggesting, that they do thrive, and that they can thrive. The conditions, say in Australia, or in New Zealand, or in Canada, and the conditions under which they live are better, because they can compete with us here.

10028. Is it not that land is cheaper?—It may be that may have something to do with it. But my opinion of land in the colonies is, that land costs you, when you have worked it, and done what you have to do, nearly as much as if you got it at a good price.

10029. You say that the man in New Zealand has to pay as much per acre for his land as the man in England?—I think he has got the climate in his favour.

10030. He does not grow as much?—He grows and eats it, and he does not of necessity send it to market. We have a considerable interest in Canada, quite apart from what we are now looking at; our ordinary religious operations in Canada and Australia, and we have many thousands of working people who are connected with our religious propaganda. We have a personal knowledge of thousands of these men who have to make themselves happy, comfortable homes upon the land, and who never want anything to eat. It is quite true they may not have much money, but there is food in the cupboard, there is a pig in the sty, or hanging up in the winter, and they can have a joint off to roast when they want it. There is beef every day for breakfast, and the children run about, and grow up; and if they do not know quite as much arithmetic and algebra as they do here in the board schools, they grow up strong, and accept their conditions of life, and are bright and happy.

10031. They live better than our people?—Better.

10032. They eat more?—They eat more.

10033. Their clothing costs them 25 per cent. more?—A good deal is made of the cost of their clothing. Nominally their clothing is at a high price, but a great number of them wear homespun stuff, that will wear out what we have to pay for three times. It is quite true the life is rougher, and I know there are some disadvantages in it, but from what we know, confirmed by the personal observations of General Booth, who has now been practically twice round the world, and has had good opportunities of observing, and is surrounded by men who are disinterested, we are convinced that there are multitudes of men here who are working for a mere pittance, a hand-to-mouth existence, who might be in comparative comfort if they were transferred under favourable conditions to the colonies.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10034. State colonisation, in a word?—I would say, Salvation Army colonies. I am afraid that State colonisation would be found to have more difficulties in it than the Salvation Army colonies.

10035. You

Mr. *Logan.*

10035. You say you would recommend the State or the authorities in England to send men to our colonies, under certain conditions?—I would.

10036. Rather than keep them at home, although the great bulk of our people in this country are neither housed properly, clothed properly, nor fed properly, and there is unlimited work in this country for our own people to feed and to clothe and to house if it was only set about and done in a proper way. Do you still recommend they should be sent out to these colonies?—You are rather leading me beyond my intention by your question. I would say that, having regard to existing conditions in this country, and the great difficulties which are in the way of making any substantial changes in those conditions, and the long time it will take to make any serious changes, yes.

10037. I do not want to press you unduly for one moment, but I am one of those who hold that we could find work enough in this country if we altered the social conditions, and I want to see men like you recommending alterations of those social conditions?—I think very likely you could, but I am afraid it would take me all the afternoon to express what I think are my views on that question. I do say, however, that having regard to the present great need, the evident growth in the number of unemployed persons, being unemployed through no fault of their own, it does seem to me that the best plan is to transfer them to some other country under some such conditions as those described, for I fully believe they would be thoroughly happy.

10038. That will be in the direction of cure, not prevention?—By doing so I think you would cure in those cases you remove, and prevent a multiplication in the future, because by every man you take away you relieve the over-crowded market here.

10039. We have seen in Ireland that system carried on, not by State aid, but we have seen natural circumstances driving all the best young men and young women out of Ireland to work elsewhere, and leaving the old, and the crippled, and the maimed behind, until we see Ireland in its present wretched condition?—Another set of questions come in there again. You have certain congested districts in Ireland, and you have certain political conditions which are rather different to the conditions here. I do not think you could argue from the state of things you have had in Ireland on the state of things you have here. People have gone away from Ireland, not merely because they sought to get a living, but there have been other considerations.

10040. Still the inability to get a living here has been the chief cause?—Yes, a leading cause.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10041. Moreover, your scheme deals with those who have already failed in this country, and therefore are presumably not in the first flight, and not among the best to start with?—That is so.

10042. You are helping, therefore, to send abroad, not the best class, but the best of the class of failures?—The best of the second-best. Then I think that a great many of the best class of workers would go if they saw a fair prospect of getting into a settlement of their own, because if you take the condition of a great many of those who are classed in the first ranks of artizans and tradesmen here, when you come to add up what they really earn and the crowded conditions under which they live, there is a great deal wanting in their lives to give them a chance of happiness.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

10043. But my friend Mr. Logan's point was that you were robbing the country of some of its best blood. Your answer to that is, I take it, that your scheme really does not deal with the best of the working classes, but you are taking out the best of those that have failed, and, therefore, are only second-best?—Our scheme is primarily to take away the best amongst the surplus. We should like to take away a proportion of the best, and a proportion of the second-best, and a proportion of the worst. Mr. Logan's anxiety is that I should leave them all here, and seek some method of employment in this country. I say there may be some methods for doing that; I do not say there are not; but I have an impression that it will take a long time to get to them, and that in the meantime you ought to do something to relieve the present pressure.

10044. Now the person who enters the class of the worst. You had among your indoor paupers that you set to work 21 persons who told you they never did work and did not intend to work, and who would not work?—Yes.

10045. And you had also at your city colony a considerable proportion (it does not matter what for the moment) of idle worthless fellows, who could not be got to do any work. You take a strong view, that there ought to be legislative power to deal with that class of idlers, who simply live to prey upon society?—Yes.

10046. You know we have had some evidence about what is done in Belgium with that class?—I have not read the evidence, but I know a little about the Belgian efforts, and also in Holland.

10047. They have not only voluntary settlements, such as yours would be, but they have also penal settlements, to which people can be sentenced for one, or two, or three years or more, three years' hard labour, as it were, upon the settlement. Do you think that settlement could be introduced with advantage into this country?—I am sure the same principle could be applied with advantage; I am not sufficiently familiar with the exact working of the Belgian and Dutch beggars' colonies, and so on, to say that that exact thing would answer, but I think, with regard to the men who won't work, that principle should be applied here. There should be some compulsion.

10048. You have found yourselves powerless to deal with that class?—Quite, or very nearly so.

10049. And after bearing with them for a while, you have got no remedy but to send them adrift?—Ask them to go.

10050. I suppose, as a matter of machinery, the way you would suggest would be that you should be able to charge such a person before a magistrate?—Yes, requiring him to show he was either in employment or had some reasonable prospect of getting it, and, in default of that, give

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

give him certain notice, at the expiration of which he would be committed to a colony of some kind.

10051. I want to direct your mind to the point of distinguishing between people who are merely unfortunate and out of work and have no prospect, and people whom when you offered them work declined to do it; you would have to charge them before a magistrate with being loafers and vagabonds, as you can do now, and upon conviction they would be sentenced to a term of work in a settlement?—Yes.

10052. It was suggested here that, as a practical question, you could not discriminate really and could not decide whether a man was idle and a loafer or not; what do you say to that?—You would have to provide (that is what I meant just now) some intermediary condition; the municipality would have to be empowered to test a man's willingness to work before he was actually committed for any long term of labour. I would say, to take an illustration, here is a man who is out of employment, and has been on the poor-rate and in a workhouse, or been applying for relief for, say, six months. At the expiration of that time, it is believed by the officials appointed by the board that he will not work; he does not want to work if he can get it; he is brought before a magistrate, who investigates his case, and he says, "Now, then, you must go down for three months to so-and-so, and we will see whether you will work or not, and on the report I get about you at the end of three months I will determine what I have to do with you afterwards." He is sent down on a preliminary test for two or three months, and at the end of that time he is brought up, and if the evidence shows he will not work, he is sent for two months or two years to some colony, where he has to work or he cannot eat. During those three months many of them will set to work.

10053. The men at your colony are practically under such a test; you have got them there, and you can see whether they work or not?—Yes.

10054. And you practically have no difficulty in deciding who are the worthless loafers and who are the men who are willing to do what work they can get?—Quite so.

10055. As a practical point, do you think there would be any great difficulty in deciding on the question as to whether a man was a worthless loafer after you had some experience of his working in the fields?—No, I do not think there would be any serious difficulty.

10056. Do you think the public opinion, and particularly the public opinion among the working classes, and, let us say, even among the workless classes also, excepting, of course, the worthless ones, would support the Legislature in passing, and support magistrates and others in working, a law of that kind?—I think so. I really think the working man is the most bitter enemy of the idle man. I think his eyes are open. As I said just now, the idle loafing fellow brings discredit upon the whole community of workmen, and therefore he would support it. There would be a great howl, perhaps, on the part of a few people who go in for abstract theories of freedom; but as regards the general public they would support it, and think it a very good thing.

10057. Your view is that that class discredits the unemployed as a whole?—Altogether.

10058. And diverts public sympathy from those who are really deserving of sympathy?—Very much so indeed.

10059. With regard to any relief works, of course, that class always makes it more difficult to deal with the unemployed as a whole?—Yes.

10060. Therefore, with regard to the problem of the unemployed, if you could remove that class, as it were, to penal settlements, you would have made a considerable step in dealing with the whole problem?—I think so; simplifying the whole question.

10061. With regard to your labour colony, you pointed out that at present you had only 298 there, although you had places for 400 to 500?—Yes.

10062. Do you find that the demands upon your colony, as a rule, overrun your accommodation or are less than your accommodation?—I will say they are about equal; sometimes they are under and sometimes they even get a little over.

10063. How do the demands come?—They are made weekly by requisition from the governor, the man in charge.

10064. Where do you get your cases from; do you collect them in London and send them down there?—Yes, they are taken from the city colony.

10065. Supposing you doubled the accommodation and your labour colony was twice as big, and you had twice as many places, do you think you could keep it filled?—I think so. Of course there would be times when we should be a little below, but we could easily deal with 500 men there if we had the money and the trade.

10066. Supposing you were in a position to deal with 5,000 men, do you think you would get 5,000 men to deal with?—We should not get 5,000 in a week or two, but we should get them. I should have no fear of not getting 5,000 men and keeping them all well employed and happy.

10067. Your total cost per man per week comes to 11*s.*?—Between 10*s.* and 11*s.* it costs us.

10068. That is, of course, the money out of pocket?—No, that is his total cost; that is not the loss on him.

10069. You did not give us that figure; I think you omitted that?—No, I do not think I did give it. I must send it to you because I have not got it here.

10070. You gave it us for the city, and it came to 1*s.* 10*d.* per man per week?—Yes. It will have to be an approximate figure.

10071. You have said the food cost about 5*s.* 10*d.* a week?—Yes, 5*s.* 10*d.* is what they spend upon food, and then there is the management to go on, and then there is the money grant.

10072. That works out at a cost of about 11*s.* in all, good, bad, and indifferent, and the cost to you would be perhaps 3*s.* or 4*s.*, or something of that sort?—The loss depends upon the year's working. For instance, last year in agriculture there

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

there was no loss, because we made a slight profit, but I can let you have the exact figure.

Chairman.

10073. That is, I suppose, the difference between what you received for the produce and what you spent?—Yes, the difference would be the loss if it was on the wrong side or the profit as the case may be, and that divided among the number of men would be the net cost of the men.

10074. You do not take anything into account for rent?—No.

10075. Or rates and taxes?—Yes, rates and taxes and tithe.

10076. Or capital?—No, I have already explained that in my evidence.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10077. You set off the improvements against that for the first few years?—Yes.

10078. You will endeavour to let us have a statement that is in an intelligible form?—Yes, in the form of a schedule.

10079. Practically it will set out your total loss on the colony, and then you will give us the average of men there throughout the year, and then we will divide by that and that will give us the loss that you make per man. Do you think it is covered, to make a rough guess, by that 5*s.* which was paid in respect of these paupers?—Yes, I think so, more. I shall analyse it to show you the departments where the loss was, because that will help you in arriving at an opinion.

10080. That will come in your statement?—Yes.

10081. The reason I ask you is this: It seems if you had accommodation there it might be a valuable experiment to make to extend this system, if you were willing to take them, of sending people to you and paying so much a week for them. Would you be inclined to adopt that?—Yes, I should be inclined to go in for an extension of that if I got the opportunity, but I am afraid we should have to have some different conditions as to the working, and I should like to think it out very carefully, because it is not so easy to make men do their duty who know there is some money payment made on their behalf. Of course there are exceptions among them, because you get men who make it a matter of conscience as to what they do, and are anxious that they should help other men as well as themselves, but with the majority it would make a difference to them.

10082. They consider they are paid men?—Yes, that there is something paid on their account.

10083. Now with regard to the food and shelter part of your city colony. You make that department pay, I understand?—Yes, there is a slight profit shown last year.

10084. You deal to some extent with rather a better class of people than would go to the casual ward of the workhouse?—Yes; I think we deal with all classes of the unemployed. I think there can be found at our places every class of man from the respectable decent honest fellow who is temporarily out of employment and down on his luck, down to the merest wreck of a man.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

10085. Now I am very curious to know exactly how you make that pay?—In what form would you like it?

10086. If you can show us the elements of cost as regards the individuals and the way in which you make the labour they give you pay for their board and lodging for the day, I should like to have it?—I will make the statement.

10087. That system of food and shelter which you have worked out in this way is a system which any board of guardians or any municipality might adopt, is it not?—Yes, if they had persons to work it with kindness and sympathy and personal dealing.

10088. If you had that personal element there is no reason why that system of yours should not be entirely substituted for the present casual ward system?—None whatever.

10089. Moreover, it goes beyond that. Mr. John Burns says that pre-supposes a millennial condition that is not likely to come. Is there very great difficulty, do you think, in showing boards of guardians how to work a system of that sort?—No. We offered to take over the casual wards if they were handed over to us with the buildings; we should require the buildings, without any serious charge upon them.

10090. The casual wards throughout London?—We have offered to do that, and we are at the present moment in treaty with one of the boards of guardians for taking over their casual wards on those conditions, and I have no doubt we should be able to make the men a great deal happier and more decent than they are in many cases now. I think in some cases the casual wards are very well and fairly managed considering the class of men, but in others I think the management is execrable.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10091. And demoralising?—Cruel.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10092. Your system of food and shelter deals with the same thing as the casual ward deals with to some extent, but it also deals to some considerable extent, does it not, with the question of unemployment. You may have people come to you day after day, and in return for the work they do for you, you can let them in from day to day over the bad times?—That is so.

10093. How many people did you deal with in that way last winter?—Here is a list, which has already been put upon the Notes, of the places, the charges, and the accommodation. I am afraid I cannot give you now the number of individual cases that have been dealt with in the shelters by the officials, but I think I could supply it.

10094. It would be useful if you would do so?—There is a great deal done in that way. I may mention, for instance, one item with regard to one of our shelters last year, the largest place mentioned there; we slept there every night nearly 1,000 men in different stages. There are 300 or 400 of them pay one penny for their night's accommodation, just a seat in a warm room,

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

room, and hot and cold water, and towels, and a slice of bread. There are 200 or 300 of them who pay 2*d.* and lie down, and there are others who pay 4*d.*, and so on, a better class of men. Last year we returned to the provinces (this is one item which may be a matter of sentiment, but it goes to my heart), we sent home to their parents nearly 200 runaway youths varying from 17 to 20 who had come to London, got into trouble, spent all they had, landed in this place homeless, and just at the right moment found somebody's hands upon them. "Where did you come from? What business have you here?" "Oh, my home is in Edinburgh" or "in Manchester." "Who is your mother? What is her address?" "Here it is." And so you get it all out of them, and send them home. Of course the strength of that work is in the dealing with the individual, and we get all classes, as I said just now, of poor men.

Mr. *Logan.*

10095. Do you pay their carriage back?—In many cases we do, because we think it is a wise investment. In some cases their parents paid it.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10096. That is one of your regular losses?—Yes.

10097. And you consider it a good expenditure?—Yes; we send the youth to his own home, and his mother looks after him.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10098. We are chiefly interested in this from the point of view of the reference to us as regards dealing with the unemployed, and I was anxious, if I could, to extract your secret as to how you make these places pay, because you appear to deal with a certain class of unemployed both from the point of view of food and shelter, and to pay your way as regards that; do you include in your accounts, with regard to this food and shelter, rent, because I understand you have to pay a rent for most of these places?—Oh, yes.

10099. Have you any rent-free buildings?—I do not think we have any rent-free buildings, because they make us pay rent for every building.

10100. I think you have said that with regard to the different industries that you carry on, and the employments, you are going to furnish us with the figures of the results?—I am going to furnish you with an analysis of the trades and the proportion of men who are mechanics.

10101. I am rather anxious to see how you make both ends meet?—I will show you a return which will show you what we spend in rent, rates, and taxes, food, fuel, and labour; and, on the other hand, what the people pay and how it comes in. This for food, and that for the 1*d.* shelter, and that for the 4*d.* shelter.

10102. And as regards the number of hours, supposing a person came to you for one night's lodging and some sort of supper at night, and breakfast in the morning, what work would you set him to do?—Only in the case of the 1*d.* men. If a man has got 4*d.*, he is an aristocrat compared with some men. If he has got 3*d.* he can get a lie down, and for 2*d.*, too. It is the man who is quite penniless to whom we say, "Come in here and work."

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

10103. Then practically the 6*d.* man and the 4*d.* man pay for the 1*d.* man?—No, they pay for their own bed.

10104. Supposing you take the 1*d.* place; you have got one place where you have got accommodation for 500; do you think that place pays for itself?—I think it just about makes both ends meet.

10105. Could you give us that separately from the others?—Yes.

10106. Can you give us any idea how many hours' work a man would have to do to earn that 1*d.*?—The expert man would earn it in half an hour, and the helpless man would perhaps take three-quarters of an hour.

10107. If he brings his 1*d.*, that would cover the whole cost of the shelter?—Yes, that gives him what is described here; the use of the lavatory, a slice of bread, and a warm room for the night.

10108. That is only one place; if you give him another place, that might bring it up to 2*d.*?—A little more.

10109. There is a certain class of the lowest unemployed; you can rent a building and pay rent for it, providing accommodation and lodging and a certain amount of food sufficient for existence, and you can do all that at a cost of 2*d.* per head per day?—Yes.

10110. With regard to the match-making industry, how many men do you employ in that?—Men and women, 110.

10111. Is that an industry of an elastic character; do you think it is an industry in which you can keep your plant and everything going so as only to employ a few people at one time of the year and then expand it?—Yes, we have to do that. As I pointed out a little while ago, that is not an integral part of the scheme. It was started simply to benefit the match-box makers; from a desire to pay the match-box maker a little more money than she is ordinarily paid.

10112. Do you deal with any of the unemployed in that matter?—Not strictly. It is only the match-box makers we deal with. We employ 110 people, but it is in the ordinary way of a commercial undertaking.

10113. Have you got a factory?—Yes.

10114. And have you got the 110 all there?—No, they are not all in the factory. They come and take the work out. There are about 60 inside.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10115. They are employed under a condition that prevails in the trade having regard to a factory and external work?—Yes.

10116. There are none of the 110 who work at match-making, either in your factory or otherwise, who live either in the city colony or the shelter, or elevator?—No; they all live in their own homes.

10117. With

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10117. With regard to this question of competition, you have told us you have not undersold people in any trade?—No.

10118. There are, of course, a number of people besides Bryant and May's, and they are all competing?—Yes.

10119. And you are competing on the same terms with them?—Yes.

10120. You have already given some answer to the suggestion, but it is suggested that that competition acts unfairly, in that while you are providing work for some people you are throwing other people out of work; you have endeavoured to meet that suggestion?—Yes.

10121. Your point was this; I want to see if I have got it rightly: that these people whom you employ want bread?—Yes.

10122. And want certain things: clothes and shelter?—Yes.

10123. Instead of providing those things for themselves they make matches and sell the matches, and other people provide the food and the shelter?—Yes.

10124. Therefore, it is a mere question of exchange?—Yes; they have become, by our assistance, consumers of as much as they produce. They take off the market as much as they put on it.

10125. You are familiar with the ordinary free trade argument in this country, that we, instead of making those things we get from abroad ourselves had better make other things that we can make to better advantage, and exchange for those things we want?—Yes.

10126. You apply the same argument to this question of competition?—I think so.

10127. You say they are making things which it is convenient for them to make, and they are exchanging them in the same way with other people, instead of making the identical articles which they consume?—Quite so.

Mr. *John Burns.*

10128. I am sorry that time will only allow me to put a few questions to you. I will deal only with the farm colony. Primarily, Hadleigh colony is a moral and spiritual regenerative agency, is it not?—I must say yes to that; but I must qualify my statement in this way: I will go back to what I said at the beginning, when you were not here, which will enable you to see what we do regard the Hadleigh colony as being. The Hadleigh colony is part of a scheme. It is one limb, so to speak, of the organisation of which it is impossible to judge without referring to the other parts of the work. The city colony was constituted in order to give immediate help to certain classes of suffering persons, unemployed persons, and to do that by giving what they wanted at the moment, food and work, shelter and food, work; then to classify, and take out of them persons whom it might be possible to send abroad; send them to Hadleigh, and train them at Hadleigh, for the purpose of transferring them to the colony over the sea. We use moral and spiritual agencies for the purpose of the mending of broken people. The primary idea of the colony is to prepare men by training them in habits of discipline in agriculture and industry to get their living over the sea.

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

10129. I will put an inclusive question to you that you can answer briefly: primarily the Hadleigh colony is a moral, spiritual, and physical regenerative agency to fit men for over-sea colonies?—I think so.

10130. Incidentally in effecting its objects, work of some kind is essential to keep the men in proper order?—No; work is an essential in order to train them, not incidental; work is primarily and essentially necessary for training them for the work they will have to do across the sea.

10131. That work is absolutely essential to qualify the men for their subsequent industrial occupation across the sea?—Yes.

10132. What have been the percentages of men who have passed through Hadleigh who have gone to your over-sea colonies?—As I explained early in my evidence, I am sorry to say that the over-sea colony has not yet been established, and that, therefore, no men have been sent from the Hadleigh colony to the over-sea colony.

10133. Consequently, I may infer that the objects of the Hadleigh colony have not yet had an opportunity of being fulfilled and tested?—Quite so.

10134. Let us assume that your over-sea colony was established; what would the colonists say to it; they are not in love with the idea, are they?—I explained also in my evidence that I was unable to discuss very freely the attitude of the colonists to the over-sea colony, because we are at this moment in negotiation for land which we think will probably become the site of our settlement.

10135. I will not entangle you in official embarrassment, but, generally speaking, the average man in the street in Australia and America, even if the officials are willing that your over-sea colony should be established, do not view with any satisfaction the emigration of the physically unfit and the moral wrecks from our big cities to compete with them, even under the guidance of the Salvation Army?—The average man in the colonies has a pretty good measure of confidence in the Salvation Army.

10136. The same measure as we have here?—Yes, and he is not averse to our bringing into the colonies men whom we will undertake to supervise and fix up. What he is averse to is the helter-skelter emigration of people with no money in their pockets, and no friends behind them, who are shot down on the sea-board, and who do not know where to go and what to do, and who finish up by being left upon his hands.

10137. Supposing either the Salvation Army or the State (you of course said you preferred the Salvation Army) could plant a thousand men and their wives and families in close proximity to a big town either in America or the colonies; do you think that form of colonisation would be acceptable to the workman?—I do not, and I should not propose it. What I should propose would be to take the men and their wives and families to the colony as far as I conveniently could from a large town, settle them on land

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

which had been prepared for them roughly. We would not take the whole 1,000 at once.

10138. And then employ them entirely in agricultural operations?—I would make them as far as possible a self-contained colony, and let them get their subsistence out of the land.

10139. But you find from your limited experience at Hadleigh colony that if you once start the colonies with 40 men, it means the employment of trades and industries to keep the whole colony self-supporting. The agricultural labourer requires clothes, and a blacksmith, and a carpenter?—Oh, yes; and we would send among these unemployed men tailors and bricklayers, who would come into that colony, and whose

Mr. *John Burns*—continued.

labour would supply what is wanted by the agricultural labourer.

10140. Even in colonies, man, being a gregarious animal, likes to live in larger numbers than 10 or a dozen?—Yes.

10141. And when that colony is fully equipped, it must necessarily produce more than it can consume, because that is the curse of modern labour, that it produces too much?—I do not know that it must necessarily do it, but supposing it does?

10142. If it does, it stands to reason that the surplus commodities must enter into competition with commodities made by free labour elsewhere; is not that so?——

Tuesday, 11*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. W. H. HUNT, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

10143. ARE you Chief of the Social Department of the Church Army?—I am Secretary of the Social Department of the Church Army, which is the branch which deals with such matters as finding work for the unemployed, and so forth.

10144. That has brought you into contact with the problem of dealing with the unemployed and with distress arising from want of employment?—Quite so.

10145. In what light do you regard the problem; you regard it as being partly industrial?—Yes, as being a social as well as an industrial one.

10146. What view do you take of the methods that have been attempted in order to deal with that problem?—In this country method after method has been tried. The gaol, the workhouse, and casual ward have supplied and enforced work of a kind on the idle and erring: temperance reformers have urged total abstinence; kindly disposed men have spoken words of counsel and sought to awaken new life; reformatories and industrial schools have tried separation from previous surroundings; and night shelters and free meals have offered their quota to relieve misery. Some agencies have failed because they did not set men to work; others because they did not offer sufficient remuneration for work; others, possibly, because men had not sufficient food to enable them to do that work; some, again, because the men were allowed to tamper with intoxicating liquor; and others, doubtless, because they were without the helpful influence of comradeship, and the civilising and christianising environment of home life. These, we think, are all necessary in order to secure that self-respect and self-help which every man must have before he can make his own way again as an honest, straightforward working man.

10147. Will you tell us something of the nature of the Church Army and what it has attempted to do?—The Church Army, as no doubt some of you know, is a working men's mission to working men, and to those who are not, but desire to become working men and women. In our social operations we have accepted as one of our first laws that no ultimate good can result to the nation from any work based upon a false economic principle; and after working upon it for some years we are now able to say that the social side, at least, of the unemployed problem, once apparently so difficult, is assuredly nearer solution than it was at that time. We aim at giving men the chance to earn and eat their own bread under healthy conditions and this Christian environment. The chief unit in our work is a small labour home, comprising workshops, separate beds and bedding, with usual homely outfit, chapel, dining, smoke, and reading rooms, kitchen, stores, fumigator, and lavatories, with officers' quarters; the whole comprising sufficient accommodation for a family of twenty-five persons. It is, we think, your workhouse in miniature, humanised and christianised, which men do not regard with such abhorrence as the workhouse, but enjoy as a home, and sometimes grieve to leave when they have secured more permanent work. These small homes are placed in all quarters of the Metropolis, north, east, west, and south of England, and, though slowly, are yet continually increasing in number. Regarding London as our centre, and going westwards, we have planted them at Oxford, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth; going southward, we have them at East Grinstead, Eastbourne, and Brighton; eastwards, at Cambridge, and a test and training farm near Thetford in Suffolk; going north, we have them at Birmingham, Derby, Stockport, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, and Edinburgh shortly. Our object is to place them in the most necessitous parishes of the country, where people are least able to help themselves. Germany has so many of these labour home colonies (theirs are larger in size than ours), as to be able to announce to their country: "If a man will walk or work nine hours per day he can get food and shelter at the end of it"; and we ask ourselves why should it not be so in England? We begin by breaking up the congealment

Chairman—continued

Chairman—continued.

congealment, and detaching men from previous surroundings and companionships, allowing only very small numbers together, so that any who are suffering from the inevitable results of vicious and low surroundings by birth and dissipated habits can have the chance of honest work under better conditions. These labour homes were comparatively unknown in England until the Church Army began her social operations. The place is not a shelter where men get a night's lodging at the price of less and less labour, nor a lodging-house with a separate yard at a distance for working in during the day, but a labour home where every endeavour is made to restore or to create the idea of home life and domestic happiness. The manager and his wife act as "father" and "mother." Each worker has four substantial meals per day.

10148. You make a point of keeping the labour homes small?—Decidedly. We would infinitely prefer to multiply the number of homes than to multiply the size of any one home. That is a very marked feature in our work, and we think a very necessary one, as corroborated by all kinds of people.

10149. Will you tell us how you act in receiving those who apply for relief?—We immediately offer to every person received a real work test, and whilst this puts on the man himself more or less the measure of his relief, the system discovers to us the ability, inclination and *bona fides* of each separate individual.

11050. Will you tell us what sort of test work is applied?—Various kinds of work are given. Sometimes, and in fact chiefly in the small homes, we have the making and bundling of firewood, because it is a commodity that lends itself rather to unskilled labour of the class that we get, and it is one, moreover, that does not interfere with existing trades so much, because grocers and other people who sell it are not sorry to be rid of such a bulky commodity, and one upon which there is so little profit. But we do not by any means confine our labour to firewood making. It is governed to some extent by the smallness of the home; you may have, for instance, only to find work for one carpenter or one painter, or whatever the employment of the man may be.

10151. Do you find that the class you receive in your labour homes are mostly unskilled labourers, or do you have many tradespeople?—They are mostly unskilled labourers.

10152. For whom you find firewood-cutting suitable work?—Yes; chiefly because of the considerations I have just enumerated. One has to watch, of course, so as not to disturb other industries, and so on.

10153. You wish to put a stop to begging or indiscriminate appeals to charity?—Yes. I think if you wish to deal effectually with the whole problem, you must remember the type of the "unemployed" man who says: "It's a poor street that won't yield a penny, and it's a poor man that can't do sixty streets a day; that brings me 5*s.* a day without work." We have constantly to deal with that class of man. Those men overshadow the real unemployed, and therefore it is necessary to deal with them as delinquent folk.

10154. But supposing in this country we made more stringent laws against begging, do you think that would be a desirable thing?—I do. I think it would avoid much demoralisation of the people by indiscriminate charity, and at the same time enable you to ascertain much more exactly the number of the real unemployed. Anything which would help to arrive at the facts in this respect, whether it is a national labour bureau, or anything else, is much to be desired. I should like to mention to the Committee that about the time they sent out circulars to the mayors of towns, and chairmen of district councils, respecting the exceptional distress and the nature of relief, which, I think, was about February 16th, I questioned various of our people in the different towns already enumerated, and especially at Leeds, to ascertain if their labour home was full, and found they were half-a-dozen men short of their small complement of 25, and, although they stopped likely-looking men in the streets and offered them work, they would not hear of it, for they could, as they said, "get enough per day from the Mayor's Fund to get along with." The same may be said practically of such towns as Manchester, Stockport, Derby, Brighton, and elsewhere. That does not, of course, go to show that there was no real distress at the time; but it rather shows that if any fund of a pauperising nature is being dispensed in the indiscriminate way that many thousands of pounds were spent during last winter, it is almost unreasonable to expect men to work for what they can get without it. In our labour homes nothing is given except at the price of labour, and a daily test of willingness to work is obtained. We try to make every man feel his responsibility to earn his own living, and conform his habits to his economic surroundings. With us idlers are dismissed, and each man has to work as hard, or harder, than he would have to do out-side; and because we want to employ men we use but a minimum of machinery, and conserve hand-labour as much as possible.

10155. You do not think that these small homes will disturb trade, or interfere with it at all?—I have never known an instance of that as yet in our experience. Our labour homes, being small, are far less likely to disturb any kind of industry than if they were large; and being less expensive they can be proportionately increased in number. We set them down in the provinces so as to deter men from tramping the country or coming up to London. By the smallness of the homes institutionalism, which we believe is the bane of our workhouse system, is reduced to a minimum; individual waste is avoided, the strictest economy secured, most thorough cleanliness observed, and we can readily detect or prevent disease. A sufficiency of trade can easily be secured to keep a small home going, and by gathering up the fragments which remain, the odd jobbing work which is to be picked up round the parish, the place is not calculated to disturb existing trade, as a larger establishment might do. Moreover, the small home enables us to give individual attention, and the chance of obtaining a stronger personal influence for good over these delinquent ones. We try to combine local influence and interests with what we call our strong central government, so as to see that all

Chairman—continued.

all the institutions are working on the same lines and observing the same rules and regulations.

10156. You have, I believe, a regular organisation in your army which lays down rules and regulations?—Yes; we work through working men; every man at the head of an institution is a working man; he may not understand the economics of the thing, but if you lay down a law for its government, he will soon learn the wisdom of observing rules and discipline.

10157. Can you state some particulars of the rules under which the men work in the labour homes?—Men are engaged between eight and nine hours per day. Bank holidays and the greater Church holidays are allowed; and overtime is discouraged, so as to find work for a larger number. The men can smoke, but bad language is not allowed. Every man is expected to take a bath, and continue them regularly; to keep himself thoroughly clean and neat in his person; to become and remain a total abstainer, and make an honest endeavour to lead a good life. Of course, we feel those things important in connection with what I call the delinquent men; such things need not be observed in dealing with the better type of the unemployed. Newspapers with advertisements are provided, and leave can be obtained for the purpose of seeking a situation. Anyone leaving the home dishonourably to his companions, without an approved situation or the officers' permission, or being dismissed for breaking his total abstinence pledge, for idleness, disobedience, insubordination, or any other breach of the rules, forfeits all benefits, nor can he be again received for at least twelve months in any of the labour homes. Full pay is given for the first two months; a trifle less the third month, and less again the fourth month; that is in excess of his board and lodging. Each man is expected to do his best to obtain a more permanent situation for himself. Those rules are cast into a simple form of agreement, everything being carefully read and explained to each newcomer, who then adds his signature. Eighty per cent., at least, keep this agreement, and among other things you will see the following are secured: work is regarded as a test of character; individual responsibility and treatment; discipline inculcating habits of cleanliness, inducements to self-help, self-respect, and independence; adoption of workman's usual hours of labour (they work slightly under the 54 hours a week); innocent pleasures and amusements allowed; abstinence from intoxicating liquor; moral stimulus to live honourably towards God and man; teaching how to break bad habits and to form better, both at work and in leisure.

10158. Do you do anything to classify the men, or to make a distinction between the honest working man who is the victim of circumstances and the idle, the helpless, or the vicious?—We have, I am sorry to say, very few of those who form the better type of working man, and consequently we have felt less need for classification. Moreover, in our small homes we do not have many work together at any one time, and we have found that if there is a man of better or healthier spirit amongst them it may be a trifle worse for him, but it is much more healthy for the others to have a good influence amongst them, so that we have not classified them further than the smallness of the home would do. Of course, it would be a very easy thing to classify on the small-home principle; that is to say, classify the homes for the men.

Chairman—continued.

10159. You think it better not to do so?—We have not found the need of it hitherto. We have never had any kind of complaint from anyone that he was demoralised by what he saw and heard or had to experience.

10160. You pay, I believe, the trade rates of wages for the work that is done?—We do.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

10161. You pay the unionist rate of wages?—Yes, so far as the quality of the work will allow of it. Sometimes it is inferior work, and people would not give it us if we charged them more than its value.

Chairman.

10162. What sort of condition do you attach to the earning of wages; I mean, how much is each person expected to earn with reference to the charge fixed for board and lodging?—Every person is expected to earn six shillings per week, the charge fixed for his board and lodging; anything above this sum is set aside for the man's own use, spent in the purchase of clothes, tools, fares to next situation, emigration; or, if married, sent to help his wife and family. One shilling per week, or twopence per day, of his surplus earnings is allowed for pocket money, an arrangement of very great importance. German labour home colonies allow wages, but do not allow intercourse with the outside (without supervision), nor handling of money from the day a man goes in to the time he leaves. The Salvation Army allow men to go out, but we are given to understand that as the "truck system" is in vogue, and wages in the ordinary sense paid to comparatively few people, the advantage we secure is quite missed by them. Inebriate homes allow persons to spend money, but not to mix with the world. English poor law guardians have power to impose work, but do not pay for it in wages, and only allow their people occasional leave from the "house." In contrast to all that, the Church Army both pays wages and allows free intercourse with the outside; and by the pocket-money arrangement not only secure the test of work but also a test of a moral kind. If, for example, the worker has been a drunkard, he now knows that his present home and future prospects depend entirely upon keeping his total abstinence pledge. Every day he passes a public-house or beer-shop with money in hand he has a daily temptation, a daily fight, and a daily victory over the besetment of his life. In this way, as they are allowed to remain in the home for a period of four months, each one has a fair moral training against his former bad habits of idleness and drink. Then, again, just as a rotation of gangs, one having the first position for a fortnight, then stepping down to the second place the next fortnight, then the third place, and so forth, among waterside or other labourers, is sometimes

Chairman—continued.

sometimes adopted, so that all may share in the work obtainable at the time, and as a graduated scale of benefit is in all cases adopted by trades unions and friendly societies, so the Church Army has a rule by which the same thing is secured. Full pay is allowed for two months; then, as a little stimulus to encourage each person to seek some independent sphere of work for himself, during the third month half-pay only is allowed, in addition to board and lodging. If this does not suffice, a further stimulus is administered by allowing no pay during the fourth month to cover such luxuries as tobacco, &c., and the effect of this rule, whilst regularly discovering shiftless "loafers," has been wonderfully helpful to others. Another rule, like many trade societies, provides help for 16 weeks, after which period 12 months must elapse before another application from the same person can be entertained; that is rather with the view of throwing him on his own resources and independence. Should a situation be obtained in less than four months, and lost again through no fault of his own, he can, as in those trade societies, make a fresh application, usually receiving further help, if necessary, until the full period allowed during the 12 months has expired. Labour homes are testing, training, and standardising institutions. We have counted the cost of bad citizens, and, appreciating the economy which obtains by pure and honest principles, we urge that the stamping out of one delinquent, and making him a respectable self-sustaining member of society, does more for the nation than rendering aid of a temporary sort to 20 other persons; because probably each of those persons would find themselves in the same condition at the return of that season of the year. We make a point of improving the man's condition; by arranging everything in the way I have described, and systematising the man, so to speak; by habituating him to certain rules, and regular discipline, we help to make him better able to cope with the difficulty when it comes next time.

10163. Do you take any steps to assist the men in getting employment?—Yes; we have many agents scattered throughout the country. Of course we are an evangelistic organisation as well as a social organisation, and we have by reason of this many agents scattered throughout the country who can ascertain for us any specially busy time or place. Sometimes we try to do it by interesting afresh parents, friends, guardians, and old employers; by newspaper advertisements, and other means, to bring situations under the notice of the unemployed; and in contrast to the casual ward system, and in full persuasion that the early bird more frequently gets the worm, we send them to offer for vacancies the first thing in the morning. It is rather a point to be observed that in some kindred institutions, when men ask leave for the morning to look for regular work they lose their mid-day meal, because by going out they have not that day earned it; but to us this practice seems calculated to deter men from pushing out into independent spheres of labour. With us a man has what he earns according to the piece-work rate; and it is his own look-out if he loses a few hours in seeking permanent work

Chairman—continued.

elsewhere, but he does not lose his midday meal thereby.

10164. How do you overcome the difficulty?—With us it is the aggregate earnings of the week that pay for the food. In other kindred institutions where the truck system is in vogue each day is dealt with by itself, and the men are paid, not in cash, but by relief tickets for that day.

10165. Do you think this arrangement of yours has been successful?—Most successful, we think; and testimony seems to come from all kinds of quarters to the same effect. We think our system has demonstrated again and again, and our statistics clearly show, that there is real hope for many of the feeblest and worst; and when this is assured we think the problem connected with the more efficient and higher-typed unemployed ought to be by no means regarded as beyond solution.

10166. You mentioned just now, what we all know, that yours is an evangelistic as well as a social institution; do you mix the two branches together?—Not at all, except that the working men handed over to me by the secretary of the evangelistic department to manage the homes of the labour department are all trained evangelists who have been accustomed to labour work, and earned their own living at different kinds of work before they came. Those men are handed over to me as so many strong, useful, sensible, and godly fellows, each of whom manage one of these labour homes. There is no other connection between the two branches except so far as the other branch can voluntarily help us.

10167. I mean, do you use the homes as a means of evangelisation?—Yes, sometimes that is the case.

10168. Or do you use them merely as a means for the relief of distress?—No; we have what we call morning and evening family prayer; that is a short informal service, the same as any of us would have in our own homes. Besides that, there are two or three meetings which the men can attend if they like. It is very seldom there is anything compulsory in that way; although sometimes it is so, as, for instance, in respect of the parish church, where they are supposed to go once a week on the Sunday morning. I might also add at this point that the question of the particular form of a man's religion is not, as has been thought by many, a serious matter with us. We believe that religion helps men to lead good lives, especially the kind of men we get, and on that account we say that they should come under the influence of religion somewhere or other. If we are satisfied that a man wishes to go to mass, or to worship in another way, and we know that he does go, we allow him to do so; if not, we expect him to meet with us, at all events not to absent himself from these informal services. But no question arises, when we are employing people from the outside, as to what religion or persuasion they are of, or anything of that kind.

10169. You have not yet given us any statistics as to the numbers you deal with?—About 2,000 per annum pass through our labour homes.

10170. How is the cost of those homes borne; does

Chairman—continued.

does it involve a large drain on your funds?—Yes. I took the trouble to get out the result of our co-operation with the Poor Law guardians in this respect, and I find that for the first 1,250 people that we had from them, representing 64,406 days' support by us, we received about 113*l.* 5*s.*, which does not work out at more than six-sevenths of a penny on the average per day. So that, of course, it does involve a great drain upon our funds. Sometimes these places are partially financed by the vicar of the parish, who invites us to plant a home. We ask him to pay the officer's salary and the rent, rates, and taxes of the place, that is to say, the place in which to do the work and a man to superintend it; and we undertake to find the remainder of the working expenses from our central fund. Those working expenses we find come out on the average at about 200*l.* to 250*l.* per annum.

10171. In addition to the City Labour Homes you have other methods for dealing with the unemployed, have you not?—Yes, we have training farms, emigration work, work among women, and lodging homes.

10172. Are those in any way connected with the City Labour Homes?—Yes; sometimes, when one of these poor fellows has fallen again or broken down in some way, we do not give him up absolutely; we say that he must not come into the labour home again for 12 months, but if there is a chance of restoring him we try to get him into one of our small lodging homes, where, at the price of work, he can obtain home-like comforts and surroundings. He is obliged to work outside and do his best to obtain the necessary pence to pay for his night's lodging, and we can thus still keep touch with him. We make a point in our lodging homes of keeping the price up, so as to induce labour if we can. I am sure very much in London has been done to solidify and settle the army of loafers by the system which has obtained for the last four or five years. Until a few years ago people had to pay sixpence for a night's lodging; and then some proprietors undertook, under the name of charity, to reduce that to fivepence, then to fourpence, and then to threepence and twopence, and they diminished thereby the impetus to labour. A free shelter always seems to us to have the effect of diminishing the impetus to labour, and creating what Professor Huxley characterised as "a mighty army of shiftless loafers." He foretold that some years ago, and we took the hint at the time and have never had anything of that sort, I am happy to say, under our notice. These people, it must be remembered, are reckoned among the "unemployed." People from whom the impetus to labour has been taken away, and who say, "I can get as much food as I want for the time being for a couple of pence, and I can get a shake down for a penny; why need I work?" Very cheap lodgings, we think, have helped to settle that condition of things.

10173. Benevolence employed in that way, you think, really increases the evil?—It increases rather than diminishes the evil.

10174. You, on the other hand, try to make

Chairman—continued.

everything pay?—Yes, we do. We begin with the individual, everyone of whom must pay for what he receives. The value of that is obvious. We say at once to a man, "You are not an object of charity after you come here; you are a working man. You are going to have firewood to work at, which we would not give if we could give something else; but you are not an object of charity, but a working man from this day forth." We try to make everything pay, and do not consciously pauperise any man. By paying an equivalent each one gets something which he has earned, and, feeling that he is somebody, values it the more. We make our own homes pay, for the wood they receive from the wharf, the market rate obtaining elsewhere, and we falsify nothing. We are called a charity, though I can assure you charity is reduced to a minimum. There is a point here, perhaps, I ought to notice. There are other professed charities which have been entrusted with large sums of money on behalf of the unemployed and suffering poor; but it is clear if these lower market rates break down the means of livelihood for struggling poor, their mistaken zeal will increase the number of unemployed, and leave some people worse than before.

10175. You do not approve of taking advantage of men who are "down," and making them work for mere food and shelter?—By no means. We think it is little less than iniquitous to take advantage of men who are "down," and make them work for mere food and shelter, when, if they were fairly dealt with, and received trade rates for their work, they would, at least, also be able to purchase necessary clothing. As I have already shown you, the wages are but very small; because unskilled men are not so well able, even in cutting a bundle of firewood, to make such wages as a professional firewood-cutter; but by the trade rate even a man who has not done any firewood-cutting before can obtain what we consider necessary clothing, and a little besides for the time being.

10176. Will you say what your arrangements are for co-operation with the guardians of the poor?—We were the first to organise an extensive system of co-operation with guardians of the poor; and nowhere throughout England is there anything like as active and comprehensive co-operation with the Poor Law, for the purpose of transferring cases of able-bodied paupers from the ranks of the unemployed chargeable to the rates, than there is between the Church Army and the guardians of the poor all over the metropolis, not to mention the provinces. We have for some years been regularly and systematically visiting every casual ward and workhouse in London, and are now the only people doing so. During the last few years we have received from the London guardians one by one (I emphasise that fact) between 2,000 and 3,000 of their destitute unemployed into our small labour homes, and with good success. The direct results of this co-operation between the Poor Law and the Church Army have abundantly justified the Local Government Board in endorsing many annual subscriptions of ratepayers' money to our

Chairman—continued.

funds. There are many advantages in such co-operation.

10177. Will you name some of them?—It prevents men, women, and children who have drifted into the unions, but not yet sunken into the ranks of hopeless casuals and chronic unemployed, from doing so. Again, the workhouse is often demoralising; the labour homes always self-helping. The guardians can offer men the workhouse, but nothing more, and can do nothing to develop or encourage in them the hope of rising again in the world; whilst our voluntary system provides a sympathetic heart and hand (in contrast to those employed merely to fulfil the law, such as workhouse masters, who have chiefly to provide for paupers inside the house), and shows how, at the price of honest labour, each person, on equitable terms with others, may obtain an independent and satisfactory form of self-maintenance. Moreover, this co-operation is manifestly a clear saving to the rates (you will think so from the figures I have read out, I daresay), affording more humane treatment to the pauper class, whilst giving every able-bodied unemployed person the opportunity to leave the workhouse, and discloses whether he will do so or no when such a chance is brought within his reach. Though we are conscious that in very many cases we have prevented the public rates being exploited, we do not pose as a society for punishing offenders; but the St. Pancras board of guardians were glad to be able to use one of our homes in this way not long ago. A poor fellow in their union had two or three opportunities of maintaining himself outside the "house" under proper conditions, but, throwing himself repeatedly on the rates, was taken before the magistrates, who sentenced him to one month's imprisonment with hard labour. Some boards of guardians have emphasised this as an important precedent and most valuable to guardians, and ratepayers throughout the country, and urged us to make it known; though, as a matter of fact, we have not mentioned it from that time to this. Again, the law regarding married people usually claims that if a wife and children are wanting workhouse relief, the husband must come into the "house" with them; and though this law making an unemployed able-bodied man into a pauper chargeable to the parish and stripped of the power to vote in time of elections, seems somewhat absurd on the first blush to an economic mind, it may be more or less necessary that some such power by law should be vested in the guardians, lest the man abscond, leaving the union to provide for the wife and family. By our carefully-arranged co-operation with the guardians, this difficulty has been solved again and again, until there appears to be now no difficulty in the matter. If you contemplate a recommendation that guardians of the poor be empowered in special instances to grant relief to the able-bodied, or that relief to the able-bodied should become legal, I specially commend to you this example; for some guardians, usually inclined to discourage "out-relief" have adopted this plan. The man in question is handed over to us on the understanding that the guardians shall be made acquainted from time to time of his self-helping endeavours,

Chairman—continued.

and know in an hour or two if he should abscond. At once he ceases to be a pauper, gets a fresh inspiration of hope, and is given work by which he can pay for his own board, washing, and lodging. As we have already shown, he can easily earn a few shillings per week in addition, which may go to the purchase of clothes, tools, &c., or to the support of his family. He obtains influence in getting a situation with increased wages, where he may withdraw from parish relief, and the whole family be restored to each other and to independence.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

10178. You go on to say, in the statement which you have supplied to the Committee, "It is quite true that both our workhouse and casual ward systems are not deterrent to any person who values liberty"; ought that "not" to be there?—No; it is a misprint; the "not" ought to be erased. Then there is an interesting letter from the chairman for many years of the Paddington board of guardians, dated the 28th of January 1892 (which shows we have been doing this work for some time), in which he says, "I am instructed by my colleagues to express to you their sense of the value of the co-operation that has existed for the last few months between them and your society, and to send you the record of their experience, in the hope that it may prove of service to you in approaching other boards of guardians. For long the Paddington guardians have desired to find some means by which hope might be raised again in men who were slowly drifting towards, but not yet sunk into, the ranks of hopeless casuals. The guardians could offer them the workhouse, but nothing more; they could do nothing to develope or encourage in the men the hope of rising again in the world. Upon hearing of your labour homes, the guardians spoke about them to two male inmates who had entered the workhouse some months before, broken down through drunken, dissolute lives. Both expressed their thankfulness at the prospect of another chance of recovering themselves, and, as an experiment (and a most successful one), they were transferred, with your consent, to your home. The guardians were then able to point out to the Local Government Board the saving effected to the ratepayers by the inmates being taken off their hands, and both on the score of economy and of the wisdom of co-operating with a society that could offer to a man that which the guardians could not, viz., another chance of recovering himself, they asked for and obtained their approval of a subscription being given, under Section 10 of the Poor Law Act, 1879, to the funds of that branch of your society which dealt with Tramps' and Inebriates' Labour Homes. In Paddington the guardians have few applications for relief from able-bodied men as distinct from casuals, and so the cases sent to you have been few; but, with the results in those few cases sent, they are so fully satisfied that they hope to further co-operate with you as regards able-bodied females." They have since done so to a small extent.

Chairman.

10179. What are the results of the experience of

Chairman—continued.

of the Church Army as to the present workhouse system?—Our experience of the workhouse teaches us, in the first place, that when men are willing to work and cannot, if they have no other means of support, the poor law administration and working homes should be so arranged and classified, as to help them. I do not mean the people should be classified in the same house, which would probably increase the expense for officials, and be the source of constant irritation and soreness amongst the inmates themselves; but rather the classification of houses, say, *e.g.*, if here and there, according to the necessities of the case, one house were set apart for the poor, who being not too advanced in years wished to regain their independence; another for those physically unfit for work; and another type received such poor as have, through no fault of their own, fallen from better positions in life, and though dependent upon the rates, justly wish to end their days without being obliged constantly to witness the disgusting habits and hear the filthy talk so common in some workhouses. Such an arrangement, we think, could easily and inexpensively be effected on the principle that I mentioned about our homes. That is to say, we could as easily set apart one home for this type of person, as let a number of them mix together. That is the idea. Then, in the next place, those of the fallen and delinquent poor, who can work and will, should be handed over to voluntary agencies, such as our own; for surely no man capable and willing to do a fair and honest day's work should be left in our workhouses, as at present arranged, without the chance to obtain a livelihood outside. This kind of co-operation between the Poor Law and voluntary effort can be increased and developed to almost any extent. Then, in the next place, those who can work (that is, are physically fit and have it to do) but won't, could then, in England, as in Germany, be dealt with by the law as administered by the police. Where such homes as I have described are well-placed, no tramp nor homeless person need lack honest labour and a roof, no criminal a home and work on leaving gaol, and no inebriate a refuge from the besetting sin of his life. We have had much testimony all round from casual ward masters, and workhouse masters as well as the guardians themselves, on the subject.

10180. Those persons have discovered the advantage of your system?—Very much so indeed. One of the London casual ward masters said of it some time ago: "This is the best bit of religion there has been for many years;" and another says: "Your work sets us on a different footing with regard to the unemployed men with whom we have to deal. When a decent fellow now appears and I find it is his first time in a casual ward, I promise him one of your tickets, which puts new life into him. He does his task and sets off early in the morning to your office, when otherwise he would stay over his work until six o'clock in the evening; and I warrant that if one half of the old casuals who commenced a vagrant's life 10 or 15 years ago had had the same chance afforded them they would not be troubling me now. Such being the case, the guardians commend what it is hoped may be a vastly increased power for good all over the country."

Chairman—continued.

10181. Now will you say what remedies, broadly, you would suggest for the cure of these evils?—In the behalf of our superior and skilled unemployed, it will not be an easy matter to interfere with individual members of the community, or to oblige them to reduce their working hours; and the difficulty of making work, so as not to increase shiftlessness amongst the unemployed, is not small. But we think something may be expected of our Government departments, county, town, district, and parish councils, school boards, vestries, and indeed all public bodies, who ought always to use their best endeavours:—(1) To prevent their employés working overtime, so that a greater number of persons may thereby obtain work. (2) To make a point of reserving what work they can for the unemployed season of the year. (3) To avoid under-cutting or unfair competition with others in the market. If I may give an example, I should like to say that a London Board of Guardians are asking tenders for "the very best yellow deal and batten ends for cutting up into firewood," which but comparatively few firewood bundlers on the market can afford to pay for in the ordinary way of trade. It is a mere item, I know; but one is inclined to think the usual class of firewood might answer quite as well for use in the "house;" it would possibly require a little more manipulation (there would be less stone-breaking if there was more time spent in this way), and be quite as useful work for those who have it to do, and at the same time save the ratepayers' money. But some unions, in addition to buying the very best wood, also use public money to sell it lower than other people in the local trade can possibly do, and the mischievous consequence is manifest to all. Only the other day did I hear the master of a certain workhouse say he could invariably make his firewood business pay, as he always considered he got his labour without any cost, except a trifle for tobacco or snuff. That is just an instance in point.

10182. That spirit you entirely disapprove of?—Yes. That is what I was pointing out just now. The master of the workhouse is a working-man, and no doubt does not see the force of all this; he supposes he gets his labour without cost, except a trifle for tobacco or snuff. In the next place, I should like to see an experiment made on the land in the way of small labour colonies, chiefly for unmarried people, and small holdings for married people, with or without families. Everybody knows that the influx of agricultural hands from the country has considerably increased the number of unemployed in our towns; and it is obvious, we think, that if, from any means, the settlement of individuals and families on the land can be facilitated and encouraged, the settlers would probably not only be consumers of their own labour but the plan might also, in the first place, deter agricultural folk from leaving the country for the towns. In the second place, it might enable many of those who, having previously

Chairman—continued.

viously left the country, and spent their "life" of five years as "dockers," or in similar work in towns, and have now to give place to fresh blood, to get back to the land. In the third place, it might afford the chance to many other labourers, and less skilled artisans, now in want, to obtain necessary food, with some prospect at least of increasing the value of their labour each succeeding year. In the fourth place, it might prepare some people for emigration; and, lastly, it might accentuate the value of all kinds of skilled labour. Agriculture is said to be at the root of all our industries. I think, on this account, it is desirable to try what it can do for us, and make a real endeavour to get back therein as many people as we can, "where each one's labour," as Sir John Gorst said the other day, "enriches the nation, does not lessen the earnings of his fellow-workman, and engages him in an industry in which there cannot be over production."

10183. Have you had any actual experience of a farm colony?—We have had some experience, but very slight, and we are not yet able to tabulate results. We have been about it for some years, but there has been a good deal of delay; the chief person interested in the land we acquired has been abroad a good deal, in and out, and there has been no chance of getting the business permanently through. We are therefore not able to tabulate results at this moment.

10184. Does that complete the suggestions you have to make?—No, there is another which I scarcely like to name to you; but I may say I think it would be a very useful thing indeed in connection with the unemployed problem, especially in connection with the superior type of the unemployed, if a Minister of Labour were appointed, and a national labour bureau arranged; the latter for the collection from thoroughly efficient and reliable sources, and the dissemination of facts and statistics; and the former who might, amongst his other duties (and especially amongst his colleagues, who stand at the head of our various Government Departments) always bear in mind the question of the "unemployed."

10185. You are aware, are you not, of the organisation that exists at the Board of Trade in the Labour Department?—Yes.

10186. Perhaps you have a larger belief than some of us may have in the efficacy of the establishment of a Minister at the head of a department. It is a natural feeling, but I do not know that with some of us who have sat a long time in the House of Commons that superstition is entertained so strongly as it is entertained outside?—Yes.

10187. You wish, in fact, to have a properly organised department of some sort dealing with the subject?—Quite so; that is really the point.

Mr. *Logan.*

10188. Do you think if we took as much trouble in training men to work as we take in training men to fight, possibly our work might be done rather better?—Quite so. I think another great advantage would be that that Minister would be able to influence his colleagues at the head of various Government Departments

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

(as we have to do so in a small way ourselves) so as to secure a certain proportion of work, in the different departments, being kept for the winter time. It is as one comes into living touch with the people that one is able to help them; that is what we find; and a Minister of Labour at the head of affairs might be able to claim more consideration for such a subject as that which this Committee is considering, than one who merely represents the getting together of statistics would be likely to do. I think, too, perhaps, if the Government policy were known on certain subjects it would help very often to settle labour disputes.

Chairman.

10189. I understand you to think that what you call the "delinquent unemployed" are those who should be dealt with first?—Yes; economists tell us that "unemployment means under-consumption," and I think myself that absence of work is not only the object which has brought your Committee together, but your whole difficulty. It is natural for an economist to ask us, must not any real remedy for the present distress show how it will operate in raising the standard of consumption before it can establish any claim to have materially affected the problem. I represent to you the social side of this great subject, and before now I have been asked, "Why do you try to put these fellows back into the market to displace those who have never fallen?" which I submit is a very pertinent question, indeed, if the assumption on which it is based, that there is only a certain amount of work in the world, be true. But it should be remembered that every good man in the market creates work, and makes possible work somewhere else, and so increases the market. The greater the number of good men there are in the nation the richer the nation must be. When, therefore, we raise a man socially and religiously we create new desires and necessities, and make of him a fresh consumer, requiring better food, clothes, housing, &c., &c., than he used to do. I think that if for the present you were only to deal with the delinquent unemployed it would be a sound policy in the same way as in our own system, and you would act advisedly in the matter of economics, minimise your charges upon the public purse, and again accentuate the value of all kinds of skilled labour, and have gone a long way towards the solution of the problem by clearing out those men who live on the fringe so to speak of the labour market, ready to accept work almost at any price.

10190. Would you go on stating your general conclusion?—Our present Poor Law administration, I understand, is not for finding work for the unemployed, but for the avoidance of distress generally, arranging that the condition of the pauper while in the "house" shall be made less eligible than that of the independent labourer, and sometimes taxing the energies of the recipients in the cause of his relief; and I take it the object of this Committee is chiefly the avoidance of distress from want of employment, and not the finding of work in the winter for those who have enough or more than enough,

and

Chairman—continued.

and work many hours overtime at other seasons of the year. In either case, I am sure you will find that on arriving at a solution of this great subject, there is no road along which you can travel with your multitude at express speed. If, therefore, before recommending that Imperial funds be expended to any large extent on an agricultural experiment in the country, or small labour homes for the towns, you prefer to try on a small scale what can be done with good or bad men, or both, from amongst the unemployed, we can help you, and herewith offer you two or more of our labour homes according to the classification you desire, operating on the principles which I have already described, and by which you would be able to offer relief on the spot, discriminate idlers from workers at a minimum cost, and before incurring the expense of sending them on to the land. I can also offer one of our farms, 190 acres in extent, about 160 acres of which are arable, part of which can be worked by your superior and the other by your inferior men. We might increase the acreage, and even more definitely separate the men for you, if necessary. I should suggest that the existing machinery, say, some guardians of the poor, select them, and that, as their stay will, I suppose, be voluntary and not compulsory, the people sending them (for the reason I have already given by the few figures I have quoted) should be asked to pay during the experiment a sum not exceeding the rate of 8½*d.* per day for each man whilst he continues in the home or on the farm; and the experiments on the land, if you wish, may, in view of next winter, be begun at once. The necessity of such experiments on the land is recognised in the Report on the Unemployed of 1893; in the Reports of the Mansion House Conferences 1887–88, and 1893; and the Minority Report of the Royal Commission on Labour, where it is stated: "Sufficient trial has, we believe, not yet been made to warrant any conclusive judgment as to the extent to which this method of relieving exceptional distress can safely be carried, and the manner in which it may be best applied. Any reasonable experiments by local authorities should therefore be encouraged and welcomed by the Local Government Board. They should, however, be regarded frankly as experiments, and we attach the greatest possible importance to their working and results being exhaustively investigated and recorded, not by any of the persons concerned, but by impartial experts of the Labour Department. Only in this way can we hope to make the experiments useful in the solution of a problem, which, in our opinion, ranks amongst the most difficult of those presented to us." Then, again, such an experiment would be in character with the final Report of the Royal Commission on Labour, which states that "the employment by public authorities of surplus labour for the produce of services of which there is no existing demand, is so closely connected with the subject of Poor Law and its administration that it seems to be excluded from the scope of the inquiry with which we have been entrusted. We think that if an investigation of the practicability of municipal workshops or agricultural home colonies

Chairman—continued.

with this end in view should be considered desirable, it should be undertaken separately in general connection with the subject of the reform of the Poor Law." Moreover, the experiment would further enable you to adopt in substance a series of resolutions passed not long ago by the London and District Poor Law Officers' Association; to give practical effect to the recommendation of several witnesses before this Committee who have already made the suggestion, and provide—(1) That the unemployed shall be dealt with by your present Poor Law administration. (2) For the development of the workhouse system (though I still urge classification upon you) without any weakening of its safeguards. (3) The means for boards of guardians co-operating with organised voluntary effort in cases of exceptional desert. (4) An economical experiment on a small scale already well tried for years in some respects, by many Poor Law guardians, for dealing with out of-work cases of the better sort who now suffer privation rather than resort to the Poor Law. (5) An agricultural home for the country and labour homes for the towns established by a voluntary organisation commanding public confidence with a view to determining whether such institutions can be made the means of effectually testing, training, and improving the condition of any number of the unemployed. (6) Against boards of guardians entering into relation with voluntary bodies for the mere provision by the latter of a maintenance possibly more eligible than in the workhouse, to able-bodied destitute persons. (7) That such co-operation be strictly confined to selected cases of desert by the guardians with the definite object and intention of redeeming them from a condition of dependence. (8) That the experiments so made should in their working and results be exhaustively investigated and recorded by the impartial experts of the Labour Department.

Mr. *Acland.*

10191. In speaking of your homes, as not being in the nature of charities, do you mean to indicate that they are self-supporting?—No, I say the charitable element is reduced to a minimum in them. Of course, we cannot make them absolutely self-supporting, for reasons which to us are very well known. A man comes to us who does not understand wood-cutting, and although he can earn just enough to keep himself and regard himself as a working man he cannot earn very much more than will clothe him, and for a little while when he first comes he can scarcely earn his own board and lodging. That period passes away, but soon after we have to face the difficulty of not allowing him to rest upon us indefinitely, so that we have the rule which I described in operation for just putting the screw on at the end of three or four months to help him out to an independent sphere; that again means that when he becomes more or less skilled and able to do his work, he has to be moving on elsewhere.

10192. Then there is and of course must be an element of charitable contribution for the maintenance of your system?—Yes; I think there would have to be in any system of the kind some-

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

thing to provide for those who on first coming to you are unable to do the work you can give them unless, indeed, you raise the price of their work.

10193. What is the actual number the homes will accommodate?—Each home accommodates from 20 to 25; they vary slightly.

10194. I mean the total number adding all the homes together?—About 2,000 per annum pass through the homes.

10195. What would be the total on any given day?—There are not 2,000 of them at any given time, because they leave us about every three months.

10196. I understood you to say that 2,000 had passed through your homes in the year?—Yes; but they are not all there at one time.

10197. I want to get at the number which the homes taken altogether accommodate?—If you divide the 2,000 by four, you would get the number we have at any given time.

10198. That would be about 500?—Yes, they stay about three months each on the average.

10199. Are you able to trace them after they leave?—Many of them; some we are not, they will not let us know when they get a situation, because they think there is a certain stigma on the place that might attach to them.

10200. At the end of three or four months you part with them?—Yes.

10201. Under all circumstances?—Yes; at the end of four months, because almost invariably they can get a situation if they have any push in them; they can get some sort of temporary or more or less permanent work.

10202. If they fail to get work, you still adhere to your rule?—We are obliged to have a law, for many reasons; it must be an inflexible law, otherwise they would take advantage of it.

10203. Do you find, to your knowledge or to the knowledge of your officers, that the bulk of them do get employment?—At least 50 per cent. of the men we deal with get employment.

10204. Do you think that a good deal of that employment becomes of a permanent character?—Much of it does, I am sure.

10205. Does the strictness of your rules as to their conduct when they are in your homes lead men to leave; I mean the fact that they must conform to certain rules?—No, I do not think so; 80 per cent. of them keep the agreement they make with us.

10206. A certain number drift away, I suppose?—A certain number do drift and others make trouble for us.

10207. Are you going to develop your farm colony?—Yes, we certainly mean to develop it.

10208. Will you fill it up from your homes?—Yes, or from the ranks of the unemployed most assuredly. Of course, we can use these homes, and we do so for the purpose of testing first of all whether the men mean to work at all; then when we are sure they will work, we pass them on to the farm colony; that is the theory.

10209. Do you think you have men in the towns who will be willing to remain on the land in the colony?—If it is made possible for them to do as well as they can in the labour homes in the towns, and as they are now doing in the labour homes in the towns, which is not a very difficult matter.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

10210. Would your idea be to keep them on the land for a time, and then bring them back to the town?—No, to try to keep them on the land permanently, and some of them would continue there, with a view to emigration. We test in that way whether they would do well if they went abroad.

10211. Do you assist them to emigrate?—Yes. That is another branch of our work.

10212. When you have your agricultural colony developed, do you think a certain number would take to an agricultural life?—Yes.

10213. How do you find that out?—We have some now who seem right glad to get back to the land; they are upon it at this moment.

10214. Even already?—Yes. This is not the place, of course, for sentiment, but we have some men who are really rejoiced to get back to the land.

10215. You have already some work going on in the rural districts, have you?—Yes; but as I say, it is not in such a condition as that we could tabulate the results.

10216. So that you do not give us full particulars as yet as to that work?—No. I only mention the fact, and say that our success so far warrants our going further.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

10217. In relation to the question which this Committee is sitting to inquire into, would you give us information as to how your homes would affect the employment of the unemployed?—Our homes are only designed for helping the delinquents, if I may repeat the word, amongst the unemployed, but by removing them from the ranks of what I may call the real unemployed, we accentuate the value of their labour at the same time.

10218. But, during this last winter, I do not refer to the frost, but speaking of trade generally, you are aware that there have been thousands of men out of work in nearly every trade in the country?—Yes.

10219. How would your homes affect the employment of those men?—I do not think the homes would affect them, because the homes are not so extensively developed; we have 25 men in a home, and if we are only supported at the rate of six-sevenths of a penny by the Poor Law funds for maintaining each of these men per day and setting them to work to help themselves, we clearly could not very largely develop any such system at such a rate.

10220. Then may I take it that your system is simply to gather up what I may call, without disparagement, the wastrels of life and make men of them?—Yes.

10221. And that really it would have no effect in times of extra depression such as those through which we have passed this last winter?—It would have no very great effect unless the number of homes were so great as to receive the unemployed of all classes.

10222. Still, if there was not work in the country for the whole of the men who were in the trade willing to work, how would you find places

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—*continued.*

places for them?—That is a point I made myself in my previous evidence.

10223. Could you explain it to us a little further; take a trade in which I know to-day there are 4,000 men out of work; how would your homes affect the employment of those men?—I do not see how they would meet that problem.

10224. Then may I put it that your homes are simply to act on the normal condition of things to gather up those who have gone down to the lowest fringe of society?—Yes, as well as in the abnormal times.

10225. That is what I want to get at. We are in abnormally depressed times at present?—Yes; but still the point, if I understand you rightly, is what is the type of person our homes are designed to help.

10226. I will put it this way: we have had evidence given before this Committee as to the large number of tin-plate workers thrown out through the depressed state of that trade; there are, we know, a large number of miners and generally tradesmen of all kinds out of work; how would the augmenting of your homes affect the employment of those men when there is not work for them at the present time in their trades?—We could not find tin work for them to do.

10227. Take miners?—We could find no mining work for them to do.

10228. Take engineers?—We could not find any engineering work.

10229. I might go through a catalogue of trades whom you could not supply with work?—Quite so.

10230. You would only affect the lowest class of unskilled labour and agricultural labour?—Yes; the real advantage to those out of work in those trades would be that the loafing class would be removed, and the nation would see how many there were unemployed in the tin work trade or the engineering trade.

10231. Still here is the fact staring us in the face, that there are thousands of tin workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire out of work; and here is another fact, that thousands of miners are out of work to-day and the same applies to the engineers; how would your labour homes affect the employment of those men?—They would not find them employment.

10232. They would still have to be out of employment as far as your homes were concerned?—Yes.

10233. Therefore am I correct in saying your homes would not affect the special question which this Committee is considering?—Only so far as it would affect the social side of the question, the loafing classes.

10234. I quite agree that every man who consumes affords employment; and if you make a man a buyer you make him an employer of labour in a small way; but I want to see how your homes would affect the employment of these men?—Of course looking at it from my point of view whether the times are good or bad you have the loafing classes with you.

10235. Let me draw your attention to a statement you make on page 7, of the Paper with

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—*continued.*

which you have furnished us. You say: "Those who can work (are physically fit and have it to do) but won't, could then in England as in Germany, be dealt with by the law as administered by the police." Would you make it criminal to be lazy?—No, that is not the idea at all.

10236. Would you explain what the idea is?—I have given you an illustration of the idea on page 6. The St. Pancras Board of Guardians had a poor fellow in their Union who through one of our homes had two or three opportunities of maintaining himself outside the "house" under proper conditions, but throwing himself as repeatedly on the rates was taken before the magistrate, who sentenced him to one month's imprisonment with hard labour. It was wilfulness on the part of that man; it was not idleness merely, but it was wilful idleness, therefore he brought himself under that ban.

10237. Has it not come within your experience that there are a number of men, fathers of families, even in flourishing times who will not work, and their families are in destitution?—Yes, quite so.

10238. How would it be with that class of man?—I do not know.

10239. They do not go to the rates, but they live on the vagrancy of their children, do they not?—Yes.

10240. How would you deal with that class?—I daresay you would have to make some special law dealing with special classes.

10241. I see you refer to the Government Department on page 8 of your proof, where you speak of Government Departments, county, town, districts, and parish councils; can you give us any idea how you would apply the Government Departments to the employment of the unemployed?—Some of the ways I have indicated; they might watch the work they have for disposal, and as they represent the public, consider public need and welfare in the very best way they possibly can. For example, if they know there is plenty of work in the summer-time for a certain class of workmen, from whom they require work during the year, they might easily keep their work, or defer some of it, at least, until the winter.

10242. Would not that then increase the volume of the unemployed in the summer time in the Government Departments?—I do not think so, because many people are so often working overtime in the summer.

10243. Then would you enact that no man should work overtime?—I think that would not be an unwise thing in the Government Departments.

10244. That is to say, suppose men are working two days a week overtime, you would arrange that they should work six ordinary full days?—Yes, if possible.

10245. And that would spread the work over a greater number of persons, would it?—Yes.

10246. Is that what you mean by the application of Government Departments?—Yes.

10247. With regard to the Minister of Labour, about which you speak on page 9, and the raising of a national bureau, how do you think that would affect the unemployed question?—I think facts would be obtained, in the first place, very

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—*continued.*

likely by a national labour bureau, and there would be some pains taken to obtain them and to disseminate them, and there would be, I think, much more real inquiry if there were a Minister of Labour appointed than if the Board of Trade merely get together a certain number of facts.

10248. He would then be different from the Secretary of State for the Home Department or the President of the Board of Trade, would he, according to the way you sketch it?—Yes.

10249. Would he have the manipulation and the employment of men; is that what you mean?—I should like to see that. I think that anything which would lay hands on as much labour as possible in the Government Departments and equalise them for certain seasons would be a good thing.

10250. Taking the War Department at the present time, would the Minister of Labour be any better qualified to arrange the employment of men than that department?—That of course would be a matter of arrangement between the two heads of departments as to which I could not speak. I have no knowledge of the internal arrangements.

10251. I thought as you had indicated one remedy, namely, appointing a Minister of Labour, you would want him to have the manipulation and arranging and allocating of the labour in the Government Departments?—I do not see how he could go into every other Government Department and say "you must do this and do that," but he could arrange with his colleagues, no doubt, and there would be proper attention given to the subject if there were a Minister for the purpose.

10252. Would he be above them?—No, of equal rank, I should say.

10253. I may as well leave that to the departments to work out. On page 10, I see you speak of 8½*d.* per day for each man whilst he continues in the home. Is that 8½*d.* per day for each man to be exclusive of his board?—No; it is to be a sum "at the rate of and not exceeding." Our plan is not to ask (and we have never had) a grant from the boards of guardians at the rate of 5*s.* a week, which you will see this works out at, nor would we wish it, but if a man by doing his best could not earn 6*s.* a week for a week or more, we should say that it ought to be supplemented, so that we were no losers.

10254. Taking the typical case of a man in the workhouse, would you take him and put him on to your farm, providing the guardians gave you 5*s.* as an auxiliary?—Yes, or, providing the guardians saw we were no losers. I do not think we ought to go to the public and ask for voluntary subscriptions to save the guardians paying what is fair and just.

10255. So that they should guarantee 5*s.*?—Guarantee anything not exceeding that; but they would be shown what the man's labour was worth, and so on.

Mr. *Round.*

10256. You mention the test and training farm at Thetford, do you not?—Yes.

10257. Have you any particulars to give about

Mr. *Round*—continued.

that?—No. As I have said, we have only just taken it up within the last few months, and are not able to tabulate results.

10258. How large is it?—We have two farms there of about 550 acres altogether. The one to which I have been referring is 190 acres.

10259. Are they separate farms?—Yes, quite separate.

10260. Are they in cultivation?—Yes, they are in cultivation.

10261. Are they cultivated in the ordinary way?—Yes.

10262. Did you purchase them, or how did you obtain them?—We have had one handed over to us by Bishop Wilkinson, who has undertaken to raise some of the purchase money.

10263. What about the necessary stock?—We have found that ourselves from voluntary subscriptions.

10264. And you have no particular results arrived at?—No; certain facts are already making themselves apparent, and for that reason we would recommend the experiment being tried.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

10265. How many months exactly have you been carrying the farms on?—I think we commenced about the spring of last year; but it is more or less in a tentative condition.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

10266. Have you no facts which you can give the Committee as to these training farms?—None which we can tabulate, but we have some facts which we have learnt as to the healthfulness of such as cheme; for example, we have men who used to earn, say 9*s.* or 10*s.* per week, in our labour homes, some of whom we have sent down, and we allow them that rate of pay; they are delighted with their life and are satisfied and contented.

10267. And they are earning 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week as agricultural labourers, are they?—Yes.

10268. I suppose you have had to train them to some extent?—That is part of the business. Of course, some of them have been already on the land.

10269. At all events you can give the Committee no actual experience of the working of your training farms?—No.

10270. Would you kindly turn to page 7 of your printed proof; you will see about two-thirds down the page the words "our experience at the workhouse teaches us"?—Yes.

10271. Are those your own words or the words of the chairman of the Paddington Board of Guardians; I am not quite clear?—They are my own words.

10272. Then it is the experience of the Church Army of the workhouse which teaches you A, B, and C; is that it?—Yes.

10273. I do not quite follow what you mean by A., that when men are willing to work, and can't?—I mean when they are physically infirm; unable to work in that way.

10274. Are those men whose lack of employment is due to physical causes?—Yes.

10275. The second clause, Clause (*b*) are those of

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

of the fallen and delinquent poor whom the Church Army specially deals with?—Yes.

10276. And is class (*c*) the idlers whom you would have dealt with by police regulations?—Yes. Of course the very point of our existence means that we would give them every chance.

10277. If they have done their four months with you, and gone out and made no attempt to get work, then you would hand them over to be dealt with by the police, would you?—I do not think those sort of men would stay with us four months; they would not be able to stay with us. They would be men who absolutely refused to work, and that would be discovered before the four months had expired.

10278. Are they the people who have had so much mischief done to them by the reduction in the price of lodgings?—Some of the people undoubtedly.

10279. And are they the people who do not meet with employment, but who personally suffer very little distress because their standard is very low?—Quite so.

10280. And, therefore, in dealing with any question of distress from want of employment, we need not take them so much into consideration, you think?—Not so seriously as compared with other classes, I should think.

10281. I do not think you gave the Committee any idea of the cost of your homes, did you?—Yes, I tried to state it to the Chairman. We reckon that the initial expenses are covered by about 100*l.*

10282. Is that the cost of starting each home?—Yes.

10283. What are the working expenses?—The working expenses are between 200*l.* and 250*l.* per annum.

10284. That is a home for 25 men, is it?—Yes, through which about 120 to 150, on the average, pass in the course of the year.

10285. Can you let the Committee have a balance sheet or anything showing how those figures are arrived at?—Yes, with pleasure; I will hand it in afterwards.

10286. I think you make it a condition, do you not, that those in the homes should be paid a standard rate of wage?—Yes. I must qualify that answer. That is as far as the quality of their work will allow. I mean to say that I could not possibly say that every carpenter or every man that could do a little carpentry gets the full price a man outside in regular work would get.

10287. Can you tell me what would be the average weekly earnings of a man in your homes?—Chiefly at fire wood cutting, 9*s.* or 10*s.* is the average.

10288. Is the work done chiefly firewood cutting?—It is chiefly firewood cutting.

10289. If a tradesman comes in can you find work for him at his own trade?—Very often we can, or at least for some part of the week, and his wages will increase accordingly.

10290. But you cannot at all guarantee him it, can you?—No.

10291. He must take what he can find, must he?—Yes.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

10292. Which may be the lowest type of rough work?—It may be.

10293. You do not guarantee him any more than that, do you?—No.

10294. And working eight or nine hours a day at that he is able to earn, at the most, 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week?—Yes, unless he gets work for some part of the week at his own trade, or some superior work.

10295. Do you give him the advantage of that?—Yes.

10296. I did not understand from your answers whether the man will be employed at what I will call a union rate of wage at his own trade for eight hours a day all the week long?—No, we cannot undertake to do that; if we could, we should be in this dilemma. Great numbers of men would be coming to us instead of trying to push about outside.

10297. You speak, on page 3, of a simple form of agreement which each man is expected to sign?—Yes.

10298. Have you a copy of that with you?—No.

10299. Will you let the Committee have a copy of it subsequently?—Yes.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

10300. How many homes have you in London?—Eight, I think, of this sort.

10301. How many London boards of guardians have co-operated with you. There are 30 boards of guardians altogether. I should like to know what proportion have co-operated with you?—Twenty-six of them.

10302. Have they all co-operated?—Yes; not to the extent of paying money to us in any way, but we visit them. Our arrangement consists in sending representatives every day to visit the various workhouses and casual wards all round London, and this we do whether they pay anything or not.

10303. Is that done with the sanction and approval of the 26 boards of guardians?—Yes.

10304. Will you tell me how many boards of guardians have sent men to you for whom they have paid?—They never pay per head for individual cases. They give us an annual subscription in some cases, such as Paddington and Lambeth, 10 guineas; Marylebone, St. George's, Islington, St. Pancras, Holborn, and Wandsworth, give us five guineas each. The total sum comes to 113*l.* 5*s.*, as I have said.

10305. Are you aware that in some cases some London guardians have sent men to the colonies at Hadleigh, and paid 5*s.* a week with them?—I have seen it in the newspapers. I know nothing beyond that.

10306. Have you ever suggested to a London board of guardians they should ever make a similar arrangement with you?—No, we have not, because our idea is rather to tax the man's own energy as much as possible. You will notice in this statement I say, "up to and not exceeding a rate of 8½*d.* per day." I would far rather have what the man can himself earn supplemented, if he is doing his best, by a trifling sum. I think it is a better arrangement, and one with which ratepayers could not quarrel.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

10307. But at present you have not any such arrangement, have you?—No.

10308. You have not a payment of so much per man per day, have you?—No; the getting out of these figures has made a revelation to me which will lead to further action in that respect, I daresay.

10309. I understand that four months is the maximum time any one may stay with you, is it not?—Yes.

10310. Do the bulk of the men who come stay the full time of four months?—No; the average is three months.

10311. The average is three months and the maximum is four months, is it?—Yes.

10312. With regard to the results, you have not told the Committee anything definite about the permanent results, have you?—About 50 per cent. of the men we take get a fresh start in life, and about 80 per cent. keep their agreement.

10313. You say about 50 per cent. get a fresh start in life, do you?—Yes; that is to say, they get a situation of some kind.

10314. What becomes of the other 50 per cent.?—I am afraid we do not know what becomes of them.

10315. Do they leave either through mis conduct or by expiration of time?—Quite so; very few from expiration of time.

10316. Do you follow up the 50 per cent. who get a fresh start in life?—We follow them up as far as possible, but, as I have already said, some of them do not care to let us know too much about them afterwards, lest there should attach to them a sort of stigma.

10317. How many are you able to follow up?—I could not tell you exactly at this moment.

10318. How many come back to you?—Very, very few indeed.

10319. How many again become chargeable to the Poor Law?—Very few. We do hear occasionally of men who have thrown themselves out going back to the workhouse, and this case I have instanced is one such. They made careful inquiry to see really whether he had been trying to work; we had given him already two chances, and it was proved beyond dispute that it was a case of wilful idleness, consequently he was taken before the magistrates. There are extremely few we hear of. I should think 5 per cent. would be quite as much as we know of who come back. Of course we may not always be apprised of them.

10320. As I understand, referring to your concluding suggestions, you contemplate that the initial machinery to bring men to you shall be the Poor Law?—Yes.

10321. So that, so to speak, the man must pass under the yoke of the Poor Law, become a pauper, in fact, before coming to you?—He begins as a pauper, I take it, when he applies for relief, or would you not say, when he goes into one of their institutions?

10322. At all events he becomes a pauper when he receives relief in any form?—Yes.

10323. And, as I understand, up to the present moment, you have been taking paupers in the full sense of the term, that is to say, out of casual wards and so on?—Quite so.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

10324. Is that the initial machinery which you contemplate in the future?—No; I was supposing that some arrangement could be made for dealing with this sort of people before they go into the house at all, after the guardians were satisfied that such men ought to be dealt with.

10325. But the point is this, the guardians would only become aware of the existence of these people, in the ordinary course, by an application for relief, would they not?—Yes.

10326. So that practically they have become paupers, have they not, or are about to become paupers, at any rate before you intervene?—But I gave you the case of a married man. He applied for help at Paddington, and the guardians took the wife and children and handed over to us the man. He is not a pauper. For the time unfortunately his wife and children were obliged to be.

10327. He is a pauper in the eye of the law, is he not?—Yes, but we saved him from the workhouse.

10328. You saved him from the workhouse, but you did not save his wife and children from the workhouse unfortunately; is not that the weak point?—Of course that is the weak point; but I should imagine it would not be a very difficult thing for guardians to make some arrangement for allowing such a family supplementary help, meanwhile not requiring the man to pass through the union.

10329. With regard to the use of the criminal law in the case which you cited, the typical case, the man had brought himself within the reach of the criminal law by becoming chargeable to the rates, had he not?—By wilfully repeating the act of throwing himself on the Poor Law.

10330. But the essence of the case is that he had become chargeable to the rates, is it not?—Yes.

10331. Do you propose to limit the use of the criminal law to cases where the person charged has become a burden on the rates. A person may be an idler, a wastrel, a burden to society, and a trouble generally, without being actually chargeable on the rates, and my point is this: do you contemplate that a man should make himself chargeable to the rates before he comes within the reach of the criminal law, as you desire to have it?—If he violates in some way or other an existing law, I do not see how you can help it.

10332. But, as I understand, you want to punish the man who is idle?—The man who wilfully throws himself on the rates when he can avoid it.

10333. Then the essence of the case is, he becomes chargeable to the rates?—Yes.

10334. Unless he becomes chargeable to the rates in some form or other, you do not think idleness should be a criminal offence, do you?—Unless he does a wrong to society, or violates some law. If a man thieves, for example, he gets himself into trouble.

10335. Take the case which is attracting a great deal of attention at the present time, of tramps, who go wandering about the country; take the case of a man who never goes into a casual

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

casual ward as many do, but who passes the night in the open air or in a lodging house; would such a man, according to your view, be a proper subject for the criminal law to interfere with or not?—The criminal law does interfere with him as a vagrant, doesit not?

10336. But he will have either to beg, or to sleep out?—Yes.

10337. Unless he does one of those two things, I do not think the law could very well get at him; do you wish to extend the law beyond the point to which it reaches at present?—No, I should not say so.

10338. Then all you want is a more stringent exaction of the existing law against vagrancy and mendicancy?—Yes.

10339. Do you think the law at present strong enough, but that it is not properly put into execution?—Yes.

Mr. *Logan.*

10340. Do I understand that at no time you have more than 500 men in your homes?—Yes.

10341. Could you increase those homes indefinitely?—Yes.

10342. If you do so, would you suggest to the Committee that that would in any way assist the solution of the unemployed question in this country?—No; as I have already said, I should say that it would deal much more effectively with the socially delinquent classes of the unemployed, and that it would reveal the real state in respect of the others.

10343. I understand your answer to Mr. Wilson to be in that direction, but I was not quite sure whether I gathered it you increased your homes, you might not possibly deal with the unemployed; do I understand as your homes are now constituted you simply deal with the loafer?—Yes.

10344. And not with the honest working man, who is anxious to work and cannot get it?—That is so, except in comparatively few instances.

10345. So that really the suggestion which you have to make to this Committee to assist them in framing a report is to be found, is it not, on page 8 of your proof of evidence, where you say that you think something might be expected from Government Departments, county, town, district, and parish councils?—Yes.

10346. And you suggest lower down that these various Government Departments and various councils should provide small holdings for married people and families?—Yes.

10347. Do you make that suggestion because you believe that the influx of agricultural labourers into our already over-crowded towns tends to congest further the labour market?—Yes, undoubtedly.

10348. Do you think that if some steps could be taken to keep the agricultural labourer at home on the land that that would go a considerable distance towards relieving the unemployed in towns?—Yes.

10349. How do you suggest that these district or parish councils should provide the land for small holdings?—I am afraid I have not given very much attention to that side of the subject, but I suppose it is quite possible under existing laws to acquire land for the purpose.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

10350. Do you think that local authorities should be given power to enable them easily to acquire land for the purpose of providing small holdings for those who are fit to work them?—Yes, for those who are fit and wish to work them.

10351. I quite agree with you that it is very desirable, but I am afraid I do not see quite how it is to be done; how are these people to be started on these small holdings; how are they to get the money to stock them?—They would have to be financed, of course, on some system.

10352. You do not suppose that our agricultural labourer of to-day, on his miserable wage of 9*s.* up to 14*s.* or 15*s.* a week, is ever going to start himself, do you?—No.

10353. Then you think that the parish council districts and county councils should assist the man to make a start, do you?—Yes, with proper precautions and safeguards, of course.

10354. That, I take it, is your main suggestion?—Yes, for what you would call the respectable unemployed. I hope sincerely this Committee will not fail to deal with the delinquent unemployed. I understood that that also came within the scope of the inquiry of this Committee. I mean the loafer, and the man who is always on the fringe of the labour market, lessening wages by being content to take any kind of odd job at any price.

10355. You have told us that the men you deal with are principally of the delinquent class, as you call them?—Yes.

10356. I was very much struck just now by your observation that 50 per cent. or one-half of these loafers get permanent situations?—More or less permanent; I cannot say permanent. As I have not the record of every man, I cannot say that.

10357. From your great experience would you lead the Committee to understand that 50 per cent. of the men who have been loafers for a considerable number of years of their life are likely to make good servants?—Yes; they are reclaimable.

10358. Do you think one-half is not too high?—Facts have proved it; that is taking the entire total of our analysis; but if you come to particular classes I should have to give different figures.

Chairman.

10359. Do you mean 50 per cent. of those of that class who have passed through your homes?—Yes.

10360. And possibly it is the best of them who come to the homes?—Very likely; they must be men who want to work.

Mr. *Logan.*

10361. The best of them come to the homes, do they?—Yes, the man who is ready to work will come, but he knows he must work if he comes.

10362. And the good influence of your homes, you think, turns 50 per cent. of them into fairly good members of society again?—Yes.

10363. You say you pay trades union rates of wages, and yet I understood you to say the men

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

can only earn about 6*s.* a week?—No; I said about 9*s.* or 10*s.* That means that the work those men do chiefly is firewood cutting.

10364. What can a firewood cutter earn?—A professional firewood cutter at trades union rate of wages can earn (for I have set him to work to try it myself) from 20*s.* to 24*s.* per week, and he can cut up the wood very economically; if he has got to husband every stick of it himself it is marvellous what he can do. But if you put the ordinary man from the street to it our experience is that he cannot earn more than 10*s.* or 11*s.* at the outside, and very often it is betwen 9*s.* and 10*s.*

Mr. *Lawrence.*

10365. How long have you been engaged in this particular work of dealing with the delinquent unemployed?—Since the end of 1889.

10366. Yourself personally?—Yes.

10367. Have you had any experience of agricultural life?—No, I have not.

10368. So that all your remarks as to putting people back on the land are not the result of any practical experience, are they?—Not of my own experience, but of the experience of deputies. Of course we have men who thoroughly understand the land, and have been on it all their lives.

10369. You said, did you not, in reply to Mr. Acland, that you found there were a considerable number who desired to get back to the land?—Yes.

10370. Does not your statement seem to conflict with all the evidence the Committee have, that as regards the London unemployed they are not people who have come from the land, but that they are rather urban breakdowns?—Yes; it may be that by dealing with them individually, so to speak, and in getting at the individual, we take more pains to ascertain the capacity of each man. Then, again, we remove them one at a time, so that we are pretty well sure what line a man will take before we put him on, and our smaller experience might prove this rule, whereas a larger experience, taking one of our homes and emptying it, on to a farm, for example, might prove the very opposite.

10371. The statement which I make, drawn really from the Board of Trade Labour Department Blue Book, that people who are unemployed in London are not people who come from the land is generally true, is it not, that in your particular case, having selected cases, you may find a larger average of people who do come from the land?—Yes, I think that is so. As I have said, it is a small experiment which we have tried, and I dare not use what experience we have to prove anything as to the land, and I should certainly not desire to do so.

10372. You say you advocate labour bureaus; have you not seen how very unsuccessful they have been at first starting?—I think in some cases they have been very successful.

10373. Can you mention one successful one?—I think the Chelsea one was very successful.

10374. Was not that chiefly for the municipal body getting sweepers in winter?—I am not quite sure; I understood that great numbers of men got situations through that place.

10375. Is it not the case that labour bureaus to be successful must make a thorough inquiry into the cases?—Quite so.

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

10376. And that as a rule the people who go under the name of "unemployed" are quite unwilling to have those inquiries made?—I should certainly not regard them as the real unemployed at all. If you discover by inquiries that the character of a man will not bear the light of day, I think in the same way as the Charity Organization Society investigate their cases, that man is a case for such an institution as our own, and not for a labour bureau.

10377. Do you make any inquiry at all equal to that of the Charity Organization Society?—We do not inquire in the same way as the Charity Organization Society, because they exist as a society, as doubtless you know, largely for the repressing of mendicity; nor in the way of the relieving officer, who has to protect the rates of his parish. In both these cases, if they find a man has been a scoundrel, they look on him with more or less suspicion. On the other hand we do not mind how bad the man may have been, it does not disqualify him from coming to us; accordingly we have a more or less unique niche to which these people, the Charity Organization Society and relieving officers, refer cases which they themselves cannot deal with.

10378. The Charity Organization Society's inquiries are made not with the view to repress mendicity, but to learn the character of the case, is it not?—But is not the title under which they exist, The Charity Organization Society, for the repressing of mendicity. We have very amicable arrangements with the Charity Organization Society, and help them very much indeed in many cases.

10379. My reason in asking the question was to test some of the statements you have made to the Committee, and to see whether you have got real information upon which you can issue real returns; for instance, do you make inquiries as to where the people come from?—Yes.

10380. Do you make any inquiry at all as to their antecedents, and correct their statements?—Yes. We are very careful. We have what the man says of himself; we have what two independent working men say of him; we have what his old employers and parents and friends say of him.

10381. Do you check their statements at all?—Yes, undoubtedly. Then we have sometimes to send a man to the doctor, and we then have what an expert thinks of the whole evidence in the case of every man.

10382. In my experience of similar work in analysing the characters of persons in connection with soup kitchens, I have noticed something like 80 per cent. of them practically had no address beyond a common lodging house; is that your experience?—We sometimes find that, and we sometimes find many inconsistencies and falsifications, but they do not deter us from helping the man; they rather put us on our guard, but they do not deter us from helping him.

10383. I understood you to say that very few of the people whom you once take in come back to you; is that so?—Very few.

10384. Is not that a very singular fact when we

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

we see that in the German and Dutch colonies there is always a return of a very large number of the people who once go there?—Yes.

10385. How do you account for that?—I do not know; it has always been a mystery to me, but it may be that some of those who fall again know that they will have to work if they come back to us. That may account for it more or less. That is the principle upon which they have received our help previously.

10386. But is not that the principle in Germany and Holland, and yet they come back to the extent of 25 and 28 per cent.?—Yes. We have very few cases, indeed.

10387. Is it your experience that a very large number of people do not acknowledge that they are married?—Yes.

10388. Does not that seem to indicate to you that they are not an improvable class?—No, because we very often restore a man to his wife after his stay in our homes.

10389. After he had deserted her?—Very often. Sometimes we have had an inspector come to arrest him, which comes to the same thing, of course; but, oftentimes we have restored men to their wives, and people to their relations; it is quite an item in our tabulation.

10390. Do you see any way in which you can deal with respectable people who are married, and who are out of employment, by your methods?—No, I am afraid not; we do not take married people, you see. But there are some advantages even to married people from our system; a wife can get along on less rent if her husband can support himself. He can earn a few shillings a week which can go to his wife; he can earn a reputation if he has got none, or he can increase it if he has, and he can get the chance of some substantial help in obtaining a more permanent situation afterwards. There are many advantages to married folk; but we do not take them as families.

Chairman.

10391. You put in accounts do you not, showing the financial results of your scheme?—Yes, with the Poor Law Guardians.

10392. And tables showing the financial aspect of your system of homes?—I referred to one of these statements which shows how far the Poor Law Guardians of London co-operated with us in respect of finance. Then I made a statement or rather promised one of the Members of the Committee to send a statement of what the initial outlay and working expenses consisted.

10393. Perhaps you will kindly put in any information which you can on the financial results of the working of the homes?—I will.

Chairman—continued.

10394. Is the result that they are a considerable charge on your charitable funds?—Very considerable; I estimate if they had paid us at the rate of 8½*d.* per day for the support of these paupers who have been sent us, for the 64,406, it would have amounted to 2,280*l.* whereas they have given us 113*l.*

10395. There are somewhat similar organisations to yours, are there not, which are almost self-supporting?—I do not know of those.

10396. The Committee had it in evidence from Mr. Booth that the Salvation Army pay for the whole of their operations including labour, factories, shelters, homes for women, and so on, 73,000*l.* a year, and receive back from the people either in labour or in payments of that 73,000*l.* 70,000*l.*, so that the deficiency required from the charitable benevolent public to make up the cost of carrying on operations in the city colony was rather more than 3,000*l.*; that is on a very large scale, of course?—Quite so.

10397. He has sent the Committee accounts showing how these figures are made up; that is a very different financial result from what you show, is it not?—Quite right; but you will quite understand that the question of wage-paying makes a very considerable difference. We say we pay wages; we say also we pay trade wages. They adopt the "truck" system, and give the great majority of their men so many tin tickets, which include one for so much food, and another for a bed, and so forth. By obliging a man to go there they make a profit on all they give him, so that they get his labour for a mere trifle.

10398. But that is a very striking fact, is it not?—Yes, but that explains it. We pay hundreds and hundreds of pounds away for wages to get hold of the best thing that remains in the loafer, namely, his own self-interest; it is better for him if he works better. We do not simply manage to get him off the streets, but we try to develop in him independence of spirit and self-help.

10399. And you have told us, I think, that when he goes out you allow him to have pocket money, so as to strengthen him by resisting the temptation of falling into his old ways?—Quite so. There is nothing of that kind in the Salvation Army homes, I understand.

10400. Do you think that accounts for the great discrepancy in the results of the two systems?—Very largely; you cannot have the payment of wages and trade rate of wages without having a very decided difference.

Mr. George Lansbury, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

10401. Will you tell the Committee what experience you have had in the matter of the relief of distress from want of employment; you have been, I think, connected with one of the boards of guardians, have you not?—Yes. I am a member of the Poplar Board of Guardians, and have been a member of that board for two years. During that time we have had a considerable number of people out of work in the district. We find that it is not merely a seasonal question, but that it only becomes acute in bad weather, and as a matter of fact, that men can starve easier, or put up with distress arising from want of employment better, in the summer than in the winter, and that their clamour becomes the strongest when the weather is very bad.

Chairman—continued.

Chairman—continued.

10402. The word "easier" has two senses. It is not easier for a man to starve I suppose at one time than at another, but that he does it with more satisfaction and comfort to himself?—That is so; if he has to die of starvation he can do it easier in the summer than in the bitter cold weather, when he has frost, &c. to add to the pangs of hunger. We find too that it is not so much a question of the men being unable to find work in the winter, but that it really applies the whole year through. As a matter of fact at the present time we have large numbers of men applying for work or relief through lack of employment. Of course things came to a head so far as the present year is concerned, last February, I ought to say though that from last October until February, we were having big meetings of the unemployed, and large numbers of them coming to the board for relief. On 17th February things got very bad and stoneyards were opened. Three labour yards were opened by the board of guardians. They were opened for six weeks. Each man who applied had to show a clear six months continuous residence, that was to prevent people coming from other districts. The hours of labour were from 9 to 4. We made it 9 so that the men could go about and look for work elsewhere before they came to us. Then they had an interval of one hour for dinner. We paid single men at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, married men with three children 3*s.* 6*d.* per day. For each child above the three we allowed an extra 2 lbs. of bread. I have said that we paid them those amounts, but half of it was given in money and half in tickets, which could be changed for food at any shop in the Union. Of course, at our end of the town, we hear a lot of the struggling ratepayer, and it rather quieted him by giving him back in the shape of custom the money he was paying these men for work in the labour yard. At first the guardians gave the food, but we found it better to give the tickets. As I say, these yards were open from 17th February till 30th March, and during that time there went through them 1,939 men. These men's ages were as follows, and I rather want to make a point of the ages of these men. Under 20 years of age there were 71; from 20 to 30 there were 591; from 30 to 40 there were 564; from 40 to 50 there were 402; and over 50 years of age there were 311. These men had dependent upon them, or some of them, rather, 1,518 women and 3,468 children, making a total of persons relieved in this way, 6,925.

10403. How do you make that computation; the same man being relieved every day of the week, would count seven men, would he not?—These are separate individuals. I will put in a return which we have had made out, if you will allow me.

10404. Please do so, because that confession is often made?—In this case it is not. Here we give you the actual individuals (*the return was handed in.*) We paid to the men in money and gave them tickets to the value of 2,252*l.*; for extra officers, 359*l.*; for men to prepare the yards, we did not employ them as paupers, but paid them the ordinary current rate of wages, 134*l.*; for the purchase of stone, 475*l.*; for tools, 353*l.*; rental of grounds, 34*l.*; cartage, 114*l.*; surveyor, 2*l.* 5*s.*; making a total of 3,726*l.* which the guardians expended on these labour yards. As against that we shall receive 730*l.* for the broken granite, and I suppose we have 300*l.* worth of tools, so that roughly speaking the union has spent 2,720*l.* on relief for which they will get positively no return whatsoever. That is what we spent outside the workhouse. Now I want to point out during the whole of that time, I have not had time to get out the actual figures, our workhouse, which will accommodate something over 1,300 people, had over its number from 200 to 250 persons. Of course that added to the outlay of the guardians, because each one of those persons had to be maintained out of the local funds, as we get nothing for them out of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund. Then I want to point out that an increase in the workhouse has been going on during the past seven or eight years. In the year 1888 the guardians thought that they would provide once and for all sufficient accommodation, but since that time we have been spending on extending the workhouse and adding to it in various ways, 95,000*l.*; that is during the past seven years. Of course we have not paid the money, but we have borrowed it, and we are paying it back in the ordinary way.

10405. Was that spent on the top of a provision which was considered adequate at the time?—Yes. The point, of course, is that at the present moment, after that expenditure of money, the workhouse last Saturday had 75 inmates over the statutory number. Mind you, that is in the middle of summer.

10406. What are the circumstances of Poplar?—Do you mean as to the people?

10407. Yes. What causes this great increase in paupers?—It is a big waterside district for one thing. Then we have gas works and jam factories.

10408. But those are all flourishing, are they not?—I think I shall be able to show you in a minute or two why it is we get this class of people. The board of guardians tried to co-operate with the Local Board of Works, but we found that it was practically impossible to co-operate with them through the bad time, except for snow-sweeping and stone-breaking; I mean as to the stones which were required for the roads in the district. I will put in three returns, which give the actual expenditure of the Board of Works at the same time. They spent 1,600*l.* on the unemployed in stone-breaking and snow-sweeping. I wish to point out that there again they had a staff quite sufficient to do the work, but they put on the men merely to keep them from starving (*the returns were handed in.*) I went down several times to the depôts where the men were taken on. We hear a good deal about people not being willing to work, but I have seen men positively fighting for the purpose of getting a ticket to be able to go to work, and it has taken half-a-dozen policemen to protect the foreman and keep the men really from bearing him down. As to the kind of men we had out of work, you will find from the returns that we had all sorts, from costermongers to commercial travellers. Of course some were not of

Chairman—continued.

of the best character, but out of 1,939 we had two cases of men who refused to do their work. Those two were prosecuted and, I think, punished. That rather proves that the men merely wanted the chance of going to work. The majority of them were unskilled labourers. There were about 1,350 who could be classed as unskilled labourers, and about 600 as mechanics. As I say, I can state from my own practical knowledge of these men that each one of them, with the exception of two, were only too anxious to go to work and earn some money. Then, as to the youths from 18 to 21, it is a striking thing that at Bow and Bromley we have a large number of youths from 18 to 21 who are out of work. I account for that in this way. As I have said, we have rope works, jam works, chemical works, paper works, and gunmaking works. At each one of these industries there is a lot of machinery employed, and the people who are required to look after the machinery are not grown men or grown women, but boys of from 14 to 18 who are quite able and, of course, quite willing to do it. The consequence is, that up to the age of 18 they can earn from 8*s.* to 12*s.* a week; but whenever they begin to feel they are men and want more money they are discharged. What I am saying is not hearsay. We took the trouble, on the relief committee, to investigate some of the cases of these lads who asked for work, and in each case it appeared that they had left either one of those industries because the employers could not pay them more; I say could not, it was not a question of would not, for competition would not allow them; it would not allow them to pay more than 12*s.* or, at the outside, 14*s.* a week. Then, on the top of that, a gun factory there had just finished a contract which they had from the Government, and their works had thrown a number of these boys on to the road. I have lived there about 10 years, and, from my own knowledge, I have seen these boys growing up into real corner lads. You meet them at each corner at this time of the year; they get through life by carrying betting news, and in various other ways; in the winter they have to get help either by going into the workhouse or into stone-yards, if such are open. What I want to point out is that it is not these boys' faults, but it is really the condition under which they come into the world and grow up, and the industrial life by which they are surrounded. As I say, I do not blame the employers in these particular cases; they produce under competition, and they cannot under competition pay any more than the wages they do pay for this class of work. Another thing with regard to the ages is, and it is an astonishing thing, the enormous number of men from 30 to 60 out of employment, which gives you the other side of the picture. You find that when a man gets from 36 to 40, and is out of work from any cause, it is very difficult for him to get employment elsewhere. Our relief committees have experience week by week of men who come up to tell us that the reason they are out of work is because they are considered too old by the people who need men. Then, again, with regard to these particular cases of ages from 30 to 60, we find in Bromley a large number of men have

Chairman—continued.

been displaced in the gasworks by the introduction of a machine called a "Sloper," which is really a slope down which the coals travel to the retorts, instead of the men having to throw them in. The stone-yards had to accommodate some scores of men who had been displaced from the Bow Common Gasworks because of the introduction of this machine. These men we have there now, and the Board of Works puts out just as much work as it can to keep them going, just to keep them alive. Practically, nothing permanent is done for them at all, it is impossible because of their age. They have been gas stokers ever since they went to work, and it seems utterly impossible for them to expect to get employment anywhere else. As I say, we have those two classes of people in the Poplar district, and, added to that, we have a large number of dock labourers. The dock company has reorganised the whole of their labour at the docks, thoroughly reorganised it; they have introduced electric cranes; they have brought up permanent hands from the country, and the old docker is thrown out. We have a very large percentage of these men. Nobody wants them; nobody wants to take them on; they have been casual dock labourers all their lives, and we have to deal with them as guardians either in the workhouse or in the way I have just been stating. That is as far as men are concerned. I want to point out that all that has nothing to do with bad weather; we have that class of thing now, and we have it all the year round. As to women, we have not any very reliable returns made out, but of course every one who has had anything to do with Poor Law in London knows that we have a large number of widows to deal with. We find that females from 14 to 18 can earn fairly good money in match factories, ropewalks, at shirtmaking and bootmaking, but after they get to marriageable age and their husbands die, they are not able to earn any more than they earned when they were single. The consequence is that very often our out-door relief to widows and that class of women has to be really an aid to the wages. Of course it is not acknowledged as an aid to the wages, but that is really what it amounts to. They earn at these sort of industries from 5*s.* to 8*s.* a week; I should say 6*s.* was the average. We have large numbers of women who earn that sum and who cannot possibly earn anything more. There is a striking thing here, exactly the same as with the young lads. You see large posters stuck up all over the place asking for learners to various trades; when one set of learners have learned they are cleared out, and another set of learners brought in, simply because employers have to produce things cheaply in some way or other, and the way they do it, especially in the waterproof working, is to get rid of one set of learners and bring in another. We have no end of women who have been treated in that sort of way. With all our expenditure of 2,000*l.* and the Board of Works 2,000*l.*, and the 90,000*l.* odd in addition to all the other money which has been spent, we have not touched the root of the matter at all. We could go on spending in the same direction, and still you would have the unemployed; still you would

Chairman—continued.

would have people in the same position they are in now, for this reason: these people are out of work because competition says there is not any room for them, that they are not needed. I contend that you cannot solve, I know this will seem a big order here, you cannot hope in any way to touch the unemployed question without a complete reorganisation of our industial system. I say distinctly that those young men from 18 to 25 and those men from 35 to 45 are quite able to earn their livings; they have physical strength enough; they have intelligence enough, if properly directed, to earn their own livings, but under present circumstances they are not allowed to do so because they cannot make a profit on the top of it for either a firm of capitalists or an individual capitalist; therefore they are left to come either on the rates or to live by the charity of someone else. Therefore, I consider, the only solution of the unemployed question is for the community to take over and control the industries of the country, and produce for use instead of profit. I want, however, to say that I think, especially in London, the President of the Local Government Board should use the power he has under the Metropolis Poor Act of 1867 to group the unions of London into one district; he should alter the terms of the out-door relief order, so as to enable the managers of such a district to buy and hire land; I say hire land, because I am doubtful if enough can be legally purchased; and that on this land men who are unemployed should be set to work, not to produce a profit, but simply to grow food for their own sustenance, and the sustenance of those dependent upon them, and that side by side with them there should be workshops erected for the manufacture of boots, clothes, and other things necessary to human life. I want to point out that the Poor Law says all those who are relieved, whether inside or outside the workhouse, must be set to work. At the present time you stick to the letter of that law by setting them to stone-breaking, oakum-picking, wire-pulling, and that sort of thing; but when you attempt to open workshops you are met with the cry of competition with out-door industries. For instance, we have opened a tailor's shop, and bootshops, and we are having deputations from trades unions, pointing out that we are producing the goods under the current rate of wages. Of course we are, because the inmates have only provided for them the ordinary food and the ordinary clothing, and the ordinary conditions of a workhouse. Now, if you put men on to land, I suppose it does not need arguing, at any rate here, that one man on the land will always earn more under proper supervision than he actually consumed; I mean he could grow more potatoes than he could actually eat himself; consequently you could have others in the workhouse making the clothes, and other things necessary for the men who were engaged in work on the land. That is all, I think, which can be done at the present moment. I think it is too much to ask the House of Commons, which is too busy, so we are told, with other matters to pass any new law except one, and that is one to renounce the present disfranchisement attaching to relief by guardians. I want to say to this Committee as an ordinary individual that it will be

Chairman—continued.

nothing less than a scandal to London, and to the people of this country, if these 1,939 people I have mentioned, and others, who have been relieved in similar ways throughout London, are to be taken off the register from no fault of their own. I think the least we can ask this Session is that the disqualification from going on the register should be removed, and that these men's rights as citizens should be recognised. As I say, we have found nothing against their characters, we have found them willing and anxious to work, only society had not any room for them. I think, considering it is asserted there is no time to pass Acts of Parliament, the proper thing to be done is for the President of the Local Government Board to use his powers, and to group the unions of London in the way I suggest. I think that should only be the commencement. I quite recognise that such things as the coal industry and the making of cotton goods are not carried on in London, but if the idea were extended it does not seem to me there is any reasonable objection to organising the surplus labour of the country in this sort of way. I do not put this forward as any authority on the matter at all, but as a reasonable person, I think it is a useless kind of thing to put able-bodied men to crack stones, or strip wire, or pick oakum, when you have miles of land quite close to London crying out for this same sort of labour, which would give men the opportunity of getting their own living in a rational sort of way.

10409. You touched on the question of disenfranchising anyone who has received Poor Law relief; are you aware of the argument on the other side, that it is very difficult to discriminate between the class that you speak of and that class which may be called the loafer class?—Yes, that only applies at one end of the social scale. I want to put the other side. Take your Benson, and Baird (who has just died), the loafers at this end of London who canter round Rotten Row, they have their legal rights to vote, and my contention is that if a man has had an education and becomes a loafer like that, he is worse than the loafer at my end of the town, and should be disqualified in preference to the men who are made loafers in the way I have described. My answer is, if we are to have a sorting-out of loafers, let us sort out from the top the men who are cultured rather than begin with those at the bottom to whom those at the top should set an example.

10410. I agree with you in sentiment and theory, but the man who is cultured and who has the means of supporting himself, does not become a burden on other people?—But he must; the man who does not work must be kept by someone. You know that Carlyle says there are only three ways of getting a living, either by begging, stealing, or working; the Almighty does not rain manna nowadays, someone has to earn all the wealth, or whatever you call it, that these cultured men spend and live on; that is my answer. You cannot live without somebody supporting you. I mean, if I do not work for my own living someone else has to do it for me.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

10411. Or has done it?—No; we can only live on present labour. We all know that money left brings interest, but interest is only made by labour

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

labour at some time or other. My contention is that if you are going to sort out loafers, clear out those at the West End first, and set those at the East End an example.

Chairman.

10412. However, to come down to more practical or immediate purposes, is there not a danger (not expressing an opinion of my own, but merely opinions which have been expressed otherwise) that if we were to entirely do away with this disfranchisement provision, there would be an extension of leaning upon the Poor Law?—I do not think so. My experience teaches me that men hate the stoneyards and hate the idea of being pauperised, and it is only extremity which brings them to us.

10413. Are you an out-door relief man or an in-door relief man?—I am an out-door relief man. But let me qualify that. I do not believe in out-door relief at all; I mean for any class of society able to do useful work. There is one class class of society that does well on out-door relief, looks well, lives well, and dies well. There is another class at the East End, who starve on it, on a miserable half-crown or 3*s.* a week. I am not in favour of that, but I am in favour of the Poor Law being used as the spirit of it dictates, namely, that each man who is relieved is relieved by finding him useful work, whereby he may obtain his own living. For old people, I believe in adequate maintenance, not starving them, as most people do.

10414. Do you think that this last year the amount of want of employment in your quarter was greater than it has been in previous years?—Yes. It has been growing worse and worse during the last seven years, but this last winter it certainly was as bad as ever I have known it, especially during those weeks of frost; but I am bound to say, if we had a bureau there, and it were open now we should find literally hundreds of men out of work. I meet them every day. But as I say, it comes much harder in the winter time.

10415. You would hire land, and employ the men on it, would you?—Yes.

10416. In spade industry?—I am not an agricultural expert. I have had no experience, only what one has read, though I was born in the country; but I think we have enough agricultural knowledge in the country to employ these men profitably.

10417. Within a reasonable distance of their homes, do you mean?—No; I think there would have to be residences built for them away.

10418. Farm colonies, in fact?—Yes.

10419. Would they be taken away from their wives and children?—Oh, no; their wives and children would go with them.

10420. And you would provide houses for them also, then, would you?—Yes, or accommodation; I am not sure about houses for each family.

10421. Would you do that with a view to relieving their immediate wants, or would you do it with a view to their staying there and settling there?—I should do it with a view to their staying there and settling there, and starting co-operative colonies, if you might call them so, or

Chairman—continued.

co-operative settlements, rather. Certainly, I should start them with the idea of their staying.

10422. Are you aware that that involves a large amount of ground if it is to touch on any considerable scale, the numbers of unemployed we have to deal with?—Yes; but I have ridden through Essex; I have read the Report of another Commission, or portions of it; I find that they cannot get rent for the land, that farms are unlet and are lying idle; and I also read that some of it has been good wheat-bearing land, and that it could be brought back into cultivation by labour.

10423. But it is probably lying idle because it does not pay to cultivate it?—That is so; but my answer is, though it does not pay to cultivate it under competition, it would pay if you took into consideration the question of providing the people with the means of living.

10424. Do you know whether it would pay to cultivate it, even putting the question of rent aside; supposing land were got for no rent at all, do you think it would pay to cultivate it?—I take the evidence given by Mr. Booth, where they have taken land at Hadleigh, in Essex, and with the men taken clean off the streets they had very good returns for the labour.

10425. I do not know that they have very good returns. Are you aware that Mr. Booth did not define the condition of things at Hadleigh on the principle of its being a mere farm colony, but merely on the principle of its being a training colony to prepare men for going over the sea?—But surely if you can prepare them to go over the sea to get their living, it seems to me that it should be possible under proper organisation to do it here at home. I do not see why a man should go right away to America to earn his own living if the element of profit is taken out.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

10426. Do you mean that it is to be evenly balanced. You say if the element of profit is taken out?—Yes.

10427. Is there to be any loss?—My contention is that there would not be a loss; a man could earn his own living.

10428. That a man could produce exactly the amount required to support him?—He would probably produce more, and, as a matter of fact, all men and women employed now have to do so.

10429. And his wife and family?—Yes.

10430. Irrespective of the size of the family there would be an exact even balancing?—No; I think probably there would be more, and that the balance would be on the right side.

10431. And that by labour on the land he would probably produce more than required for the consumption of himself and his family, however large the family might be?—Not by working singly.

10432. I want to get your exact proposition?—I do not mean that I am to be planted down on an acre or an acre and a-half or three acres, but that with 20 other men on a farm worked on the latest principles it would probably produce, according to Prince Krapotkine, more than the 20 should need for our sustenance and the sustenance of our wives and children, that is, taking the average man.

Mr. *Logan.*

10433. The proof of it is, is it not, that other people do it and send us the surplus?—Yes; but I did not put that because I thought perhaps I might be met by the question of rent.

Chairman.

10434. There is more than one proposal of this kind put forward. There is the idea of a public authority taking land either by renting it or purchasing it for the purpose of employing temporarily and giving work more or less as a test to men who are to receive relief. Your proposal goes far beyond that, does it not?—Yes.

10435. In fact, you see, I have no doubt, objections to that being done except as a makeshift, do you not?—That is so. You see the root of the business is in this, that practically the whole of those men are displaced because under our present undesirable system there is no room for them. Nobody can employ them for profit, therefore they are not employed at all. It seems to me that to deal with this class of people satisfactorily you must employ them where the element of profit does not come in, because I never will believe that if a private firm cannot employ them for profit the State can, but I do think the State or the community could so organise their labour that they would be able to maintain themselves rather than be a burden upon those who are at work; that is the idea.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

10436. Why do you assume that a business in the country will pay when you confess that a business in a town will not pay if you employ this kind of labour?—Simply because in a business in town you produce your boots or clothes, or chemicals of some sort, and you have to sell them for the purpose of getting food. The market for the particular commodities is glutted, and you cannot get rid of that; but we are not glutted in England with agricultural produce grown on our own soil, and therefore I contend that the land is simply crying out for labour and wants work put into it to get the food needed.

10437. Is not your premise really wrong, and that we are glutted with agricultural produce?—No, not at Bow, at any rate; we have plenty of boots and shoes and plenty of coats.

10438. And plenty of food surely?—No, there is not.

10439. You confess, do you not, that your expenditure of money by public authorities, especially the Poor Law, has failed to meet the wants of the unemployed; does that raise in your mind any distrust of the principle on which you administer your relief?—No; because the principle upon which it has been administered has been to make people hate to rely on the community for work. It has been made as distasteful as possible to go to the Poor Law at all, and the work given has been made as distasteful as it could be.

10440. Is it not the case that your Poor Law Union is really supporting a higher average of paupers than other adjoining unions?—No; I do not think so.

10441. Are you quite certain it is not the case?—I am certain it is not the case.

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

10442. That the Poplar Union is not assisting a greater number of paupers in proportion to the population than, say, the Tower Hamlets and Whitechapel?—Whitechapel is a portion of the Tower Hamlets.

10443. Take St. George's-in-the-East?—You can never take St. George's-in-the-East and Whitechapel, and compare them with Bow, Bromley, and Poplar, because, in the first place, you have an enormous Jewish population in both unions, and these never come to the ordinary Poor Law authorities for relief at all.

10444. Then you will allow, will you, that as compared with Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East, your rate of pauperism is much higher?—No; I will not allow it, because you have, first of all, to take out of the population of Whitechapel the whole of the Jewish population.

10445. Why so?—Because their poor are relieved by another board of guardians than that constituted under the law, and it is not fair, surely, to leave out of account the people who are relieved by the Jewish Board of Guardians. In judging how much pauperism there is in Whitechapel, you only take those relieved by the Whitechapel Board of Guardians; but to be fair to Poplar you must take those relieved under the Jewish Board of Guardians also, or else take out the Jewish population.

10446. I have not the figures as to the Jewish Board of Guardians. And if they do relieve a large number, I quite allow that would nullify the returns of the Poor Law authorities; but it is the case, is it not, that that district of Whitechapel is as poor as you are?—But it is not so, sir. You see, Whitechapel has Toynbee Hall, which has cleared out the rookeries of Whitechapel. It is all very well to say it is as poor as Poplar, but the facts are other way. You may go through a whole square of Whitechapel, where dwellings have been demolished, and new places being put up.

10447. You have referred to the youth of the unemployed; is it not a fact, known to those who know London generally, that people of those ages are to be found equally throughout the metropolis; and that it is not peculiar to Poplar?—Probably so; and the reason is because of the kind of industries that are carried on throughout London.

10448. Therefore, there is nothing really special to regard, is there, in the fact that the unemployed in your district are of those ages you give?—I think we have more factories that employ lads than some other parts of London have; I should say, certainly, more than Whitechapel or St. George's.

10449. Would you not think, if your expenditure had done nothing to meet the case of the unemployed, the conclusion is that it had actually induced men to stay in the district who ought to have gone away?—The difficulty is, we may tell them to go away; but none of us know where exactly to tell them to go to. It is all very well to say, "Go away," but we have to tell them where to go to.

10450. I do not recommend any authority to tell a man where to go to, but if, when the pinch comes, a Poor Law authority by its action shows men that they will get relief on more easy terms, they

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

they will stay, will they not, and will not have the self-respect, and exercise the self-exertion, to go and find work for themselves?—Self-respect is all very well; but take a man with his wife and family in the depth of winter, where is he to start tramping to? One does not see. Self-respect surely would teach him that his first duty was to get food for his wife and family.

10451. But if you were more strict in your relief in the winter, in weather like this, they would go afield, would they not?—Last night we had some men before us. The vicar gave them good characters, the Charity Organisation Society had nothing to say against them; the relieving officer gave them good characters. Where could we tell them to go? I have no knowledge where there is any work. You have been sitting here some weeks, and you might publish it to the world if you have.

10452. I am not suggesting any public authority would be so rash as to tell such people to go?—That only shows no one knows where to send them to.

10453. I should be anxious to contend that no public authority can do for a man what he can better do for himself?—But do not you see that society protects the capitalists and the landlord. I have my labour power, society only allows me to exercise it under given terms. If I go into a factory, or on to a piece of land to start tilling it, the landlord either orders me off, or sends for a policeman, if he does not want me there, and society protects him in doing it against my right as an individual to exercise my labour power, therefore society should provide me with the means of living when I cannot get it otherwise.

Mr. *Logan.*

10454. I understand you to advocate that it is the duty of sosiety to find people who are willing to work, and who are able to work, with the means of providing their own livelihood?—Yes; I do not understand why we need a State at all, why we need any form of government, except that it is not to find people the means of living.

10455. Do you think, in fact, that a large community, such as exists in England to day, should treat the individual members of that community the same as a small community would do, that is to say, if we were living on a very small island instead of a large one, and there were 30 of us instead of 30,000,000, we should not attempt to provide food and raiment for a man, unless he were willing to work, and we should give him that opportunity?—Yes.

10456. And you think the same theory should be applied to the larger community?—Certainly.

10457. Do you hold, as the community has to keep these men, whether they are working or not, that it would be more economical to set them to work?—That is so. I contend that my proposal is a most economic one.

10458. Considering there are large numbers of people in this country, at the present moment, who are neither decently used, housed, clothed, or fed, do you think, it would be infinitely better to set those who want to work to work

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

to help to house, to clothe, and to feed, those who are in want of those various things?—That is so.

10459. You said just now that you thought many of the unemployed could be set to work on the land?—Yes.

10460. Have you ever thought why it is that we in England cannot grow food at a profit?—That opens up a very big question. I think that as a nation we have found it paid better to go in for manufacturing, and when we had command of the markets of the world, everyone rushed for the manufacture of commodities which they could get rid of abroad, and for a time that policy paid. I mean we were as a nation piling up a large amount of wealth, if you count wealth by money, but now that markets have become contracted and other nations are entering into competition with us, it seems to me we are feeling the pinch of allowing the natural source of all wealth to go out of cultivation. I think we have to go back, and we will have to till the land of England, or I do not see how we are to live at all.

10461. Have you formed any opinion as to the reason why we import so much food?—I think it is because we export so much of other commodities. If the labour of the community is being expended on the production of commodities for foreign markets, naturally you are bound to bring your food in; the one follows the other.

10462. I gathered from the question of an honourable Member there was an idea that we could not produce in this country what other countries produce in the way of food?—I have already said I am not an agricultural expert, but I have read others. I believe Prince Krapotkine is one of the highest authorities on this point, and he has stated over and over again that the land of England will sustain a much larger population than it does to-day. A reverend gentleman in Lincolnshire has also stated (for the moment I cannot think of his name), and Bolton King, in Warwickshire, has also proved that land can be tilled and be made to pay when men are allowed to work it under rational conditions. As I say, I do not think youcan do it if you have to pay profit and have to pay rent, and to keep a lot of well-to-do loafers, as I should call them, on the top of keeping yourself; I think that is the bottom of the whole thing.

10463. But you are aware, I suppose, that our foreign competitors work much inferior land to ours?—Yes; I am aware that our land, so far as one has read, is the best wheat-producing land per acre of any in the world.

10464. Do you know that in 1893 we produced 26 bushels per acre, whereas the United States and Russia, the two nations which send us an enormous quantity, could only produce 11 bushels to the acre?—I have not seen those actual figures, but I have seen very much the same figures.

10465. Have you ever thought of the reason, and there must be a reason, why these men with much inferior land to ours can grow the stuff which you say our people ought to grow, and undersell us at our doors?—I should think, for instance,

Mr *Logan*—continued.

instance, they do not have to pay anything like the amount of rent which has to be paid in England, and I should say their standard of living is very much lower than ours.

10466. Do you think their standard of living is lower than our agricultural labourers' standard of living?—I should think it was in Russia. If you take America, of course they do it on an enormously large scale, I mean compared to how we grow wheat; the way in which it is grown in America is vastly different.

10467. But according to your great authority, Krapotkine, the more labour you put on the land the more you produce?—Yes; but in England, you see, our farmers have gone on the assumption that they ought to put less and less labour on to the land instead of more, and consequently they do not seem to me to have been able to use it to the best advantage.

10468. Do you think, supposing our people could get land on the same terms as, for instance, they get it in Argentina, where they get two-and-a-half acres for about 4*s*., they would be able to hold their own and would not have to import quite so much?—I think, seeing that we produce so much more per acre, if the men who actually work the land owned the produce after it was produced, that is proof enough that they could maintain themselves and live. You know we have to keep so many people in England, those of us who work, and have to keep them in a luxurious manner too.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

10469. You suggest that the President of the Local Government Board should exercise his power to group the London unions under the Metropolis Poor Act of 1867. Will you kindly develop that a little; I do not quite understand what you mean?—I sent down this morning for this Act. The President of the Local Government Board, perhaps you may remember, replied to a conference that was held at the East-end.

10470. I am familiar with his reply?—I believe the reason he replied as he did was because West Ham was included, and, as you know, West Ham is out of the metropolis.

10471. Was not his reply that he had not the power that you desired him to exercise?—Yes. The conference proposed that West Ham should be grouped with the unions of London, and I believe that that was the point where the proposal broke down. West Ham is outside the metropolis, and therefore would not come under that.

10472. Will you refer me to the part of the Act which you think applies to this case?—"Asylums to be supported and managed according to the provisions of this Act may be provided under this Act for the reception and relief of the sick insane or infirm or other class or classes of the poor chargeable in unions and parishes in the metropolis."

10473. I am not unfamiliar with that section?—Surely if it means anything it means this: It does not say you shall only group them for the sick; it does not say you shall only group them for the children, but for all classes of the poor. Surely if that is so the President of the Local Government Board could group the whole of London

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

for the whole purposes of the Poor Law if he liked, and make it one union.

10474. Do you mean also equalising the rate?—That is not provided here at all. I think the rate should be equalised, certainly.

10475. That is the point. You do not say it is in the power of the Local Government Board to provide by an equal rate for the necessary expense, do you?—I am not quite certain about the exact proportion, though I expect it is in the Act. At any rate, we in Whitechapel pay for our schools on the rateable value of each union, and these would have to be managed, too. Then the higher-rated parishes would bear, of course, a bigger share than the lower-rated parishes.

10476. Not a bigger share in the £1.?—No, certainly not, but according to their rateable value.

10477. It would not relieve the ratepayer in a poor district, would it?—No, it would not; except that there are more poor in the poorer districts, and we should be making the rich parishes help to float the proposal; for instance, St. George's, Hanover-square, would not start it at all, but they would have to pay for it.

10478. But you do not maintain that, under that Act, they would have to pay for it, do you?—Certainly they would, if you group the whole of London. If the President of the Local Government Board formed London into one unemployed district in the same way as he has done Whitechapel and Poplar as a school district, we each should bear our share in proportion to the rateable value.

10479. Is that so? Under the Metropolitan Asylums Board Act, your labour colony would be analogous to the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, which was established under that section. Each London union pays in proportion to the number of its poor, who are maintained in the central institutions?—The children are not paid for in that sort of way.

10480. The children are specially provided for, but I am speaking about the insane in the Metropolitan Asylums hospitals. You may take it from me (probably you may know better even than I, that each union pays in proportion to the number of its own poor, who are maintained in the central institution. Now follow that out with regard to your grouped colony. Poplar has an an enormous number of poor; Saint George's, Hanover-square, has a very small number of poor; then if this power was exercised by the President of the Local Government Board, you would not get financial relief, because Poplar would have to pay in proportion to the number of poor whom it would send to be maintained; is not that so?—Personally, I am not sure; I thought it was the other way; but I am not competent to argue it, so I will not do so. I only want to point out that, as far as I am concerned, there are a lot of things which ought to be done; but what I am most concerned about is, that probably next winter we shall have the same thing all over again, have the same expenditure of money, and be as far off as ever. I see that the House of Commons is not going to pass any Act of Parliament this Session, at any rate on the matter, therefore let us use the power that we have.

10481. But

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

10481. But it is useless to ask the President of the Local Government Board to exercise a power which apparently he does not possess, is it not?—But he certainly has power to group the unions.

10482. He has the power to group, but no power to distribute the cost; and as you know, the curse of the whole question is the cost as between the rich and the poor district, is not that so?—But surely that is only a secondary matter. Surely the crux of the thing is when you have to spend money you spend it in a useful manner; and if the Poplar Board of Works, and the Poplar Board of Guardians, have to spend 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.*, they should spend it in the best manner. We have either to build another workhouse at 20,000*l.* or 30,000*l.* outlay, or do something in this direction; surely we had better by all means spend our money upon something which is likely to give us a return, or, at any rate, be something towards permanent solution, rather than have to spend it on a workhouse. We have got to spend the money, whether we like it or not; and I am only pleading that it should be spent in a rational way, and that the Local Government Board should enable us to do so.

10483. If my reading of that Act is right, what advantage would you gain by joining with any other union of London?—The advantage we should gain would be because it could be done on a bigger scale, and I think the larger it is the more likely it is to be successful, and also that in any case the initial cost would be borne by the whole of London.

Mr. *Benn.*

10484. With regard to cases of men who would not probably be inclined to consent to be sent to a co-operative colony, we will say men who have no fancy for the land or the conditions of rural life, but who requires some assistance in order to tide them over a difficult time; for instance, a painter, who is frozen out; supposing such a man came to you and said, "I do not care about your farm colony, I want a little help in the meantime to keep me out of the workhouse;" have you any suggestion to make as to men of that kind?—We should require painters; we should require all kinds of men. I am not proposing you should squat on the land; naturally, you would have to employ all kinds of men.

10485. Do I understand you to say that with regard to some 4,000 people you relieve in Poplar, your plan would be to send these people straight away to your farm colony in Essex, with their wives and children, to till, or build, or paint, or do anything necessary for their existence?—No. I have never suggested you could do that right straight off; I have only suggested you should commence to do it. I am not at all saying that you could pick up 4,000 people and drop them down in Essex. It is a very big thing to do, I quite realise; I am only asking that it should be commenced.

10486. I do not care in what proportion; I only want you to put before the Committee the nature of the commencement you suggest. For instance, I will go back to the painter. We will suppose a district is rather rich in painters,

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

as some districts are, and he came to you and said, "I want to go to your farm colony; I do not care about the land; I am a painter." Supposing you have enough painters already for the buildings you propose to erect, what would you do then?—I take it the mass of men are reasonable beings, and if such men wanted work really, and we could offer them work which they were physically capable of doing, either at tilling, or some other work than painting, they would be reasonable. The first consideration is to supply their stomachs, and they would take whatever work was given them. I have not found men so unreasonable as to say, "I will work at my trade;" not starving men, at any rate.

10487. Do I understand that your remedy for the 4,000 you have mentioned, together with those dependent on them, would be to send them straight away to the farm colony in Essex?—No.

10488. But you would pick out those who would be suitable, would you?—Yes.

10489. Supposing the Committee were to recommend the giving of power to local authorities to enter into such an experiment as you suggest, of course it would involve the raising of a considerable sum to start at any rate, would it not, even if it became self-supporting?—Yes.

10490. Have you any proposal to make to the Committee as to how that money could be raised, or what suggestion we should make to Parliament for the raising of the money?—I think that the money should be a grant from the Imperial taxation of the kingdom, either by a graduated income tax or a tax on the landlords of the country.

10491. You are looking at it now from the national point of view rather than the local point of view, are you not?—Yes.

10492. You in Poplar might say, We are inclined to start a co-operative colony; the other parts of the country might say: We do not want any such thing; it would not be suited to our population; would you make the district which did not agree with your scheme contribute equally with such districts as did?—No. Personally, I think the President of the Local Government Board should issue an Order strictly prohibiting stone-breaking, oakum-picking, and all those tasks; he has the power to do it; and he should also order that agricultural and useful work should be undertaken; then it would be done all over the country, you see.

10493. That is a question?—It is being done. I have been in Burnley and Rochdale, where they make all their clothes, and so on.

10494. We have had evidence before the Committee where they have no such desire?—But have they unemployed?

10495. That, at all events, is the evidence given before us. They say that such a plan would not help them. Take the case of London as a case which is peculiar in many respects, have you any plan which would apply to London without creating a grievance in any other part of the country?—No; personally I think the question of the unemployed can never be really touched unless it is done nationally. I think it is a national question, and the nation, as a whole, should deal with it.

10496. Then, does your proposal amount to this:

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

this: that certain districts or unions anywhere all over the country should have power, either by themselves or grouped, to carry out some such scheme as you suggest, and that the fund should be found in the shape of an Imperial grant?—Yes, the initial funds to start, just the same as you grant money to the Irish boards of guardians; you do that. This proposal is not peculiar; you have done it for Ireland a lot of times.

10497. Certain local authorities are able, are they not, to some extent, by offering certain classes of work, to prevent working men who desire to avoid pauperism going into the workhouse; do you think any increased facilities in that direction would be desirable in London. For instance, supposing any of our riverside parishes said, we have the money, we can do certain things for the improvement of our district, such as the improvement of our foreshore, or a work of that kind, which would be useful in helping the men over a difficult period, do you think that any proposal of that kind would be judicious?—Of course I think that that work should be undertaken without any reference to the unemployed, and what I rather want to emphasise is the point that men are out of work not because a local authority does not employ sufficient men to beautify its district, but because of an economic law which says they shall only work when it is profitable for some one else to allow them to work. I understand that you are here to try and find a solution of the unemployed difficulty, and I point out that the solution is the reorganisation of our industrial life on a co-operative basis instead of a competitive one.

10498. Supposing we were not able to induce Parliament to enter at once into that larger scheme which you advocate, and which one quite understands, do you see any way of so re-organising things in London as to enable the poorer parishes to cope with the unemployed question?—No; looking at it all round I do not think the districts can cope with the unemployed question themselves; I think it is altogether too big for either a board of guardians, a parish council, or a board of works to deal with it at all; you might palliate it.

10499. But you have told the Committee that you recommend a grouping of unions, so that they might be enabled to carry out some such co-operative scheme as you have sketched out?—Yes, and that it should be done nationally. If it were done in one district it is quite obvious that the unemployed of other districts would be crowding there.

10500. Unless, of course, you had a residential qualification?—That could be got over. If you made it a year they would come and live there on purpose to qualify.

10501. No doubt that is a difficulty?—There is an economic difficulty, too, which is greater than all.

10502. Then your idea of the grouping of London in one parish breaks down in that case, does it not?—Certainly; if you only do it for London, one admits that it would fail absolutely.

10503. Then, as far as London is concerned, you have no suggestions to make, have you?—No; except that to deal with the unemployed I think that the Local Government Board should group the unions of London and form an unemployed district.

10504. Then, unless we can bring the representatives of Liverpool, Manchester, and other parts to your view of dealing with the question nationally, London is to wait until that question is complete, is it?—Certainly, because London is merely one portion of the country; London cannot exist without Liverpool any more than Liverpool without London; their interests are all interwoven.

10505. Supposing we are more enlightened in London than those of the rest of the country?—I have not any of that nonsensical feeling; you will excuse me saying it is nonsense to talk about us being more enlightened here than they are in Liverpool and the north. They want this done just as badly as we do here, at any rate the growing body of them do. I do not say that public opinion is ripe even in London for it.

10506. Supposing we were ready in London for some such scheme as you have sketched out, and we find representatives from other parts of the country saying: "we do not want it, we are built differently;" are we to put off our millennium until they are educated up to our standard?—I am afraid you would have to; they will not let you do it, that is all. You are to be ruled by the majority. I understand the object of this Committee is to try and get evidence to convert them. If anybody knew what to do, it would have been done without this Committee.

10507. But you know the force of good example; and suppose you could solve it for London?—I do not think you can solve it for London.

10508. But you said something about making a commencement?—Yes, that is so; we probably shall try to make a commencement at Poplar, but we do not flatter ourselves we are going to solve the unemployed problem. We recognise it is too big for us to settle, and that is why I do not want to adopt your assumption that we can do it for London first.

10509. Then do I understand you to say, having secured your plans for Poplar and obtained the approval of the President of the Local Government Board, unless the unions of the kingdom are prepared to take your view, Poplar must wait?—I say that the Poplar scheme will not succeed.

10510. That is an important admission, is it not?—That is so. I am not here to state anything that I do not believe; and I believe that the whole point of the talk round this table this afternoon has not touched the crux of this business at all. I set out by saying that the unemployed difficulty is a part of the industrial system, and you can only alter it by a re-organisation of the industrial system. Instead of that being argued, I am trotted round various proposals, and the main point is not argued at all. If you admit that, then you must admit the further assumption that I make, namely, that the reorganisation of industry is the basis of any solution of the unemployed question.

10511. Suppose

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

10511. Suppose I admit that and look forward to such a millennium, are we to do nothing until everybody is educated up to that point?—Nobody has asked you to do nothing. I have asked you to start farm colonies.

10512. And you have told us that unless every part of the kingdom is prepared to start with us, that in London we must do nothing?—I have not said start with you; unless they follow, and very quickly, economically, they cannot succeed. I want to start, but am also anxious that we should understand what it is we are trying to do.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

10513. Practically, you have told us people

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

are not employed because they cannot be employed at a profit?—That is so.

10514. And your solution of the question, to take it very shortly, is that if the element of profit is once eliminated, there would be employment for all?—That is if the community organises the labour.

10515. Given a properly-organised system under which there should be no profit, every person would be employed?—I did not say would be, but could be, employed.

10516. And if there was any lack of employment it would be the fault of the person, and not of the community?—Yes.

10517. And that is practically what you have come here to tell us, is it not?—Yes.

Friday, 14*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Renshaw.
Mr. John Wilson (Govan).
Mr. Stuart Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. CHARLES BOOTH, called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

10518. As we know, you have devoted much time and attention to the question of labour and the condition of the labouring classes of the community ; and we shall be glad to have your assistance in this investigation. You are, I believe, the author of a work called " Life and Labour of the People ? " —I am the editor of that book. I have written a good deal of it myself.

10519. I think you wish to begin your evidence by making a preliminary statement ; will you please do so ?—An unemployed person may, in the first place, be defined as one who at any particular time desires to find remunerative work and fails to do so. The numbers of such unemployed must, however, be considered in connection with the cause of their lack of employment, or the explanation of the breach in its continuity. These causes may be classified as follows : (1) *According to " the job."* Such as to the dock labourer, who is wanted one day and not wanted the next ; or, in the building trade, where a man is engaged by the hour, and as each job ends must look out for another, and so almost necessarily lose some time ; (2) *According to the weather.* Such as external painting stopped by rain, and many kinds of work by frost ; (3) *According to the season.* Such as the discharging of timber coming from the Baltic, or other places which are inaccessible in winter. (4) *According to changes of fashion, or of tariffs ; or according to periods of peace or war.* For these no examples are needed. (5) *According to condition of trade, i.e.*, sluggishness following activity. Such as in shipbuilding, or the construction of railways, or the manufacture of telegraph cables, when expansion and contraction succeed each other by a natural law and tend to produce cycles of good and bad trade. (6) *According to the capacity or character of the worker.* This must be regarded as an independent cause, but is also interwoven with all the others ; for in each case it is the less valuable servant who first loses his employment and finds most difficulty in regaining it.

The number whose employment from one or other of these causes is not strictly *continuous*, and who are consequently sometimes " unemployed " is a large proportion of the working classes. In some important trades it may include nine-tenths of the workers, and taking all trades together the numbers of unemployed on any particular day would under this definition be always considerable and at times very large indeed. But in considering these numbers the following points must be borne in mind regarding the six classes of unemployed persons enumerated above :—

Chairman—continued.

(1) *Concerning breaches in continuity of employment due to engagement by " the job."*—This cause is partly connected with trade union policy. Other things being equal, the rate of pay rises in proportion to the shortness of the engagement. A man engaged by the hour or by the day is paid at a higher rate than if engaged by the week or given what is called " permanent " employment. It has been the usual policy of trades unions to raise the rate of pay and shorten the tenure of employment. Occasional lack of work is anticipated, and if the policy is successful the effect on earnings of lack of work may be supposed to be balanced on the whole by the higher rate of pay secured. The individual inequality of lot, which results under this system, is met in the best organizations by out-of-work benefit. All the members contribute, and may claim the allowance if they need it ; but practically one set of men continually pay more than they receive, and another (smaller) number of men as continually receive more than they pay. The latter are those who mainly make up the percentage of members returned as " out-of-work," and are so on the definition given ; but more correctly must be said to share the employment of their companions, being supported out of the aggregate wages maintained in this way at a certain standard. This policy of short tenure and high wages tends to increase the number of those required to do a certain amount of work, while, at the same time, it tends also to decrease the total amount of work available ; and it undoubtedly has the effect of dividing the employed and unemployed more rigorously. The employers keep no idle men on their books, even for a day, and

Chairman—continued.

and get rid as soon as possible of the inefficient, who are unprofitable at high rates of pay. It, however, does not follow that all those employed would find constant work at lower rates of wages.

(2) and (3). *According to the weather or the season.*—The periods when there will be little or no employment are foreseen, and undoubtedly affect the number of hours worked; at other times it may be as overtime, as well as the rates of remuneration. If men do not equalise their income by laying something by when earning most, it is mainly because they find it easy to obtain credit at the time when they earn least. The money is saved for them by those who find in the custom thus secured a source of profit. Men who live habitually on this assistance when out of work cannot be included as suffering from want of employment unless the period of lack of work is longer than usual.

(4) *According to change of fashion, &c.*—The uncertainty of demand, and still more the uncertainty of its exact direction, is met by preparations for rapid action. Those manufacturers will be most successful who can wait till the market declares its wants before attempting to supply them. This creates irregularity of employment. On the other hand, the great cost of the plant demanded by this policy causes the owners to seek to occupy it fully, and the usual result is a glut of production. Thus irregularity of employment, if not chronic, comes eventually in an aggravated form. When the irregularity is chronic it has a considerable effect on rates of pay and on hours of work, but much less so when lack of employment follows a glut.

(5) *According to the conditions of trade.*—Some trades are more liable than others to inflation and contraction, and in such trades wages usually rule high; but the periods are long, and neither savings nor credit can be safely relied on to equalise good and bad times. Not only are large numbers out of work at one time, but wages usually fall, and the funds of trades unions become exhausted. The mischief becomes still more serious when depression of trade is general. Such depression may be inevitable, and may come in approximately regular cycles; but nothing short of great prudence on the part of the workers can meet the difficulty. Moreover, those who are most prudent in saving are probably least likely to be thrown out of work.

(6) *According to the capacity or character of the worker.*—This cause of lack of employment (like sluggishness of trade, and unlike irregularity according to the job, or the weather, or the season) depresses wages and lowers the standard of life. The men themselves, when they work at all, usually give comparatively little value in return for their wages, and are therefore the first to be discharged. As unemployed men, they hang on to the labour market, and while doing little good to themselves, injure the prospects of others. They are a great difficulty in the way of effective organisation as well as a great strain on union funds, and are also a constant burden on the purses of their kind-hearted companions.

It is evident from these considerations that the definition first given includes many who can-

Chairman—continued.

not be rightly taken as the subjects of this inquiry. A second definition thus becomes necessary, and might run, "those whose periods of lack of employment are excessive, with the result that their earnings fall below the needs of life." The numbers of the unemployed when thus defined, though falling far below those that might be counted under the first definition, are still very great.

10520. Although the necessitous unemployed, as you define them, may not be capable of being enumerated, may it not be possible to find out whether they are more numerous than usual at any given time?—Yes, I think it may; especially or mainly by a very careful use of statistics. I should wish, with regard to that, to refer to the work of the Labour Department, which, I think, has been excellent in that direction. I know you have had before you Mr. Llewellyn Smith of the Labour Department. I think the work undertaken by the Labour Department is excellent; but it is rather too recent for us to build upon so much as one would wish. It is capable, moreover, of extension laterally as well as in time; that is to say, not only will it be more valuable when it has been in operation several years, but its work may be extended considerably. There seems a necessity of combining many sources of information to obtain a complete picture of the condition of things. You have, for instance, to combine statistics of Revenue and of Traffic (traffic is very important), and of Banking and Pauperism, and in fact there may be many others; it would be necessary to combine statistics of various sorts to get a complete picture. I know they are doing that to some extent in the Labour Department. The best single test is the total volume of trade; the volume to be tested by quantity, not by the amount of money. I think that, if we are to look at a single test, that is the best. When the whole volume of trade (the population remaining the same) is very much reduced, it is evident that there is a strain put upon the resources of the industrial classes. I do not think we need very seriously consider the question of unprofitableness; at any rate, so long as the trade still continues to be done. It does not seem to me to be so much a question of the profit as of the bulk of the trade that is handled. Still, unprofitableness must not be altogether disregarded, because it may be a warning of coming contraction. In the meantime the public undoubtedly benefits by the consequent cheap prices. Unprofitableness may be a warning of coming contraction, though it has no immediate effect upon the employment of the people. Studies in economics of this character should, I think, be facilitated in every possible way. It is very important that these questions should be studied by those who are interested in and who undertake industry, and also by the working classes themselves. The more they are popularised the better. It would be an immense advantage if each trade were conscious of its own development, and conscious of the dangers it runs. I think, in a great measure, by foreseeing those things they could mitigate the evil.

10521. The Labour Department of the Board of Trade might, therefore, you think, be a means

Chairman—continued.

of communicating that information to the different trades in order to guide their action?—Of assisting them, at all events. The use of statistics would be partly of that character. Better trade organisation among masters and men works in the same direction. We find that if the various employers in a trade are united together they begin to regard the trade as a whole in a way that perhaps they do not do if they are not united, and I am sure it is very greatly so amongst the men. Among the large industries that are very well organised, where the working classes have their unions and are strongly federated together, I know they boast that they understand the general position of the business quite as well as the masters, and I think it is a very excellent thing that both should understand it, and that both should follow out these studies, with a view, if possible, of avoiding the dangers that may overtake them, the danger of over-production or of whatever character it may be.

10522. Do you think that improved organisation in the management of industry causes greater regularity of employment?—Organisation in the management of industry is rather different from what I was talking of, which was the organisation of men and masters amongst themselves with regard to the general trade interests. But the improved organisation of the management of industry certainly tends, and will always tend, to a greater regularity of employment. At all events, if it does so, if they try to get rid of the hangers on, and try to consolidate the industry in that way, I think it will tend immediately against the unemployed; it will create a large number of unemployed; it tends in favour of the best men. Supposing a manufacturer has at some times been in the habit of employing 2,000 men and at other times 1,000 men and he finds that by better organisation he can employ 1,500 men regularly, there are 500 men thrown out. The immediate effect, probably, is not so drastic as that, but the tendency would be that a larger proportion of those employed will get regular work, and either there will be a smaller number of men employed irregularly, or, if the same number is still employed, their work will be still more irregular. The larger the proportion of work done under regular conditions the smaller will be the proportion to be shared amongst those who work irregularly. It therefore does tend to aggravate the condition of the mere casual hands. It is easy to give instances of that, if it is necessary. The building trade is one instance that may be taken. It is sometimes said that public bodies should put out their contracts at a time when other work fails, that is to say, when people are not naturally undertaking building operations. It is said, for instance, there is nothing to make it impossible for building to be continued through the winter; that it only needs better arrangement. I believe in some countries, where the winter is very long, the difficulties have been conquered, and it is suggested that public works should be done in the winter, when work is scarce. But the effect of that would be to benefit, not the unemployed, but to benefit the employed. The people who would get the work could hardly be selected because they were unemployed, but they would be the people who

Chairman—continued.

could with least difficulty find employment. That is to say, the best hands would inevitably get the work; they would have the preference; and the result, I think, would be, that the men who are thoroughly well employed most of the year, and irregularly employed in the winter, would get regular employment all the year round; whereas those who are now irregularly employed in the summer would have even less work then, and when the winter came they would still have none. We have seen, and are seeing that now, in regard to the dock employment in London. Before the dock strike the management of the docks considered it very advantageous that there should be a large number of men competing for their work. Since the dock strike that has been changed, and the chairman of the joint committee, Mr. Hubbard, is doing his utmost to reduce the number of casual people, and he is constantly attempting to increase the proportion of work done by men who are practically regularly employed. The result of that evidently is, that the proportion of the work that remains to be divided amongst the irregular hands becomes smaller and smaller, and I believe that is one reason for the distress that exists in East London.

10523. In the riverside locality, you mean?—Yes; it is a large volume of employment, and I think it has had a distinct effect.

10524. You consider that that evil is an unfortunate circumstance, but that it really ought not to be set against the advantages of the improved system?—I think the fact that those irregularly employed have a harder time is a step towards the cure of the evil in the end. Those for whom there is no longer a living must, I think, be gradually absorbed into other industries, or, if the worst comes to the worst, they pass through the workhouse and finally die. It is, no doubt, a very hard saying, but it is, I believe, the only way in which improvement can be reached; that the regularising of work, the making of work more regular, will gradually crowd out those who now depend upon this irregular and extremely unsatisfactory source of work. The more regular work becomes the better it will be in the end; but it may cause, and is now causing, I believe, considerable pressure in the present. It has also another influence, and that is of an educational character; it tends to subdue the repugnance to regular work which is felt, and which I think goes hand in hand with the facilities for its indulgence. Men who have never done regular work in their lives can hardly stand it; but upon those who are young, pressure being brought to bear upon them in that way by its being made very difficult for them to get their living in any way but by regular work, it will have a good educational influence. I cannot think that irregularity of work, combined with irregularity of life, is anything but an evil, and therefore I am willing to face a good deal of present difficulty in order to make it less easy.

Mr. *Logan.*

10525. Will not the giving of greater regularity of employment have the effect of stopping the influx of men into the towns?—It has not that

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

that effect at first; the effect is just the opposite. It may ultimately have that effect; but the immediate effect is that you can afford to import superior labour; you offer something that is worth a man's while to come for, and you can get men of more trustworthy character and of, perhaps, stronger physique to take it. The charge that the Dockers' Union make against the management with regard to this point is, that the management have deliberately introduced country labour to supplant the London Dockers. I do not myself suppose that to be true at all, but I have no doubt that there is a tendency in that direction, and I should think it has probably come to pass with regard to the wharves to a certain extent. At all events, that is the tendency; if, instead of chance work day by day, you are able to offer a regular income, a regular weekly wage for the work, you do offer a thing which is very attractive, and you will get the pick of the men from everywhere to come to it.

Chairman.

10526. The men you would attract would be the better class of men, and not the more casual class of men whose employment is unsteady?—Yes, the attraction is to a very good class of labour; but it does bring this good class of men to London, and the others, those who are not wanted, do not leave London, so that the evil is aggravated by that. Again I believe that to be a step in the right direction, but it is a painful step.

10527. But you do not throw much light upon what becomes of those who are thrown out by this process?—It is very difficult to throw any actual light upon that. One's imagination can deal with it, and I suppose everybody who works among the poor (I do not myself, but I come in contact with those who do) knows plenty of cases of that sort where the work is dwindling and the men are left stranded, and they are in London practically kept by their wives.

10528. The wives finding some small industry are enabled to keep their husbands?—Yes, the wives help things generally. London offers many chances still, chances of charity, and chances of one kind and another, so that they scramble along somehow, but no doubt in distress.

10529. Do you regard it as a transition period which we are passing through?—I hope so; but the transition lasts so long, one does not know what limit to put to the transition. We are always being told we are in the transition stage. I suppose we always are.

Mr. *Mather.*

10530. Transition from what?—From what was to what will be; but I am afraid it is eternal rather.

Chairman.

10531. Have you anything more to say upon that part of the subject before I pass to the next point?—No. I think I have dealt with that part of the case as fully as I wish to; but I shall be very glad to answer any questions.

10532. Now, which of the causes of lack of employment which you have enumerated do you

Chairman—continued.

consider the most serious?—Undoubtedly, the last three; that is, those which are connected with the condition of trade and the character of labour, those which in my preliminary statement I numbered 4, 5, and 6: "According to changes of fashion," "According to condition of trade," and "According to the capacity or character of the worker." I should wish, however, to say that I do not at all pretend that this statement of the causes of the breaches of continuity of employment is complete or exhaustive. A great many causes may be found, and they act and re-act upon each other, and to a certain extent new causes come from the combinations. One, for instance, which occurs to me is connected with the trades union policy, and that is the effect of strikes. A strike may cause a lack of continuity of employment, and is evidently aimed at, and if successful results in, improved rates of wages; so that you must put that down as a peculiar cause. Then, of course, strikes are by no means limited in their effect to those who make them. The stoppage of one trade caused by a strike affects adversely the work in many other branches, so that there is a great deal of irregularity that may come from that. Again, there are sudden changes in industrial processes which throw out one set of men, and which perhaps employ another set of men, and create friction. That cause lies somewhere in between Nos. 5 and 6; that is, between the condition of trade and the capacity or character of the worker. A man has perhaps the capacity if the trade had not changed its character, and ceases to have that capacity when it has changed its character. Then, again, there are other changes which come from variations in the comparative strength of competition. It may be that the north succeeds in competition as against London, or Scotland, as against Yorkshire, or whatever it may be, or we may have changes in the comparative strength of Continental competition. Belgium may for some reason have an exceptional advantage. As to a matter of that sort, the workers in England have really no control, and cannot affect it, unless it is connected with the trades union policy. It may be that the trades union policy will drive wages too high, and cause it. Thus the subject becomes more complicated than can be dealt with in a simple statement of this sort. I only wish to guard against its being supposed that this is anything like a complete statement. I have done my best to put down the more important headings. In the main, one may say that the troubles I am going to consider now come from bad trade or from bad labour.

10533. What do you consider, in a general way, to be the causes of contraction in trade?—The immediate cause of contraction in trade, I think, is usually a previous inflation. But that is saying very little. Contraction and the inflation act and re-act, but continuance of a depressed condition (which is the most serious symptom of bad trade) is undoubtedly due to lack of enterprise; the good heart and hopefulness which set enterprise in motion fail; people get out of heart. Enterprise springs from the hope of profit, and if people cease to see their way to make a

profit,

Chairman—continued.

profit, if they cease to hope for profit, and if they cease to know how to serve people so that they will be willing to pay for those services, there is a lack of enterprise. Enterprise forecasts what will be wanted, and it is only justified in that forecast by success; that is to say, by the services which it supplies being welcomed and paid for. It necessarily speculates to that extent. It offers something to the public, hoping the public will appreciate that offer by paying for it, and if it does not do so, if the public does not appreciate it and does not pay for it, the enterprise is a failure, and if enterprise has met with failure after failure, it loses heart.

10534. If private enterprise is lacking, can anything be done to stimulate it?—That is a very difficult point. I think it is conceivable that a large public undertaking at exactly the right moment might start the ball rolling; that is to say, it might start things so that private enterprise continued them. But it would be rather a dangerous attempt to make. The general flow of enterprise depends immensely on good government; that is a commonplace; on security of life and property, just laws, evenly distributed taxation, and freedom of trade; and is just as true that bad or rash government acts against it. In that general way enterprise does depend immensely upon governmental action; but the attempt to stimulate enterprise in that way by a large expenditure of public capital, although I think conceivably it might answer, would be a very serious and somewhat dangerous attempt to make.

10535. What sort of public enterprise have you in your mind?—I think such an enterprise as has been recently considered, namely, that of light railways, would be of that character if it were deliberately undertaken. If it was thought that the internal trade of the country would be immensely facilitated by light railways, and it was not easy to get shareholders to subscribe the money for this, or get it undertaken in a private way, that would be the sort of undertaking that might be considered. A large scheme of that sort, which public money could be invested in with a fair chance of ultimate return on it, and on which the money would not be wasted, would start industry which would afterwards flow in the natural channels of trade. But I do not like to suggest the thing definitely, because it is a difficult matter. I only put it forward tentatively. I think it is conceivable that action might be taken in that way with advantage at times.

Mr. *Billson.*

10536. Would you say the same of a wide extension of the postal facilities?—They are fairly widely extended now.

10537. I mean for the carriage of small parcels, and things of that sort?—Yes.

Chairman.

10538. Would the public enterprise, such as you would contemplate, or have in your mind, be in addition to private enterprise, or would it replace it. I presume it would be additional, and a stimulus to private enterprise?—I should think it ought to be an addition, and I think it would be to a great extent; but I do not think it would ever be a pure addition. The extent to which public enterprise steps in, as an addition to private enterprise, seems to me to depend upon the wisdom with which it is undertaken. If wisely undertaken, I think it is to a great extent additional. I think it may take up ideas that private enterprise cannot very readily touch. I see no reason why it should not be almost entirely additional, because I do not think it depends upon the amount of capital available. I think the extent of human mental effort that is brought to bear is the main thing. I think it is possible to bring public enterprise forward to fill a place that private enterprise does not take at all, if it is done wisely. But, if it is done unwisely, I think it may interfere with far more industrial action than it causes.

10539. Can you suggest any cures for the lack of employment due to the ebb and flow of trade?—I think I should like to speak first of the effect of replacing private by public enterprise. I think for a time that could be done, and that public enterprise would be more constant and less liable to ebb and flow. However, with regard to the cures, I should divide the subject into two parts: first, concerning the future, into which broad questions of public policy enter, but as to which it would be fatal to be guided by the present distress; and, next, concerning the present, as to which relief of distress is the first consideration, but in which so far as possible no step should be taken that is not conformable to the general principles of policy requisite under the first part, that is to say, with regard to the future. Then the suggestions, if I may put them quite shortly, which I should make as to the first part (that is, concerning the future) are these: I should favour a tentative extension of municipal enterprise generally, for the reason I have just given, that I think that public enterprise of a steady character is less liable to ebb and flow, and that enough can be done, if done gradually and tentatively, to be of some use without being of much danger; and I should not be afraid of some extension of taxation for this purpose.

10540. Will you explain what you point to in speaking of municipal enterprise?—I think, for instance, locomotion is certainly a fair public enterprise; but the general extension of municipal enterprise appears to me to be of that character.

10541. To put it plainly, you mean that municipalities should undertake certain public services on their own account?—They should increasingly undertake them, not with a view of conquering the present difficulty of the unemployed, but as being the better policy.

10542. When you said you would not be afraid of some increase of taxation for that purpose, do you mean by Imperial taxation, or by rates?—I was using taxation to mean both rates and any form of taxes. Then I should certainly favour an extension of technical and scientific education, for which I am willing to pay to a certain extent. I should also favour the public organisation of incompetent labour in a manner which, if desired, I will detail. And, finally, I should wish, as everybody knows, to lighten the burthen of old age for the poor by collective action.

Chairman—continued.

action. Then, with regard to the second part of the subject, concerning the present, I am strongly against all attempts to manufacture work for the temporarily unemployed. If work is provided, it should be only as a test, and be as educational as possible, and the results should be carefully watched. The only sure cure, as I think, for the evils of irregularity of work is personal prudence. I see no other sure cure. When prudence fails, and distress ensues, we must look to organised charity (it is no use calling it anything else, it is charity), or public assistance must be given with very careful administration.

10543. You used the phrase just now, "public organisation of incompetent labour;" would you develop what you mean by that a little?—I shall be very happy to deal with that more fully. The idea is the establishment of industrial homes of a certain character. I have a memorandum here on industrial homes, which I can read if you please.

10544. Will you please do so?—Among those who are frequently out of employment there are many who are so because they are incapable of managing their own lives, and are thus the prey of every kind of misfortune and a great burden on the community. It would be desirable that the State should, on certain conditions, offer to organise industry for these or some of these persons, individually or by families. What I suggest is that industrial homes should be established in which suitable persons would be cared for, provided that they come voluntarily and are accompanied by a guarantee from some local authority (or organised charity, or private person), which would limit the possible cost to the State to a small fixed sum per annum for every person maintained. The organisation of these industrial homes would be directed towards making them as nearly self-supporting as possible, and the accounts would be so kept as to indicate the actual loss (if any) resulting from the keep of each family or each individual separately. The work undertaken would be as varied as is compatible with its being done entirely on Government account. The basis of profit or loss would be the prices charged by ordinary contractors to the Government for similar articles, clothing, accoutrements, furniture, etc. Articles required for the inmates' own wants would be amongst those prepared. The loss (that is the excess of cost of these establishments and of the keep of the inmates) over the earnings would be shared in certain proportions between the Government and the local bodies on whose recommendation the inmates were received. Any profit would belong to the inmate by whose labour it was made. An experiment could be tried with one such establishment, and would show: (1.) What demand there was for this form of assistance; (2.) What class of persons applied; (3.) What average loss resulted; (4.) What rules must be observed. It is only by the Government that the experiment could be made, without direct competitive interference in industry. The rules I suggest are: (i.) The local sender to be responsible for suitability of applicants; (ii.) Applicants may be either individuals or whole families; (iii.) The contribution of the

Chairman—continued.

central government to be fixed. Any further loss, whether much or little, to be chargeable to the local guarantor. The amount of such loss to be estimated each week; (iv.) Inmates to be comfortably lodged and fed and supplied with clothing (at their own choice) up to a certain value; (v.) No one to be received for whom employment cannot be found, except children, who, if too young to work, shall be taught ordinary lessons, or receive industrial training; (vi.) Any inmate may leave by giving one month's notice; or may be dismissed for idleness, or disorderly conduct; or will be discharged if the local guarantee is withdrawn. In any case the inmates on leaving will be returned to the place from which they came. The numbers who could be assisted in this way would be limited by the amount of accommodation provided, and by the willingness of local authorities to guarantee the cost. If this plan of relief proved successful, and economical, it is capable of considerable extension. Ultimately it might include agriculture, and possibly even building, in its industrial operations.

10545. Would you have each home with an area of its own; that is to say, supposing the home was erected in a particular town, would it take its inmates only from that town and district, or would it take them from any part of the country?—I should think either plan might work; it would depend upon the character of the home. Naturally it would be desirable that people should not be sent too far from their own home.

10546. You say there would be no direct competitive interference with industry; but surely whatever the inmates worked at, the results of their industry would displace some outside industries, would they not?—Yes. I regard that as indirect.

10547. Supposing the men were put to make clothing, accoutrements, and furniture, as you say, that would mean that there would be less employment of that sort outside?—Yes; but on the other hand that number of people would be withdrawn from competition; so that it is as broad as it is long; or rather broader. But there is no competition in price. That is, perhaps, what I should have said in saying that there was no direct competition. You withdraw on one hand a certain amount of labour from the market, and on the other hand a certain amount of labourers from the market, and there is a balance there that I think would be rather favourable than unfavourable. Those people are being supported one way or another; they are hanging on the labour market, and also hanging on the public, or the private purses of those who support them; they are working now to very little purpose, and if they could be made to work to greater purpose there would be an industrial advantage, I believe, to the community.

10548. You would prevent any feeling that they were underselling outside labour by your arrangement as to the prices to be charged for the articles?—As I propose it, it is entirely a Government affair, and it is for them to decide the price; it is a mere matter of book-keeping. The articles made by these people would only be

Chairman—continued.

part of the whole number of similar articles which the Government would use, and the Government would have no right to charge itself any more for the products they get from these people than if they bought outside. The Army Department, for instance, would have no right to pay more for a uniform made by them than if they got it from a contractor; but neither has it the right to pay less. The amount of work done would be charged at exactly the same price as the contractor would get outside; so that there would be no competition in price, although there would be a reduction in the total quantity available for the outside world.

10549. You are aware, no doubt, of the jealousy with which certain trades in the country have regarded the employment of prisoners in gaols on certain industries?—Yes.

10550. You think that would be neutralised here by the fact that the persons employed in these homes would not be prisoners but would be labourers subtracted from competition outside?—I think there is no reason at all why prisoners should not do work if they do the work for the Government use only. I think if the prisoners made mats solely for the Houses of Parliament and for their own and other prisons, and so on, there would be no real cause for complaint. The cause for complaint is that they make mats cheaper and sell them cheaper than they can be made outside, and anybody can buy their mats. We are now importing mats and things of that sort from Belgium that are made by prisoners there.

10551. That is rather objected to in some quarters, is it not?—I do not think that is parallel to this proposal. I do not mean to say that this proposal could not be objected to; but it could not be objected to on the same ground.

10552. Might it not be objected to on the ground that if they made mats or any other articles within these homes there would befewer mats required to be purchased by the Government from outside makers?—That is so, undoubtedly.

10553. But you think that is balanced by the fact that there would be fewer people to make those mats, and, therefore, less competition in the labour outside?—Yes.

10554. Is that all that you wish to say in your general evidence?—Yes, that completes my statement.

Mr. *Acland.*

10555. In speaking of the tests by which we should learn more as to the condition of those out of employment, you spoke of the volume of trade as the best test?—Yes.

10556. Do you think we have now sufficient information as to the volume of trade inside the country to enable us to judge?—No, you have not.

10557. Is there any means by which we can get more statistics?—I think we could make greater use of the means we have by putting things together, by combination, and I should not despair also of getting more information.

10558. At present I suppose the statistics of exports and imports have to do a great deal of duty as a sign of the condition of the trade of the country?—Yes, and the railway returns are used; but more use might be made of them, I think.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

10559. You think whatever would enable us to know more about our internal trade would be very desirable?—Very.

10560. But I suppose it is very difficult?—No doubt it is difficult; it would have to be slowly built up.

10561. The more these figures can be improved the better test we shall have as to the present conditions, and a better opportunity of having some warnings as to the future?—Yes; they need to be arranged so as to show comparable results from year to year.

10562. In speaking about the large body of unemployed who are in existence at the present time, and who will be in existence in the future, partly as the result of more organised employment and employment given more continuously, do you think that most of those who remain unemployed will be unemployed chiefly through some weakness of their own?—If you include weakness of character, I think so.

10563. I ask the question because I observe in your book, which you refer to, you speak about the sad results of what you call the impoverishment of respectability. I suppose even there the respectability is suffering to some extent from causes of internal weakness, including character?—It is a comparative matter. If the best man wins, the second man, who is not best, does not win. There is no positive test of what his character or quality is.

10564. Yet the second man may be a very respectable man?—He would have been first if the first man had been away.

10565. Of course in your classification of the whole of London you include in the classes which have very uncertain employment a great many very respectable citizens, do you not?—Yes.

10566. And they will be, and are now, among those who suffer from real distress?—Undoubtedly there are specimens of all kinds.

10567. Would you say the proportion of those whose character is good, and who are respectable persons, is large among the ranks of those whose employment is very irregular?—I think not; but it is very difficult to speak as to that.

10568. You have made this subject a study of your own, and therefore I wanted your opinion; I will not press you upon it?—I should think it is not large. One has to take some kind of absolute test, and I think it will be found that most of them have themselves to thank in some way for their irregular work. It may be that irregular work of that sort suits them better, or that they have missed their chances.

10569. If I understand what you have written on this matter, you think that the weakness of our present social arrangements is that there is a large number of people of this unemployed and unsatisfactory class at the bottom who affect those who are above them in a very serious way?—Yes, they drag down the general industrial position.

10570. Those who are fairly well employed are partly affected by the fact that they are often very friendly and generous to those immediately below them?—They are affected in that way.

10571. And their sources of income are so impaired?

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

paired?—Yes, there is a heavy burden upon them; but the great effect is upon those who are immediately above them, and who are themselves more or less irregularly employed, although not so very irregularly employed. Their chances of work are very much injured by the hanging on of these more irregular men. The descent is so gradual throughout, from the perfectly regularly employed to the entirely irregularly employed, that it is not possible to draw an exact line anywhere. But the whole position is undoubtedly aggravated from below.

10572. They are constantly in a state of uncertain competition with one another?—Yes; security is very much shaken.

10573. There is a general feeling of insecurity?—Yes. They are used to that; they do not feel it much.

10574. In relation to failure through health or deficient capacity, have you noticed at what stage of life that begins with a good worker?—It depends upon the trade. In some trades it is early, between 40 and 45; in other trades, between 45 and 50. In some trades it is not felt until quite late in life.

10575. Then sometimes a really good worker becomes old in a particular trade almost by the time he is 50?—Yes.

10576. I mean old from the point of view of being a good worker?—Yes; generally too old to get new employment, although he may retain his old place. There are trades in which the extra experience and character which age brings with it so tell that the old men are paid higher wages than the young men; but in many trades a man is at his highest value quite early in life, and in most trades he ceases to be at his highest value between 45 and 50.

10577. At that age he will be very likely going downwards, and may very soon reach the ranks of the very irregularly employed?—Yes, if he loses his place and has to seek another chance. The loss of his place may be due to some fault of his own, and very likely is, or, on the other hand, it may not. It may be due to the failure of his employer. There may be a change of business. One business failing, or stopping from one reason or another, and a new business taking up the field, causes a great deal of irregularity and disorganisation, and old hands who would have been kept on by the old employer are no longer considered.

10578. I am speaking specially of men whose nerves or capacity for work have failed?—Yes, but that has to be taken in connection with the effect upon the employer's mind; because employers do not take the simple line: this man is not worth so much, and therefore I will discharge him. It would be a very hard employer that would take that line. Moreover, a man who is known to his employer has a value to the employer who knows him which he has not to an employer who does not know him.

10579. And it may happen, I presume, that he may pass under the same employment to work not so highly paid?—Yes, it may be so; or suitable work may be often found for him.

10580. Are you able to say, watching the development of modern industry and changes,

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

whether the effect of those changes is to make men become less efficient at an earlier age?—I think it has that effect.

10581. My point is that the tendency therefore may be to bring men into the ranks of those who may become unemployed possibly at an earlier age than used to be the case?—I think that is so. I think there is both more friction, and, also, the work on the whole becomes more straining; the work is taken at a greater pace.

10582. When you spoke of public enterprise, or municipal enterprise, I assume that the men who are to be taken into this work are to be men who are not regularly employed elsewhere?—I think that if the workman are selected for the work because they are unemployed, it would be fatal. I think, if it provides work which otherwise would not be done, it will draw from the unemployed; but I think that drawing must be perfectly natural. That is to say, in doing the work you must take the best men you can get; and the best men you can get would not necessarily be the men who were out of work, or quite out of work, at all events.

10583. Then the object of it would not be in any way to make special provision for those not in employment at the particular moment, but simply to increase the general volume of employment in the country?—Yes.

10584. The result of that would be to take up a certain number of the good workers who happened to be out of employment for the time being, but were quite efficient workers?—Yes; it would increase the field for employment.

10585. Yes, but it would take up men who were perfectly fit to do the work in hand?—Yes, it would take the best men that could be got.

10586. That assumes that at any given moment there are a certain number of men not fully employed and willing to go elsewhere?—Yes.

10587. It was for that purpose that you would advocate municipal or public enterprises?—Yes. One would wish to see people as fully and usefully employed as possible, and it is in case public enterprise fills the place which private enterprise has not succeeded in filling that it would be useful, and would act as an additional means of employment.

10588. But that, I take it, is quite apart from the question of giving employment to persons who are not fit to do that work well?—Entirely.

10589. That is to say, that part of the unemployed who are out of work because they are inefficient workers?—Yes, who are either altogether out of work or have not so much work as they could do.

10590. I understand that for these persons who are out of work because they are not fit for skilled work, or because other persons at all events get work before them, you suggest as one of your recommendations the organisation of these industrial homes?—Yes, I think that would reach a particular section of them.

10591. Then the workers in those homes would be some of the less efficient workers?—Some of them would be efficient workers, but unable to manage their own lives. It is a little

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

difficult to say what is meant by "efficient." A man may be a perfectly good servant if he is properly looked after, and yet may be unable to manage his own affairs.

10592. But I take it your proposal of industrial homes had direct reference to those whom we may call, speaking broadly, the unemployed?—Yes, the inefficient unemployed.

10593. They would be under some kind of special control rather different from that which applies to ordinary labour outside?—Yes.

10594. They would want special guidance?—The object would be to make them as efficient as possible.

10595. But not to expect them to be as efficient as those outside?—It would, no doubt, be necessary to have paid superintendents.

10596. You would expect, I suppose, to have a certain amount of loss on such a scheme?—Yes.

10597. Your homes, you think, would restore some of these men to a certain amount of efficiency?—Yes; the main object is not for their sake but for the sake of those who are left. I should also think it very important for the sake of the children. The individuals may be past cure; I cannot tell. Some of them could be cured at all events; and they would be comfortable; and those who are left in the world from which they were withdrawn would be better off. With regard to the children, I think the taint might be entirely eradicated, because these people are not paupers. They are incompetent; but it does not in the least follow that the children will be incompetent if properly educated.

10598. I believe you have always held very strongly the view that if the State could in any wise take charge of some of those in the lowest ranks of labour, it might be of the greatest possible assistance to those above them?—I have, for many years.

10599. This proposition, I take it, of an industrial home is part of that proposition?—It is.

10600. You think that it would be very useful even to make a single experiment with a view to seeing how it worked out?—I should not venture myself to recommend more than an experiment; it may fail.

10601. You think that one experiment under good auspices would be worth trying?—I think it is well worth trying.

10602. As to the employment of those who are not employed by municipalities, I understand you say you do not think offering work to them is at all a desirable thing?—I do not think the manufacture of work for them is good.

10603. Do you think any extension of the principle of applying work as a test, such as we have now under the guardians, is desirable?—It may be; I have not sufficient knowledge to be able to say. It appears to me very possibly it might be desirable under careful guidance. I should not at all like to say it should not be done; but I think it should be done carefully, and mainly as a test.

10604. And for the rest, so far as anything can be done, it must be done by carefully organised charity, as you say?—Yes.

Mr. *Acland*—continued.

10605. There is hardly anything else to be suggested for that large body that cannot be brought into industrial homes or be helped in any other way?—I think not.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan).

10606. You spoke of the building trades at the beginning of your examination; I suppose at the present time, both in London and everywhere else, the building trade is very good?—I believe it is.

10607. My reason for saying so is that I find, from provincial papers as well as from city papers, contractors advertising for workmen who are skilled in the building trade?—Yes.

10608. And, at the present time, those engaged in the trade have good wages?—I believe so. I believe they suffered considerably in the protracted frost of the early part of this year when their work no doubt was postponed, and they are now benefiting by the work which was put off.

10609. Of course it is well known when it comes to winter time, and the frost is very severe, those men cannot get employment at their regular employment?—When you spoke of the present state of things I was not quite sure whether you meant this particular month, or this year, or last year.

10610. I mean the season in which building can be carried on?—When you asked me what the condition of the building trade was now, I did not know whether you referred to the month of June or May, or the whole of 1895.

10611. I referred generally to the present summer?—With regard to the present summer, I think they are benefiting by the exceptionally long frost which postponed action. But the building trade has been good, looking at it over a larger period than that; it was good in 1894, and it is good in 1895.

10612. You referred to the policy of trades unions to shorten the tenure of labour: do you not think that the strikes of workmen have a tendency to widen the breach between employers and employés; so that, when a time comes, either through slackness in trade, or from any other cause, when employers might widen their sympathies towards their workmen by finding out means of employment for them, they really do not study to find such opportunities on account of the way the men have used them before when they have had the opportunity?—It has had that effect.

10613. And, as a general rule, strikes are very injurious to the workpeople, are they not?—I do not want to make a general statement as to that. They have a policy to pursue, for which they must be willing to sacrifice certain things to attain their end; and I do not mean to say that their policy is wrong, or that strikes are always a mistake. That they are very costly I should readily admit.

10614. As a general rule in the end the working classes do not make much by them; do you admit that?—I think they make very little by individual strikes generally; but the consequences of the strike go far beyond the particular trade or the particular year in which it is fought.

10615. You referred to certain changes in industries

Mr. *John Wilson* (Govan)—continued.

industries as causing a great deal of want of employment to persons employed in those industries; but you will grant, I suppose, that there are a great many new industries which spring up to absorb the labour that antiquated industries have thrown off?—Yes; but they do not directly absorb it; they cause a great deal of friction. It is not the same men, or the same class of men, who are thrown out of one trade that are picked up by the others. In the long run, the nation finds new work to do; but a large number of those thrown out are not absorbed. There is, to use the word commonly used, increased friction. The particular individuals may never be absorbed.

10616. They may not be able to take up anything else?—They may not; it depends upon their age.

10617. You referred to "bad labour;" what did you mean by "bad" labour; did you mean that the persons have become dissipated and were not able to work, or were not qualified for the work they attempted to do?—I mean not qualified through incompetency.

10618. Arising from what?—It may arise from various causes. It may arise from their own habit or from their lack of education, or from the fact that something different is demanded in their trade from that to which they have been accustomed for many years.

10619. I think you stated that for the present distress the cure was "personal prudence;" what do you mean by personal prudence?—I said that was the remedy, not with regard to the present distress, but with regard to lack of employment from fluctuations in trade or seasons. I was referring to those large causes of fluctuation of employment which result in there being one year plenty of work, and in another year very little, or one trade dying out while another springs up. To get over those dangers that come in working men's lives; I see no cure except personal prudence, that is to say, they should save money when they make it.

10620. By thrift?—Yes.

10621. I think Mr. Acland referred to a class of men who are not disposed to work at any time, loafers?—I referred to them.

10622. There are always in large cities a large class of those men; I suppose those individuals would go into these industrial institutions you have spoken of?—I do not think they would get sponsors or guarantors.

10623. What would you do with the loafers?—I would leave them to the Poor Law.

Mr. *Mather.*

10624. Your experience in connection with the "Life and Labour of the People," I presume, has been chiefly in the East-end of London?—Not particularly. I began at the East-end, but my work now takes the whole field of London.

10625. The facts in connection with your well-known work on the "Life and Labour of the People" were chiefly gathered, I presume, from the East-end of London?—No. I began with the East-end of London. The first thing I published regarded the East-end, but the rest has covered the whole of London.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

10626. Did you not take a very careful analysis over four years of the occupations of the people in the East-end of London, the analysis, I think, covering over 900,000 people?—That was the first thing I did, but the work now covers the whole of London.

10627. Would that experience among that 900,000 you first dealt with form the basis of your general views on this question of the unemployed?—It formed the beginning. I have been working 10 years at the subject. The first three years was with regard to the East of London; the rest has been over the whole of London.

10628. You described a certain class amongst the 900,000 as being those who were always on the verge of actual poverty?—Yes.

10629. You found, I believe, a considerable number, some hundreds of thousands of people, who were living upon that verge continually?—Yes.

10630. You describe in your book the habits of such people, and, I think, proved that even amongst the well-conducted of such class the wages received, owing to the fluctuation of their employment, would not permit them to save anything at all; and, therefore, the principle of thrift for such a class could not come in. You drew the line of poverty, I think, at 20*s.* a week for a man with four or five children with fluctuating employment?—Many of them do save, but I admit it is more than one can fairly expect from them. Those whose management is so good and who are so careful that they do succeed in saving on such an income deserve the greatest possible credit, and it is perhaps not fair to try everybody by so high a test.

10631. When you say that prudence and thrift is the only radical cure amongst the working classes by which distress can be obviated in future, would you apply that test to the class I have named, those struggling on the verge of poverty?—Not to all of them.

10632. Then you admit there must be some remedy applied in addition to the ordinary virtues which might be exercised by individual men in order to meet the circumstances of all our social industrial life?—The condition of many of those individuals is the result of lack of prudence in the past.

10633. Would you assume in the unskilled labour market that a man who married at 23 or 24 years of age, and received 18*s.* or 20*s* a week, and had a family of four or five children, in course of time would be necessarily responsible for his own life throughout a long period, taking into consideration the fluctuation of such employment as he might follow; would you think he ought to be left to himself?—I think his wages should be higher than the sum you mention.

10634. I am taking the amount of wages paid for such work as he can render; of course he has not the power of raising the wages himself?—They have done it themselves.

10635. Did the labourers succeed in raising their wages?—They did, all round. Such wages as 18*s.* to 20*s.* a week for a married man of the age you mention are not common. If a man

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

only earns that it is only probably because his work is irregular.

10636. I am referring to a common labouring man?—He earns more than that.

10637. He receives 20*s.* for constant employment, does he not?—He earns more than that.

10638. In the East-end of London?—Everywhere in London. There are some trades where quite young men or boys can easily compete, such as carmen, for instance; there are some who are very low paid in that way. You may find a carman driving a single horse on 18*s.* a week, but it is work which a lad can do; and, therefore, if a man does it, he is doing the work and receiving the pay which a lad of 18 or 19 or 20 can earn. There are such cases, no doubt, but such a man is badly paid.

10639. Is your experience chiefly amongst the unskilled labour in London, or taking all trades into consideration?—I have no special experience. I am now studying all the trades in London.

10640. Are you at all acquainted with the customs in the manufacturing districts in the north; say, in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, and the Midland Counties?—I know something of them.

10641. From investigation?—No; from keeping my eyes open and from what I have seen.

10642. Have you employed any very large number of men yourself in a large manufacturing industry?—Not quite directly. I am interested in manufacture, but I am not managing a manufactory here.

10643. When you spoke of the volume of trade in this country as distinct from the money value of trade, I suppose you have considered as bearing upon this question the fact that the volume of trade is continually increasing; through every decade there is a distinct increase?—Yes.

10644. Therefore in the aggregate there is, at all events, more work done either by mechanical means or by hand labour?—Yes.

10645. But you would not, I presume, from what you have stated, attach any direct importance to the number of persons employed from year to year, except you take it in connection with the total volume of the trade of the country at that period?—Yes; the two must be taken together.

10646. You are aware, I presume, of the fact that the constant effort of every manufacturer, every employer of labour in manufacturing industries is to restrict the amount of labour he employs, and at the same time to increase the production of the article he manufactures?—To restrict the amount of labour in proportion to the production.

10647. To increase the turnover, as we call it, and at the same time to reduce the number of persons employed?—To reduce the number in proportion to the production. The manufacturer's object is to employ more men, but to get more work in proportion to the men.

10648. Quite so; the extent of his business may in the long run increase the number of persons employed, but in proportion to the value produced he may make the labour cost less?—That is his object.

10649. That is an operation, is it not, which

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

would affect very much this matter of employment?—I think it does.

10650. The change from one trade to another of a large number of men in consequence of improvements, the invention of machinery and new methods of manufacture, is a constant source of displacement of labour, is it not?—Constant.

10651. Of course, they cannot be absorbed, as you have already admitted, without an amount of friction and long suffering on the part of the labouring classes?—That is so.

10652. Among the many points you have indicated as a source of want of employment, you have not mentioned (I do not know whether purposely or not) the fact that one of the greatest industries of this country, the agricultural industry, is employing constantly less and less men, and that constantly less and less land is under tillage year by year?—No, I suppose my mind has been very much occupied with London. I have not gone very much into the question of agricultural labour.

10653. Do you think your views of the situation in towns would not be to some extent modified if you were to discover that hundreds of thousands of men in the course of the last 10 years have been streaming towards the manufacturing centres, and leaving the land, which is our greatest natural resource for work?—So far as I can make out, those coming from the country come because they are attracted to the town, not because they are driven from the country. Although the two motives are no doubt mixed, the fact that they are needed in the town has been the active cause of their coming to the town.

10654. Have they not been attracted by the hope of getting work in the town?—By the certainty of getting it. Generally the place is actually offered. In very many cases they come to London for employment that is offered them.

10655. Are you not aware that a very large amount of land in this country is going out of cultivation, and that those labourers are coming to all the towns to seek employment?—I do not know it.

10656. That has transpired in the evidence during this investigation?—They come, undoubtedly; but the question is, what is their motive? My experience of village life, and some direct inquiries that were made on my account, show that they come in connection with direct invitations; they come to be policemen, they come to be carmen, and a variety of things, and they displace the Londoner. I do not think they usually come up to London looking out for a job. The people who want men of that sort bring them from the country, or if men want a job, they come up after corresponding with somebody who has already preceded them. The young man in the country who finds there is no room for him there, perhaps has an uncle, or a cousin, or whatever it may be, in some town who has already established himself there. He says: "There is no place and no chance for me here; is there anything I can get your way," and he gets an invitation

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

invitation. This relative says: "Yes, I can put you in for so-and-so."

10657. That is, being dissatisfied with his life in the country, or having no occupation there, he naturally comes to the town to seek occupation?—I think the town occupation is more attractive; but I admit the two things are very much mixed together. I do not venture to deny your proposition, but the other is the one that I have been more familiar with.

10658. You recommended to the Committee the establishment of industrial homes, which would undertake the manufacture of all sorts of articles consumed by the State and public departments generally?—Yes.

10659. Those industrial homes would work on the ordinary raw products which are to be obtained in the market, and out of them you would produce, by the labour of these men, articles that could be sold in the market, or absorbed by public bodies, which otherwise they would have to get from the market to meet their requirements?—Yes.

10660. If an industrial home, working up such raw products as you have in view, were established in the country, and worked up the raw product of the land, do you not think such a community would be of infinitely greater value to the country as a whole by taking uncultivated land and putting this labour on the uncultivated land, well organised and directed, than if you established this small community in towns for the purpose of manufacturing articles that are already made on a wholesale scale?—I do not think many of the men I am thinking of would be of any use on the land; but still I did say at the end of the memorandum which I read that it might be ultimately extended to agriculture. I look upon that as about the last thing that would come. I should begin with the most towny manufactures, and if it answered and developed, I think it would in the end be extended to building and finally to agricultural operations.

10661. But we find, in examining into the condition of agriculture in this country, that hundreds of thousands of acres of land are going out of cultivation, and therefore giving no employment to a single individual; would it not be the readiest way to bring upon the land requiring cultivation, by any means such as I have described, all these unemployed persons to cultivate it, and so get from the natural riches of the country the means to support that population?—I think it would be a more costly way of doing it. That it would be done at a greater loss than the proposal I have made. Both proposals would lose money, but I think the agricultural scheme would lose the most.

10662. Do you mean that nature would not yield enough to the man to keep him; could they not support themselves?—I do not think the men I have in my mind would so easily support themselves, or nearly support themselves in the way you suggest. It is however, a very interesting experiment, and an experiment that is being tried.

10663. I understand you to go so far as this: that in your industrial scheme, whether it partook of the character of agriculture or of a

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

manufacturing industry, you hold it might be to the advantage of the State to make an experiment to absorb a certain number of the unemployed population under good management in an occupation that might enable them to keep themselves at least, and probably do something more; that is your general view, is it not?—Yes, and some kind of small cultivation, garden cultivation, and things of that sort. I can imagine it might be useful to try.

10664. Let us leave out of consideration for the moment, for the purpose of my question, the character of the work, whether it be manufacturing or agricultural work; you do from your experience regard it as a practical and feasible scheme for the benefit of the country, that an experiment should be tried to have organised colonies and industries of one sort or another directed and controlled by the State, started by the State, and continued for such a time as will enable the State to discover whether by those means an outlet could be found for the constantly increasing unemployed population. Does that fairly state your general principle?—I do not know whether I should venture to include the words "constantly increasing unemployed population."

10665. I will say then, to meet the case of those at present unemployed, with any new additions which might accrue from time to time?—Yes, that is quite fair.

10666. That would be your view?—Yes.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

10667. How would you provide for selecting the persons to be admitted to the industrial homes?—I leave the selection to those who are willing to guarantee the extra cost, who may be presumed to know something of the people for whom they are willing to make the offer.

10668. They are all to be comfortably lodged and fed and clothed; how would you help those who are capable of managing their own lives, but who might wish to be comfortably fed and lodged and clothed?—I do not see how they would find anybody who would be willing to pay for them. If they can I am content to take them. There would be a point at which the home would be declared full perhaps, or something of that sort. It may be necessary for there also to be a possible veto. That would be seen in practice. My impression is that there would be no rush. In the first instance the man or the family must be considered a suitable case. You would have a Charity Organisation Society or a private friend, or the guardians, or some local body who would represent the case as a suitable one for treatment in this way, and would say, "We hold ourselves responsible for the excess of loss on keeping these people over and above that which the Government has undertaken to meet." The number of persons who first of all would be willing to be treated in that way, and, secondly, could get persons who were prepared to stand as guarantors, would, I think, be limited; and I think there is sufficient machinery for the selection being carefully made, especially as the Government would have the right of sending back any who were either not capable of doing work or disorderly. The really

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

capable workmen who could manage his own life would not go into such a place.

10669. What is your answer to the suggestion that these homes, giving employment to those incapable of managing their own lives, would take away employment from those capable of managing their own lives, and transferring employment from one class to the other?—I think these people by being themselves removed would benefit those who are left outside more than those outside would lose by the work that would be taken out of the open market.

10670. Those taken into the homes would no doubt be benefited, but those not requiring to go into the homes would surely lose employment, would they not?—Those who would go into the homes are now being more or less employed outside. On the one hand you withdraw a certain amount of work, and on the other hand you withdraw a certain amount of labourers.

10671. My point is that you are really transferring the employment now enjoyed by the more capable and efficient, and therefore presumably more deserving class, to the less capable and efficient, and therefore presumably less deserving class?—I do not see that. I do not think that there is a transfer of that kind. It seems to me you would take away those who are doing the most irregular form of work now. You would remove those whose competition is most dangerous in the labour market. I cannot see that the people who are regularly employed lose if they part at the same time with those who are competing with them, who are doing a certain amount of work, the lower part of their work. Above all, they at present have to support these people outside. They are all either being supported by work, in which case, on going into the home they, so to say, bring their work with them, or they are not being supported by work, in which case they are being supported somehow or other out of the public or private purses of those who are doing better; and my impression is, that they would be more cheaply kept in the home than they are now kept, and that everybody would benefit. Those in the home would benefit by being better fed and clothed, and everybody else would benefit, because they would not have to feed and clothe them.

10672. You have already described these people as a class whose competition is dangerous; you are proposing to take them into a home and place them under paid superintendence; would you not thereby make their competition, which was already dangerous, absolutely destructive, and sweep the field and leave nothing to those who have not occasion to go into the homes?—The work does not come into competition as to price at all.

10673. You do not say you are going to increase the volume of employment but only to give it to different people?—My suggestion is, that the work done should be done solely on the Government account; therefore it will not compete in price with the work outside.

10674. But those now working on the Government account, manufacturing similar articles to these homes, are free labourers and not in this

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley*—continued.

tutelary condition; my point is, that their employment will be practically swept away in favour of this less deserving and less independent class?—A portion of their work would undoubtedly be taken away.

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson.*

10675. Will you tell me whether things are different now from what they were ten years ago when you wrote the part of your book on the East-end of London?—I hardly know; that has not been part of my work. I think there has been a gradual dragging down, especially in the last five years.

10676. Can you tell the Committee any cause for that gradual dragging down in the matter of labour in the East-end of London?—I was not for the moment referring only to the East-end, but to trade in general.

10677. I am speaking now solely of the East-end of London?—The East-end of London benefited for a time considerably by the strike of 1889; but since then I think there has been an increase in the lack of employment, largely due in the East-end of London to the action of the Joint Committee of the Docks.

10678. Take the matter of strikes; are you aware that when the strike took place in the match trade, which is a very considerable industry in the East-end of London, a considerable quantity of Swedish matches were imported into this country to the great detriment of the match makers of the East-end of London?—I do not know it, but I think it is very likely.

10679. Are you also aware that ships, I might say, almost daily arrive in the Port of the Thames containing cabinet work of every kind, window frames, sashes, coffins which are purchased by the workhouse authorities, and that ships filled with toys and all sorts of things are coming to the Port of London free of duty to compete against East London workers whose industries have been completely annihilated owing to this unfair competition which is daily taking place in the East-end of London?—I do not know that it is unfair competition.

10680. Are you aware from your great experience in the East-end that the cabinet trade has almost died out, for instance?—I am not aware of it.

10681. Then, would you be surprised to know (as I know, because I have been so long located in the East-end of London) that out of a population of nearly 12,000 cabinet makers there are not more than 2,000 at the present time?—I am not aware of that. Do you mean it is reduced to one-sixth of what it used to be ten years ago?

10682. Yes?—I was not aware of that.

10683. You are perfectly aware, I suppose, that the sugar industry has entirely gone from the East-end?—I believe there is a large lack of work in that industry.

10684. In the East-end, you know that there is a considerable body known as the Independent Labour League?—Yes; I do not know much about them, but I know there is such a league.

10685. You know that in this Independent Labour

Mr. *Wootton Isaacson*—continued.

Labour League there are men who have hitherto worked at these industries in the East-end of London, including shipbuilding, and that owing to the course which has been taken by the trades unions those men have been thrown upon the parish for want of employment. The trades unions have taken up all the work in the place of those men, and now the trades unions, owing to their excessive rates of wages, have driven trade from the East-end, notably the shipbuilding work, and that work has gone away to the North and elsewhere?—That happened a good deal before, and I do not think was due to that. There has been no change during the last 10 years with regard to shipbuilding.

10686. You are aware, I presume, that in Commercial-road and Mile End-road and other large industrial centres, house property has depreciated very seriously during the last 10 years owing to that?—I did not know that.

10687. With regard to light railways, you suggested to the Committee just now that you thought one means of improving the unemployed would be a system of light railways?—No, pardon me, I said I thought it conceivable that a fitting opportunity might be found for a large expenditure of public money to start the ball of trade rolling, and the Chairman asked me what sort of public undertaking I had in my mind, and I instanced a light railway, because it is a thing that is now talked of as the kind of undertaking I had in my mind. I did not suggest it as a means, but I gave it simply as an instance of the sort of thing in my mind.

10688. Of course, you are aware of the present state of agricultural depression in the eastern counties, taking Suffolk, for instance?—I know something of it.

10689. Are you aware that in Suffolk, taking that county by itself, the farmers, in addition to the hardships that they have to face, owing to the depression in prices, have the greatest difficulty possible in conveying their produce from one place to another owing to the want of communication?—That is very likely, I should think.

10690. Do you think that a system of light railways for the whole of the County of Suffolk would be a very useful thing as a means of meeting the depression, and affording employment for these unemployed people?—It is quite conceivable, but I have no special information upon the subject; I merely instanced it as an illustration.

10691. You do not know anything on that subject from actual information?—No.

10692. One other point with regard to the East-end of London. No doubt you are aware that the system of early marriages in the East-end of London has been a means of bringing about a vast amount of poverty?—I could not say; I do not know that it is so.

10693. Do you know that boys of 14 and 15, and girls of 14 and 15, marry in the East-end, and ultimately become chargeable on the parish, owing to indiscreet early marriages?—I do not think they marry so early as that, but they do marry very early.

10694. I have taken a great deal of trouble to go into the facts, and I have been absolutely appalled by the amount of destitution in the East-end owing to these early marriages. Those early marriages do take place, and are the cause of great poverty and great destitution, are they not?—I do not think to any great extent. I do not look upon that as the cause of the destitution and poverty.

Mr. *Logan.*

10695. You were questioned with regard to the effect that strikes had upon the unemployed. I am not to gather, am I, from your answer that you are of opinion that the policy of trades unionism has not been beneficial to the working classes?—No, I think it has been beneficial.

10696. You said that the result of giving or finding constant employment at the docks in the place of the mere casual labour of former years, in your opinion, had brought men to London; have you any figures or data upon which you base that opinion?—No; it is asserted by the Dock and Labour Union, and I think it is exceedingly likely; it is almost certain to be the case with regard to the wharves.

10697. It is an opinion; you have no figures to support it?—No, I have not.

10698. You are aware, are you not, that there is a constant decrease in the rural population of England, owing to men leaving the rural districts and going into our towns?—Yes, or into urban districts. I should say it is so particularly with regard to certain counties. The word "rural" is not quite accurate perhaps; it is certain agricultural conditions that have caused it. There are large parts of England that might be called country where it has not happened at all.

10699. Taking my county, Leicestershire, which is a grazing county, there has been a large decrease of the purely agricultural population?—I should think there has been, but not a large decrease of those living in the villages with green fields very near them.

10700. In Leicestershire the villages have decreased very considerably?—I live in Leicestershire also; it is not so at all with us; they have enormously increased. We are in the colliery district, and the villages have rapidly increased; therefore, I say it is rather a question of the quantity of the employment in the locality; there are numbers of men attracted by the coal fields who are living under fresh-air conditions, though they are not employed in tilling the fields.

10701. I will put my question this way: are you aware that the agricultural labourer leaves the purely agricultural country to go away to a district where there is employment in collieries, or else he goes into the big towns?—Less agricultural work is done in England with an increased population.

10702. Your idea with these industrial homes is to deal with a man after he has, so to speak, come down in the world; do you not think it would be far better to stop him from going down, to deal with him, so to speak, in his native village, and keep him there, if possible?—He does not begin to fall from his native village; he begins to rise.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

10703. The result of his coming to the town is that he falls, is it not?—No; somebody else falls, he does not fall. If you keep him in his native village you do not prevent him from falling, you prevent him from rising.

10704. I understand your view is that the agricultural labourer betters himself when he comes to the town, but he displaces somebody else?—He depresses life for somebody else.

10705. It has the same effect upon the community; it matters not to the community whether the agricultural labourer comes down himself, or sends down somebody else, the result is the same to the community?—It is not quite the same thing.

10706. The effect is the same, is it not?—Hardly.

10707. Accepting your proposition that the agricultural labourer pushes down somebody else and does not come down himself, my contention is that if you kept the agricultural labourer in his own village he would not push down this other man?—Yes, but he does work that the other man is perhaps not capable of doing; he raises the character of the town population, so that it is not absolutely equal.

10708. He keeps the town population going at present?—I would say, at once, I think it most desirable he should have a chance of rising in the country.

10709. Do you agree with me that, if we could keep the villager at home, it would in a very great degree tend to improve the condition of labour in our larger centres?—If you could open a career in the country for those active young countrymen, you would do an excellent thing.

10710. You said that one of the causes of want of employment, or collapse of trade at a given period, was previous inflation; do you mean previous inflation caused by over production?—It is a wave up and down again; it is over production in a sense.

10711. Many people hold the view that previous inflation causes over production, do you hold it?—That is one of the things it has done.

10712. Do you believe, as a practical man, in over production and want at the same time?—No, of course, it is absurd.

10713. You said just now that enterprise, I suppose you mean commercial enterprise, depends largely upon good government; I suppose you do not hold, as some people do, that the political opinions of the Government can have anything to do with the trade of the country?—I think it is a fair electioneering statement; I do not think it is so wrong that you may not say it upon a platform. But if you ask me whether I think it matters very much as to the future of the trade of England whether the present Government remain in power for the next year or not, I must frankly say I do not think it would make any difference. If a new Government comes in they will have the advantage of being able to pose as having brought about the improvement, if an improvement comes.

10714. You do not represent that the political opinions of the Government have any effect upon the trade of the country?—Good government has; and I support a certain party because I think they will secure good government.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

Mr. *Acland.*

10715. I suppose you would say that good government might exist as regards points of administration alike under different political parties?—If the suggestion is that particular departments might be well managed in spite of the folly of a particular Government, I hope that is possible.

10716. What you mean in speaking of good government is that good government may really exist whatever particular political party may be in power?—Certainly.

Mr. *Logan.*

10717. I was very glad to hear you say it is the volume of trade that should be taken into consideration, and not the money value. We have had a paper handed in by Mr. Llewellyn Smith, giving the money value of the imports of both foreign and colonial merchandise into the Port of London; you think that it would have been better to have given the amount of tonnage as an indication of the effects upon employment?—I think that is the better test.

10718. Are you aware that last year, 1894, although the money value of our imports and exports was much below the money value of our imports and exports in 1890, yet the volume of those imports and exports was very much in excess of what we imported and exported in 1890?—I have seen that stated, and I confess the figures surprised me.

10719. For instance, we imported 18,000,000 bushels of wheat more in 1894 than in 1890, and yet we paid nearly 5,000,000*l.* less for it; you have seen those figures, have you not?—I think the figures are exceedingly interesting and satisfactory.

10720. You say that one cure, in your opinion, for the trouble of want of employment, would be an increase in personal prudence. Mr. Mather dealt with that question. I should like to ask whether, in your opinion, it is not the fact that the chief incentive to personal prudence is, generally speaking, to save on good wages?—Yes.

10721. People, as a rule, who are in receipt of good wages or good salaries are much more prudent than people in receipt of wages upon which they can hardly exist?—I do not know that that is so; I doubt it.

10722. You think that the rich are quite as improvident as the poor?—Yes, I do.

10723. And quite as thriftless?—I am inclined to think so; but the consequences are not the same.

10724. My last point is with regard to your second suggested cure, viz., that municipalities should exercise a little more enterprise, and I understood you to say that you would not object to an increase of taxation for that purpose?—I should not.

10725. Has this ever struck you: that the result of an expenditure of taxation by municipalities will go largely to increase land values within their area?—Yes, if it is wisely spent, it will do so.

10726. You are aware, are you not, that at present

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

present the land is held by a very few people?—I do not know that that is so.

10727. Are you not aware that one-third of the land in the British Isles is held by 642 people?—Do you speak of the towns?

10728. I say in any area you like to take you will find that the land in that area is held by comparatively few people?—I do not think that is so, it depends upon how you use the word "comparatively." There are in England always certain large owners in most places, but on the whole I think town properties are very much cut up. We rather lack exact statistics upon that point. I imagine the owners of land in London are a very numerous body.

10729. They are rather careful not to give us any returns. You say you would be surprised to hear there are very few landowners in England?—What I answered was, that I thought your previous questions were referring to the towns.

10730. I am dealing with the land as a whole, and wherever you set a municipality to work to spend money collected by taxation, or by the rates to improve the general condition of the locality, the inevitable result will be to improve the value of the land. That is so, but it is equally true of whatever improves the condition of the people. It is an objection which holds good against every improvement in life.

10731. Has it ever struck you that the very fact which you now emphasise, that whenever anything is done to improve the condition of the people it has a tendency to improve the condition of the land and the value of the land, and that it is that constant added value to the land which drags the people down?—I do not think it is; it adds value to everything else too.

10732. You do not agree with me, then, that if you add to the value of an area, and so add to the power which the owners of that area possess to tax other people for the right of using the area, that if that power is exerted it has a tendency to keep people down; you have never thought about it perhaps?—Yes, I have thought a great deal about it, and I do not think it has a tendency to keep people down. I will tell you why, if I may; because it is the fact that they are not kept down, that they are rising, that has given value to the land. If it did keep them down the land would not rise, I think.

10733. Do you agree with me that one cause of the recurring periods of depression is this added value which the work of the community gives to the land?—I do not think it is so.

10734. The way it struck me first was in Australia. Will you agree with me that if you take any given area, say 10 square miles of land, while the industry of the people increases, say in a given time, five years if you like, 50*l.* an acre, that means that in that 10 square miles in the five years the increased value of the land will be 320,000*l.*, giving to those who own it the power of extracting from those who use it 16,000*l.* a year more; what I want to know is whether you have ever thought this out; supposing that the people on that 10 square miles are doing a prosperous business, can you not see that when the land is put up in value as it is the people have got to pay at once an increased rental of,

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

in this case, 16,000*l.* a year, and that takes from their profits, and it is that which causes the depression of trade against which people have got to fight?—I do not think it is so. I do not think it does cause the depression of trade against which people have got to fight.

10735. But surely if people have got to pay 16,000*l.* more a year for existing upon 10 square miles to-day than they did last year, that must have an effect upon their trade?—It is the improvement of their trade that has caused the prosperity.

10736. But then the improvement of their trade and their labour enables the landowner to extract 16,000*l.* a year?—I am not denying that, and that he has done very little for it.

10737. Then surely if he exercises that power of extraction, which he does, it must to a corresponding extent depress trade. If you can barely make a living when you are rented at 20*l.*, then it must follow that you have a greater difficulty in making a living if your rent is put up to 36*l.*?—I do not think it follows.

10738. Then my last question will be this: I am afraid you do not agree with me that the real remedy for want of employment is that the community should intercept by taxation or otherwise the added values which the community gave to the land and apply those added values for the benefit of the people?—I do not think that would have any effect whatever in the relief of distress; it would merely be a re-adjustment of taxation.

10739. It would be a great relief of taxation surely?—I do not think it has any effect at all on the question of lack of employment.

10740. But the total value of the land of England to-day is 2,000,000,000*l.* more than it was at the commencement of the century?—I am very glad to hear that.

10741. Do you tell the Committee that, in your opinion, it is a good thing for the community to have to pay the interest upon that 2,000,000,000*l.* of increased selling value of the land?—I think it is immaterial to the point in question.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10742. Your general view, I think, is that, in these social and economical matters which we are considering, the policy of cautious experiment is the right course?—Yes.

10743. And you have indicated one or two experiments which you suggest?—Yes.

10744. You know, of course, what is being done by the Salvation Army?—Only by repute. I have not studied it personally.

10745. Have you read the evidence of Mr. Bramwell Booth before this Committee?—I read the short account of it which was given in the papers.

10746. Do you know that they are carrying out an experiment, somewhat on the lines of your memorandum, in industrial homes?—Yes.

10747. Perhaps you did not hear Mr. Bramwell Booth state that they had a great number of people there; I think they were paupers that they were dealing with, at so much a week, who were simply incorrigible and idle, who said that they never had worked for their living and never

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

intended to work for their living?—Yes, I saw that sentence.

10748. There is a certain number of such people existing?—No doubt.

10749. What do you think we ought to do with regard to such people; what do you think it is possible to do with them?—I think the Poor Law is the only way of dealing with them.

10750. You would simply support these people at the expense of the State?—You cannot kill them.

10751. You would not make them work, then?—No, I do not think I should make them work; I have not thought it necessary, and I do not think so; making them work, you mean, by beating them, whipping them?

10752. Oh, no?—How do you mean, then?

10753. You know what is done in Belgium; that such people are sent for two or three years on an industrial colony where they have to work, enforced labour?—How do you mean they have to work; they can leave those colonies; they are not prisoners, I presume?

10754. No, they cannot leave?—Have they to work in the same enforced way that men in prison have to work?

10755. I take it much in the same way that men have to work on Dartmoor?—That is to say, they get no food unless they do work? I mean, what is the method of compulsion?

10756. I do not know; I only put it to you that there is a method in force there by which incorrigibly idle people are sentenced to two or three years' work?—I do not say that such a course may not be right, but it is not a very important point.

10757. Is it not the fact that when the pressure of the unemployed question comes, in winter time there are always a large number of habitually idle and lazy people who are mixed up with the genuine unemployed workmen, who clamour for some kind of help at such times?—There is every shade, from the one to the other; you cannot divide them rigidly.

10758. And at the bottom there is this class I have mentioned, the habitually idle?—Yes; but I think they are not so much affected because they have their sources of supply, charity for one thing.

10759. They prey on the community in some way or other?—Yes, at all times. I do not think they are so much affected by the exceptional distress.

10760. You have said that a class of that sort drags down the general industrial condition of those above; that is your view, is it not?—Yes; but I was not speaking of the bottom class of all. Each class drags down that immediately next it; but I was thinking of something much larger than the comparatively small number of absolute good-for-nothings that you are speaking of. I say there is every shade, every gradation from that, all the way up to the highest degree of honourable labour, and I cannot draw the line at any particular point. From the bottom to the top there is a constant dragging downwards.

10761. I suppose you have no idea what the total number might be of those who might be classed as habitually idle and unwilling to do any work?—I should hope it is very small. I have no means of telling.

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

10762. You have gone into a good many statistics, but you have never endeavoured to obtain that information?—You cannot tell that; they keep coming up over and over again; they are a stage army.

10763. Have you any idea how many tramps there are at any given time?—I have seen figures, 7,000 or 8,000 I think; I do not know anything about it, I should have thought there were more.

10764. Do you think with regard to this class that our present system of receiving such able-bodied people in the workhouse and feeding them at the public expense is the best thing that we can do with them?—Yes. If charity was shut to them, it would be better still.

Mr. *Logan.*

10765. Indiscriminate charity?—Yes.

Mr. *Bousfield.*

10766. It would be public charity then instead?—Yes; the more organised the charity is to deal with cases of that kind I should think the better. But I do not think it is a large class. I should think that the number of those who are more sinned against than sinning is probably infinitely greater.

10767. Have you ever tried to ascertain their number?—No.

10768. You know, for instance, that in Hackney we have opened a labour bureau for some winters and some sort of inquiry on that point is made; if you have so many thousand people applying, and inquiries are making, it would be possible, would it not, to get an idea as to how many were in the lowest class?—Yes, some idea has been got that way; but it is difficult to apply it. You get a certain percentage of those that apply, but there are difficulties of all sorts, because men do not apply at all if they know that there is going to be a test which they would not stand; and, on the other hand, they are dubbed as being unwilling to work, in some cases, possibly, when they are not altogether unwilling to work. Statistics have been got out, but they are not such as to enable one to state the total number.

10769. It is not an inquiry that you have yourself personally pushed?—No.

10770. You said that fluctuations of employment are at the root of a good deal of the difficulty that we have with the unemployed; is it not the fact that employments which directly satisfy home wants are more valuable from the point of view of steady employments than employments in goods for export which may at one time become enormously inflated, and subsequently depressed?—Yes.

10771. For instance, we have had a notable instance given in evidence here of the tin-plate industry, which expanded to very large proportions, and was then suddenly contracted, owing to action abroad?—That is so.

10772. Let me put that to you as a simple illustration: supposing, that instead of sending our tin plates to America, and receiving in return American clocks and watches, and other small nick-knacks which they make, we had had a similar number of people at home supplying the home-market

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

home-market demand for clocks and watches, we should have had a more stable condition of employment, should we not, less liable to fluctuation, owing to the action, for instance, of foreign tariffs?—I am not perfectly certain; that is a difficult question with regard to the whole industry. But no doubt, with regard to the tin-plate trade, it was in a precarious and uncertain condition, depending so largely as it did on the American market, and being at the mercy of tariffs.

10773. I do not want to say anything with regard to food products and other necessaries of life which come into this country from abroad, but with regard to other products (luxuries, in many cases) that are required for home consumption. I have instanced clocks and watches; but take silks and ribands and other luxuries which we import from abroad, does it not strike you that the conditions of employment in this country would be far more stable if we were making these things ourselves for home consumption instead of inflating industries, such as the tin-plate industry, or the iron industry, or any other, in order to produce something to barter in exchange for those luxuries which we get from abroad?—I think that the home trade is infinitely the most important trade, and it has advantages of that sort that it is less fluctuating.

10774. You have suggested, for instance, that public enterprise, as being more constant and less liable to ebb and flow, is a thing that might be encouraged by an extension of municipal enterprise?—I think it could.

10775. Because it would be more stable?—Yes.

10776. Following upon that, what I want to put to you is, that another thing which would tend in the same direction would be, if we at home were to manufacture all those various articles of luxury which we import from abroad, articles for which there is a steady demand at home and which would create a steady trade if we made them here, that would tend in the same direction, would it not, of diminishing the unemployment?—I think it would.

10777. You have said that while you would have public organisation of incompetent labour, which, to a certain extent, touches the unemployed problem directly —— ?—To a certain extent.

10778. You are against attempts to manufacture work for the temporarily unemployed?—Yes.

10779. I suppose you do not wish to discourage the attempts of municipal bodies to find work

Mr. *Bousfield*—continued.

that can be done in the winter time, in order to do such work at a time when most people are out of employment, and so to equalise to some extent the labour market?—I am not afraid of that, but I pointed out that the first effect would be rather against the class whose wants we are considering.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

10780. I thought, in reply to Mr. Acland, that you contradicted your original statement; but I ask you this: Do you or do you not recommend the execution of works by the State or municipality with a view to employ people as workmen, or is it with a view to open up a line of action that may lead to individual enterprise?—The latter would be my view; that if any large expenditure of public money is justifiable at all it should be justified by its opening up, as you say, a line of action to be followed by private enterprise.

10781. And the object is not to use public incomes merely to find work?—I think that the finding of work *ad hoc*, especially to meet a lack of employment at the moment in a particular class, and the giving of work to the unemployed, would be a mistake. I do think it is desirable to equalise the work by doing public work in the winter which could be done at any time of the year; but I do not think that that would benefit the class whom we call the unemployed.

Mr. *Billson.*

10782. I suppose your system of old age pensions you think would relieve the distress from want of employment by eliminating competition?—No; more by removing the very heavy burthen upon the young.

10783. Supposing that you could not get your old age pensions universal, would not a general system of out-door relief at the age of 65, say, relieve the situation?—Yes, but that would offer a premium to lack of thrift.

10784. If it was made at the age of 65?—At any time. If it is not out-door relief given generally but given only under the terms that the man has to be destitute, surely it offers a premium on destitution, because the man who does not save has an advantage given him which the man who does save lacks.

10785. But I am proposing that you should give to everybody at 65 whether destitute or not?—That would be a pension, not out-door relief then.

Mr. WILLIAM THORNE, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

10786. YOU are the General Secretary of the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers of Great Britain and Ireland?—Yes.

10787. And in that capacity you have a considerable acquaintance with the subject with which we are dealing?—Exactly.

10788. What is the particular locality that you have most knowledge of; West Ham, is it not?—West Ham. I reside in West Ham.

Chairman—continued.

10789. And you were mentioned, I think, in the early part of our investigation as having taken some part in the question of the unemployed there last winter?—Yes.

10790. Have you anything to tell us about the number of the unemployed in West Ham and in other places?—Yes. In January 1895, I believe it was in the early portion of January, when Lord Rosebery came down there to deliver an

Chairman—continued.

address, there was a deputation waited upon Lord Rosebery with the view of putting this unemployed question very forcibly to the front; and the statement given at that time was that there were something like between 4,000 and 5,000 men out of employment in the two parts of the borough, the north and the south. Lord Rosebery did not think in his own mind that there were that number of men and women out of work in the Borough of West Ham; and in consequence of that the West Ham Trade and Labour Council undertook to get some men from amongst their own ranks to take a census of the whole of the unemployed in the borough. The result of that investigation was that in the north they found there were 17,147 workers, and in the south 27,543; that in work in the north there were 13,880, and in the south 14,503; that the number of casual men that were out of work in the north was 1,105, and the number out in the south was 5,071; that the number of men out of work in the north was 2,162, the number out in the south was 7,969, making a total of 10,133, out of which total there were about 700 women, which really leaves 9,431 men.

10791. Those figures are the actual workers?—The actual workers.

10792. Not the people dependent upon them?—Not the people dependent upon them; the actual number of people, casual and out of employment.

10793. Is this the result of the same census that I think we had from Mr. Percy Alden?—Yes; he was the clerk who tabulated the whole of these statements.

10794. He would put himself a little higher than a clerk; he was secretary to the Unemployed Committee?—He was secretary to the Unemployed Committee, but he was not secretary of this particular census committee, he merely acted as clerk in tabulating the statements that were brought forward. Then in regard to the great number of people out of work in different parts of the country; I have had a great deal of experience in travelling about through the different parts on account of my work, as we have a very large number of branches all over the country, and I find that in all the industrial towns wherever I go there is an enormous number of men out of work, and it does not matter what town or country you go to it seems to me that this thing is very prevalent all over the country. The statement has been put forward by several people, it was put forward in the House of Commons (and I have never seen it contradicted) by Mr. Keir-Hardie, and not only by him but I believe some three or four years ago by Mr. Abraham, one of the Welsh members, when they were discussing the Miners' Eight Hour Bill, that there were about a million men out of work. I am not in a position to say whether there is or not, but according to the returns issued month by month in the Labour Gazette of the great number out of employment in skilled industries, such as boiler makers, engineers, and others, I do not think we are exaggerating at all when we say that there are quite a million men out of employment. If there are from 3 to 6 per cent. out of work in the engineers or boiler makers or

Chairman—continued.

those other skilled industries, it must naturally follow that there is a great number more out of employment of what are commonly called the unskilled workers, because they are more numerous, and so I do not think we are exaggerating at all when we say that there are quite a million men out of employment.

10795. Is it your impression that there were more this last winter, I mean before the frost began, independently of the frost, than there had been in previous winters?—Yes, I should say so; so far as I am able to judge, this last two years, I should say there have been more unemployed than at any previous time, so far as my recollection goes.

10796. It seems to be increasing, in fact?—It seems to be increasing week by week. And even at the present time I have been travelling about of late, and I find an enormous number of men out of work even in our own borough at the present time, men who cannot get work at all. Men come crying to me that they have been out of work six or seven weeks, and sometimes two or three months, strong able-bodied men willing to work with any one, and denied the right of going to work.

10797. That is to say, they cannot find the opportunity of going to work at all events, which comes to the same thing?—They are denied the right of going to work; it does not matter whether they go to the docks or other employers, the employer says he is full handed and cannot find them work.

10798. What sort of men are those; are they of the general labour class as a rule, or the skilled labourer class?—I am speaking greatly now for what is called the general labourers. I am not in a position to speak on behalf of the skilled men at all.

10799. Has the organising of the dock labour had the effect in reducing the number employed, of giving more continuous employment to those that are employed?—I believe it has in some connections, because unions have been started and have endeavoured, so far as they can possibly, to regulate the work between man and man, so that one man shall not be in a position to work a large number of hours and other men walking about. It has had some effect in the direction of finding work, no doubt. We were formerly engaged upon the 12 hours in various gas works in London and provincial towns, and since our own union has started, through the introduction of the eight hours, that has been the means, so far as we have been able to judge, of employing at least 10,000 more men in the various gas works now under the eight hours than were formerly employed under the old 12 hours system.

10800. Was the eight hours introduced without any change of wages?—Yes, there was no reduction in wages, but in some instances the men got an increase in wages, in some instances they are getting more for the eight hours than they were formerly getting for 12.

10801. Perhaps they do a little more work in the eight hours?—Per hour of course; they do carbonise more coal now under the eight hours than they were formerly carbonising under the 12. They are not carbonising so much coal in the eight hours as in the 12, but still they are

doing

Chairman—continued.

doing more per hour than formerly under the 12 hours system.

10802. What can you tell us about relief works in West Ham in the last three winters?—It seems to me, so far as West Ham is concerned, that we have a greater share of unemployed there than they have in any other district. Perhaps it is because the great bulk of the work is river-side work, dock work, and work of that character, and a great number of people flock to where that kind of work is carried on.

10803. That is South West Ham, of course?—Yes, there are not so many out in the north as in the south. I am a member of the West Ham Town Council; in the last three winters we have endeavoured each winter to cope with this difficulty. Two winters ago we started some kind of relief works in finding men work, on whatever we could seek about, and put them to do; as you know, there was a circular sent out from the Local Government Board, asking the local authorities to do all they could to find work in paving and channelling the roads, and the like of that; but it seems to me that those circulars are useless, because we were seeking about to find work for the men on the lines laid down by the Local Government Board circular, and we found, in many instances, that if we carried out the suggestions put forward by the Local Government Board, we were relieving the responsibilities of the property owners, because the property owners are supposed to pave and channel and make up roads before they are dedicated; and if we had undertaken those duties we should have been relieving the property owners of their responsibilities. On the north side there is a large space of ground which is part and parcel of Epping Forest, called the Wanstead Flats, and the Town Council decided to get permission from the Epping Forest Commissioners to lay out a portion of that land to make two cricket pitches and football grounds, which of course was very successful in that direction. And the following winter Mr. Hill came forward; he is the man I believe at the head of the Thames Limited Ironworks, and he said he would willingly contribute 1,000*l.* to a fund if the corporation would grant a similar amount. That was accepted, and it was agreed that not less than 6*d.* per hour should be paid to the men that would be engaged.

10804. Was that what is called the Trades Union rate of wages?—The Trades Union rate in the building trade was 6½*d.*; but the general recognised rate, so far as dock work and the like of that is concerned, is 6*d.*, which is pretty well recognised as the Trades Union rate of wages. A man was only to be allowed to work six hours a day and three days a week; that was a hard-and-fast rule which was made by Mr. Hill, which worked very satisfactorily that winter; that was 1894, or rather it would be like 1893 and 1894; December 1893 and January 1894. Then he came forward again in the latter portion of 1894 and offered another 1,000*l* if the corporation would grant a similar sum; but he made a very hard-and-fast condition, and that condition was that the men were not to be paid at more than 4*d.* per hour, and they were to be engaged on similar lines as

Chairman—continued.

previously, six hours a day, and three days per week. What is called the Unemployed Committee accepted the conditions laid down by Mr. Hill; but I attended the meetings, and I spoke very strongly against it; I said that the working men, so far as the borough of West Ham were concerned, would absolutely refuse to go to work for 4*d.* an hour, as it had a tendency to drag down the wages of men engaged in other industries. Anyhow, the committee decided to accept the conditions laid down by Mr. Hill; he appeared before the council of the corporation of West Ham, and that council accepted the conditions laid down by him. Not being altogether satisfied I gave notice of motion to rescind the resolution a fortnight afterwards. During the meantime I had some meetings; I went to the street corners and exposed the whole business because I did not believe in it, as I thought it was economically unsound; and there was a deputation appointed from a public meeting to wait upon the town council. There was P. Curran, one of the organisers of the gas workers, and Mr. Vincent, of the compositors, and Mr. Harris, district secretary of the dockers. There was a very large deputation, and there was a great number of workmen from the various parts of the borough attended at the town hall.

10805. That was the occasion, I think, when Mr. Hilleary told us that the town council was practically invaded?—Yes.

10806. That is the historical occasion?—It was pretty well invaded; anyhow, the town hall was pretty well lined with workmen. The deputation was introduced; the arguments which they put forward were very sensible arguments, and the council in their wisdom rescinded the previous resolution and refused to accept the 1,000*l.* from Mr. Hill on the conditions laid down. They were quite willing to accept his 1,000*l.*, and contribute another 1,000*l.* if he would agree to pay the workmen the 6*d.* per hour they had been formerly paid on similar occasions. On account of the town council refusing that, they had of course to seek about elsewhere to find work in other directions; so we started, and the corporation agreed to spend something like the 1,000*l.* that they were willing to contribute towards Mr. Hill's scheme, which was spent in the following manner: In clearing snow, &c., from highways and main roads they spent 493*l.* 9*s.*; the total number of days worked was 3,289. They then set men to work excavating round a street called Bidder-street, and the work undoubtedly was very hard, as you know, on account of the severe frost; the frost had got into the ground I dare say six or seven inches; these men were set to work with hammers, sledges and wedges to break up the road; the council spent upon that 443*l.* 10*s.*, and the number of days worked was 2,957; what I mean by that is, say if 100 men were at work to-day, that would be counted as 100 days. Then they started some men to work laying out some ground round the band-stand of the recreation grounds, and they spent 70*l.* 19*s.* in that direction, and the number of days worked was 473. Then in excavating sewers they spent 80*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; the number of days worked was 539. Then in supplying the

Chairman—continued.

residents with water, there were various men engaged going round with water-carts as there was a scarcity of water.

10807. The mains were all frozen, I suppose?—Yes; they spent 174*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the number of days worked was 870. On the sewer embankment there were casual men put to work, and they spent 19*l.* 10*s.* on that work, and the number of days worked was 95, which makes a total of 1,281*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* they spent during the winter, and there were 8,223 days worked.

10808. What sort of men were employed in that way?—There were all kinds of men engaged; they had a book opened, and every man was in duty bound to go and register his name on the book, and their names were called out day after day; the men who were at work to-day would not be called out on the morrow, and every man was engaged as he signed the book. In some instances the men during the winter worked three or four days probably, and some may have worked a week during the whole of the winter, because when they called the names on one day probably the men really in turn for the work were not present, but seeking work elsewhere, and their names would be passed over, and other men would of course get the work.

10809. Did you get any sort of guarantee that they were genuine West Ham men?—Yes, every man had to declare that he had been a resident in the borough for six months, and if we had any idea that they were violating the conditions, we used to send someone round to the house to see if such was the case. That was the only way, of course, that we could really find out.

10810. From your experience, what have been the main causes leading to the scarcity of employment?—I think one of the great causes is on account of the rapid introduction of machinery, and, undoubtedly, the main cause to my way of thinking is the whole of the land and the machinery, and the whole of the capital, of course, being held as private property. That is my impression of the real main cause of why men are out of work; and I do not think, personally speaking, there is any solution at all of this problem as long as the present state of society exists. As long as goods are made for private gain, as it were, so long, I think, you will have your unemployed; and it seems to me it does not matter what kind of scheme you put forward, whether you start farm colonies or any other kind of employment, I think it is only just tiding over the difficulty temporarily just for a few days, and after you have given this relief work, it may be for a day or two or a week, after the work is completed you will find the men in exactly the same condition as before.

10811. Those are proposals, for the most part, of schemes for the relief of distress arising from non-employment, but you think that by some complete alteration in the social system you could prevent non-employment altogether?—I do, and I think that is the only solution of the whole problem. I will give you a few facts and figures which I think may impress your minds, as to why you have got so many men out of employment. I am only going to speak now in regard

Chairman—continued.

to what I pretty well know in connection with our own industry, the gas industry. Of late there has been a great development of machinery, that is to say, in the system of carbonising coal. At the Bow Common station, which is one of the stations under the Gas Light and Coke Company, some 12 months ago they introduced what is called the new inclined retorts.

10812. By which the coal is shot down an incline?—Yes, the retorts are set at a great slope, and the coal is put in at the top end and runs right down, and it takes very little labour. Under the old system there were 57 men employed, that was 19 men in each shift, and three shifts of eight hours per day. The 19 men would carbonise something like 100 tons of coal. When they started the new system, that is the inclined retorts, there were nine men engaged in a shift.

Mr. *Logan.*

10813. Twenty-seven altogether?—Yes; that really displaced something like 25 men on that one particular station.

Chairman.

10814. But you do not find any fault with that, you would not revert to the old system?—I do not find any fault with that, I am only just giving you the fact that this is one of the causes why you have got so many men walking about the streets at the present time.

Mr. *Logan.*

10815. What quantity would the 27 men produce?—The same quantity of coal; they carbonise exactly the same amount. At the Beckton station, which is one of the largest gas works I think in the whole world, on 20 sets of retorts, under the old fashion of carbonizing, there were about 28 men engaged, that is including what is called the coal trimmer. They have now introduced what is called the iron-man. These iron-men are worked, in some instances, by compressed air, in others by wire rope. On these machines, that is on 20 sets, there are 11 men, that is 11 men engaged, including the coal trimmer. If you take the three shifts, that has been the means of displacing something like 51 men in the 24 hours. That is in only one retort house. It is true that they have not got the whole of the retort houses filled with machinery, but I am only speaking of one particular house. In years to come undoubtedly they will probably get these machines in all the houses. At the Brentford Gas Works they have introduced these incline retorts; and there is an article in the "Gas Journal" of London, of the 4th June 1895, where the manager has been giving a very elaborate account of the working of this new incline retort system, and he asserts there that the coal can be carbonized for 1*s.* per ton. I have a book here which is called "An Analysis of the Principal Undertakings of Gas Works," and so on, by Mr. Field, who, I think, is a very eminent authority; and on the old system I find that at the Brentford Station it cost something like 3*s.* 2*d.* to carbonize; so, you see, there is a saving

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

saving there of something like 2*s.* 2*d.* per ton, which is all to the benefit of the shareholder.

10816. And the consumer?—No, not to the consumer; because the price of gas is exactly the same to-day as it was some few years ago.

10817. The consumer does not get it because of the monopoly, I suppose?—Exactly. If the gas works were municipalized as they are in Birmingham and many other places, undoubtedly there would be a slight relief to the ratepayers; but then I do not think that that would affect the workmen in the slightest degree.

10818. But you do not find fault; you are too sensible a man, I should think, to find fault with the fact of these labour-saving improvements being introduced?—I do not find fault at all, not in the slightest. I should like to see the time arrive when pretty well the whole of our work was done by machinery, but not under the present system; because instead of the machinery being a blessing to the workmen it is a curse, because it throws the men on the labour market to compete one against another, which makes their conditions more insecure than they are under the present system. I am going to give you now another instance of machinery in the coal part, that is, in unloading coal. They have introduced in unloading coal what is called a grab; it is worked similar to one of those machines which I dare say you have seen work on the railway, what is called an iron devil or steam navvy. It works with a crane, goes into the ships' holds, and grabs the coal up. They have introduced that down at Beckton. On the old system the men get paid at the rate of 4*d.* per ton for unloading, and in a ship there are 32 men engaged; on the new system (that is, the grab system) they are paid at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ per ton, and 16 men are engaged in a ship; so that is displacing 16 men in every ship that comes up, and also a saving of $2\frac{3}{4}d.$ per ton. At the Bromley station, where a similar system has been introduced, where they get 4*d.* per ton, there was 10 men engaged in a barge. Of course the different gas factories have different systems of unloading coal. In this Bromley station the trucks used to be lowered down by a crane into the barge, the men used to fill the truck, and it was then swung up again, and there were 10 men engaged in a barge. Under the new system they get paid at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ and half a farthing per ton, and there are two men engaged in the barge; that is displacing eight men.

10819. Out of 10?—Yes, besides the saving, of course, in the unloading itself. At Pimlico and Nine Elms, of course, there are similar machines introduced, and, in fact, in very nearly every one of the gas works. Then as we have so many different sections of men in our union, I have got a communication from one of our branch secretaries in the stone quarries who tells me that there is a kind of machine introduced which has really displaced nine men out of every 10. Then we have a very large number of men, members of our union, engaged in chemical manure works. I have the whole details here, but I do not think it necessary to worry you by going through them all. On the whole in the loading of phosphates, and unloading and mixing in the different departments on the old system, there were engaged between 300 and 350 men; since then they have introduced all kinds of new improved machinery, and new methods of conveying and unloading these phosphates; there is one machine in particular, namely, the endless chain, which has brought about much the same result. The factory, I dare say, is something like 100 yards long, and there is a man at the bottom end with an endless chain as long as that table (*describing the same*). Under the old system they used to have to carry the bags about 100 yards distance, those bags averaging from 2 cwt. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per bag. Now this endless chain is introduced, and there are two men at the end, and all they have to do is to turn the bags over on to the endless chain; the conveyer keeps working right up and carries the bags into the ship, which has displaced a large number of men. Taking one factory alone, Odams' Silvertown Chemical Works, that has been the means of displacing at least 100 men in that particular factory; that is within our own borough of course. Then again there is the sugar refinery; there is a very large one in our borough, Tate's; I think it is one of the largest in England, perhaps. Some six months ago there was a German patent introduced, the German sugar refining machine I think it is called. We had a very large number of men and boys, members of our union, working there, and on account of this machine being introduced they discharged one-half of their hands; and it was put forward at the time by the heads of the firm that this machinery would be able to do as much work, say by about 50 men, as was formerly done by 100; but when the machine got into operation I do not think it came up altogether to their expectations; anyhow it has been the means of displacing about 40 men out of every 100. Then in the brick-making industry we have a very large number of men, members of our union, who are brickmakers, and there have been all kinds of brick-making machines introduced; they have not been introduced anywhere in and around London for many miles. I think the nearest place where machinery works is Peterborough, where I think nearly all the bricks are made by machinery. In the Midland counties a brick maker would make, with the aid of a man and a boy, about 4,000 bricks per day. I was down at Gainsborough the other week, and I saw one of these brick machines at work; in fact I have worked them myself when I was at work in Birmingham. I went up to a boy (they were really boys engaged in manipulating the machine), there were two of them, and I asked them how many bricks they turned out per day, and they told me 12,000. That shows of course what a large amount of labour force has been saved.

10820. The boys do not feed the machine?—The machine is fed by steam power. The clay is drawn up with a little wagon and chain from the clay pit, put into rollers which grind it smooth, and then sent into the pug-mill where knives are going round to chop the hard pieces very

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

very small, and then it goes through a kind of press, and it comes out probably about that length (*describing the same*), and then there is a wire about *that* width, and then they got six bricks off at a time. By the aid of these two boys they can really turn out about 12,000 bricks; but even under the old hand system you must bear in mind that the machinery is to be used exactly the same as where they cut them off by the wires; the only difference is cutting them by the wires, and there are these two boys. All the other machines are just the same by the old hand system.

10821. Under the old hand system one man moulded them, and two boys carried them?—Yes.

10822. Now the two boys carry off what the machine moulds?—Yes.

10823. Then the machine now does the work of the one man that used to turn out the 4,000?—Yes, but this machine will turn out 12,000.

10824. But the machine has to have some man attending to it?—Yes, but only the same as under the old system. There are exactly the same number of men attending to filling the clay in the clay pit before it comes to the boys, but where the difference comes in is that these boys are in a position to make 12,000 bricks, and under the old hand system there would be three clay wheelers and three moulders; that is six, and three boys, that is nine. These two boys are really performing the same amount of work that used to be done formerly with six men and three boys. Then there is the road scarifier again; it is a kind of machine.

Chairman.

10825. To tease the road?—Exactly; it is similar to a scarifier used on the land. Last winter we had to dispense with that because it would have been the means of throwing a great number of men out of work, and as there was such a large number of men out of work at that time we did not think it wise to engage this scarifier; but if we had been working under a properly organised system there would have been no fear about this scarifier at all, we should have introduced it without doing anybody any injury. I think it is a great mistake, of course, to have to simply use your influence against machinery for the purpose of finding more work; but still there the fact remains that that is what we had to do to find more work. Then, again, there is the street sweeper, the street brooms that you have seen going about. I have a communication from one of our men engaged in the sanitary department at Bristol, and he tells me that on account of the street sweeper being introduced it has been the means of displacing 60 men that were engaged in sweeping the roads. There are many other kinds of machinery. If you take the building trades there is the Scotch derrick, used in hoisting bricks and mortar and every material, which has been the means of doing away with an enormous number of men. Or, again, take steamships. So far back as 1872, in a steamship of, perhaps, about 1,000 tons register, there would be a crew of about 18 men. If we come down to late years they are constructed now to carry something like 9,000 tons, and only about

Chairman—continued.

30 to 35 men engaged on one of those 9,000 ton registered steamboats. I should like just also to back up what I have been saying by a few words from the chairman of one of the trades union congresses as far back as 1888, Mr. Shaftoe, the President of the Bradford Trades Union Congress. In his address he was going on to elaborate upon labour-saving machinery and so on, and he says this: "There is scarcely any branch of industry to which these mechanical inventions have not been applied, and the effects have been intensified by the sub-division of labour. We find, for instance, in the use of steam hammers that nine men have been displaced out of every ten formerly required. Machinery has displaced five men out of every six in the glass bottle trade; in the manufacture of agricultural implements 600 men now do the work which 15 or 20 years ago required 2,145, thus dispensing with 1,545. In the production of machinery itself there is a saving of 25 per cent. of human labour; and this even reaches 33 per cent. in the production of metals. In the boot and shoe trade one man, aided by mechanical appliances, now does the same amount of work which some years ago required five. We find a single lace-making machine displacing upwards of 2,000 women; in paper making, 10 persons can do as much as years ago required 100; in shipbuilding the displacement is four or five men out of every six; in woodwork one man now replaces four. In the manufacture of clothing there is a great displacement, one man now being estimated to do the work hitherto requiring from six to nine. Innumerable instances might be cited, but the general effect during the last 40 years is a saving of labour to the extent of 40 per cent. in producing any given article." That is on the authority of Mr. Shaftoe, a man I think you could take it from with some amount of authority, as being President of the Bradford Trades Union Congress. And since then the development of machinery has been more rapid than before.

10826. But your position, to make it clear, is not that you object to the introduction of machinery and the saving of labour, which is all right, but that you say that the benefits caused by that ought not to be absorbed by the capitalist?—Exactly.

10827. And that that course of invention and ingenuity has the effect of throwing a large number of men out of employment under our present social system?—Yes.

10828. It is the social system that you object to, not the machinery?—Exactly.

Mr. *Mather.*

10829. Do you consider that the benefit of this labour-saving machinery goes wholly to the capitalist, or that the consumer gets any part of it?—I do not think that the consumer receives but very little benefit of it; my opinion is that the greatest benefit has been received by the capitalist, because you read of men dying and leaving enormous piles of wealth, which was never known before, I think. If we refer back to history, we find men now dying leaving very large sums of money, that they could not possibly accumulate in years gone by; in fact, it would

Mr. *Mather* – continued.

would have been impossible for them to do so in a small number of years.

Chairman.

10830. You regard that progress of things as being a very large cause, at any rate, of the number of the unemployed?—Exactly.

10831. Let me now ask you, what suggestions have you to make; first of all, as to the best method of giving relief to the unemployed, because that, after all, is the main point that this Committee has to consider?—Personally, I do not think I should be called upon to offer any suggestions as to finding work for the unemployed. I think that the men who are in the capacity as Government officials, and men who occupy positions on town councils and vestries, are the people who certainly ought to try and formulate some scheme whereby the workmen who are out of work could be found work; but one of the suggestions that I would like to throw out, if I am called upon to do so (which I expect I am), would be for the Government to call an International Conference of all nationalities to agree upon reducing the hours of labour all the way round in every country. I attended the last International Conference held in Zurich, I think in 1893, and there was a resolution passed there by the whole of the delegates from all parts of the world, that they should urge upon all the respective Governments to call an International Conference with the view of reducing the hours of labour in all countries on similar lines to those on which a conference was called, I believe, some years ago, about the age of children being allowed to go to work in factories. I believe if that was done, undoubtedly some good would result from it. Then, if it could be agreed between the whole of the nations that no man should work more than eight hours a day, that would undoubtedly be the means of giving relief to the large number of men who are walking about the streets at the present time, and the employers would be exactly in the same position as they are to-day in regard to the competitive system; that is to say, if the hours were reduced all the way round. It seems to me that that would be a step in the right direction, because I think the hours of labour will have to be reduced if you are going to give any permanent relief to workmen.

10832. You think a reduction in the hours of labour would have the effect of giving employment to a larger number of men?—I do, in many industries; I do not say in every industry.

10833. In many industries the same amount of work is done in eight hours, is it not, as has been done in nine or 10, because the man is more fit all through the time?—Yes, but there are some industries undoubtedly to which the same thing would not apply. Take the trams and 'buses, and probably the railways, and many other industries; of course, there it would not apply; but it is undoubtedly quite true in many industries, where the eight hours has been adopted, that the men are really performing as much work in the eight hours as they formerly did in nine and nine and a-half hours. Therefore, you see, even the reduction of hours is no solution for the reduction of the unemployed. I do not think it is; it would be a temporary relief. And since the eight hours has been introduced into the gasworks the great development of machinery has taken place, of course; because, as the employers tell us, the cost of production has increased, and therefore they had to seek about for appliances; and probably, even if a general eight hours day were agreed to here in England, in various parts of the country, in the course of years to come the workman would, I think, be in exactly the same position as he is at the present time. Therefore, as I said, and I shall have to keep repeating it, I do not think there is any solution at all; and even if you endeavour, as it were, to find men some kind of temporary employment, it is temporary, certainly; it is giving the man a little bread to-day and to-morrow he is in exactly the same position again. I think what will have to be done sooner or later is that the Governments of the various countries will have to face this difficulty and endeavour to seek about and see if there is not a possibility of bringing about some kind of system where every man would be in a position to share the wealth that is produced where the hours of labour could be regulated, and there would be no necessity for any man, woman, or child to be starving, the same as they are at the present time.

Chairman—continued.

10834. You suggest the advantage of an international agreement about the hours of labour. Is there anything else you can say on the point of relieving the unemployed?—No.

10835. That would also be preventing the existence of the unemployed. What I wanted rather to know was, when we have unemployed men, what should we do with them; that is the point?—As long as we have them with us of course we have to find some kind of relief, and what seems to me will have to be done, if you are going to give any temporary relief, will be to get the men back upon the land again. I do not believe in these farm colonies at all; I do not think they will be of the slightest benefit to anyone. I certainly do believe in having the whole land cultivated, and I believe every inch of land should be cultivated, and the men who are out of employment should be engaged upon the land. I do not believe in the allotment system at all; I believe if land is to be cultivated, it should be cultivated by men who would follow up that work as their regular employment. I do not believe in men working in factories 10, 12, or perhaps 14 hours a day, and after they have performed their daily labour in the factories to go and turn to and cultivate land, perhaps, three or four hours per night. I was given to understand that down in Gainsborough. A lady down there told me that on moonlight nights several men, after they have been at work in Marshall's factory (and that factory works overtime every night, and has done for the last 16 years, from one hour to three per night), on moonlight nights were working really up to four in the morning. I believe that if the land has to be cultivated it should be cultivated by men, and they should be paid a decent wage under our present system, and the men should make it their regular avocation; they should not be allowed, I think, after they had been at work in the factories for 10 or 12 hours a day to go upon the land.

Chairman—continued.

10836. At any rate you do not regard allotments as a cure for the present condition of things?—No.

10837. You say that the unemployed should be put upon the land; but do you believe now, taking the Wanstead Flats' experiment, or any of those enterprises, that they have been successful?—I do not think they have; but there is a very large number of men who are out of employment in towns who would not possibly go back to the land at any price. I have never lived and worked in the country a day in my life. I belong to Birmingham, and have always resided in a town; it would be no good sending me on the land at all, and should be useless as going to work upon the land; and I believe there are a large number of such men. Even in the borough of West Ham and every town you would not get a great percentage of men to go back to the land at all; but, undoubtedly, there is a number of men who would be quite willing to go back to work upon the land that have been on it previously to coming to London or to different industrial centres. And if the land were cultivated there would be a great demand for machinery in other directions, agricultural implements, which would give more work to the engineers, and the various mechanics engaged in manufacturing agricultural implements; and that would be a kind of relief.

10838. But you do not believe in taking persons unaccustomed to agricultural work, and finding it profitable or advantageous to put them to that work?—No. I think it is useless, and I do not think it is a sound policy at all

Mr. *Mather.*

10839. You do not think that a man can be trained to do anything but what he has done for the last five years?—A man could certainly be trained to it; but there are any number of men out of work to-day in every industrial centre who are used to the land, and you would get sufficient, I think, to cultivate all the land in England.

10840. You would necessarily take those first?—Exactly.

Chairman.

10841. When we have, either in consequence of our social system, or from any mishap in trade, or from any other cause, a number of unemployed men who cannot find work, as in West Ham, have you any idea of the mode of dealing with them; that is to say, should they be dealt with by the Poor Law authority or by the municipal authority?—No; I believe, as it is a national question, the question should be dealt with and grappled with by the Government; because if one municipality attempts to grapple with the unemployed problem then you have a very great difficulty in keeping men from outside coming into the borough where you may be starting some kind of relief works. And I do not think it is altogether the duty of a municipality to grapple with the question at all.

10842. Still there must be some authority on the spot to manage it and deal with it?—Exactly. I believe that they should administer the law, or whatever it is, if there was a law established or

Chairman—continued.

passed by the Government, or if there was any money to be paid over, though that is a thing I do not altogether agree with; I believe in every man working for his living and not being subsidised, as it were, by payments from Government even. But, still, as we are working under an awful system, we have to do the best we can. And I do not believe in the guardians handling the unemployed; I do not think that is the proper authority.

10843. Do you think there is a strong feeling among well-doing men out of employment against coming in contact with the Poor Law authorities?—Yes, I know no end of people who would bear almost anything before they would go and apply for relief; any amount of men and women dying in secret poverty, as it were, and living in secret poverty, who will never make their wants known to anyone.

10844. But they would take similar assistance or help from a municipal body, would they?—As a kind of relief works; we find men willing to accept relief works where they have an idea that they are really earning their own living.

10845. But it must be divorced in some way from pauperism?—Yes.

10846. Then there is another point about which I should like to ask your opinion. When a man gets relief, not the ordinary pauper, of whom I do not wish to speak with disrespect, not the ordinary man who is obliged to come on the roll of paupers, but another kind of man, the workman who is thrown out of employment accidentally and takes relief, would you continue the condition that now applies, that he should lose his vote if he has one?—No, I do not think any man should be disfranchised simply because he accepts relief of any kind.

10847. Even the regular pauper; I mean the man who is constantly on the rates?—I believe any man or woman outside the workhouse should be in a position to exercise the vote.

10848. A man in receipt of ordinary out-door relief?—Yes; he should be allowed to use his vote, as any other citizen. It is not their fault that they are poor.

10849. It may be, of course?—I do not know. I do not think the people themselves are altogether responsible. I think society is to a great extent responsible for the misery and pauperism around us at the present time. Take such a place as Shadwell or Ratcliff Highway; you get a child brought up by parents perhaps a little bit shaky and ricketty; but take that child away, and put it in some other part of the country and with parents who will bring it up and rear it, and you will find that child turn out to be as healthy and as good a citizen perhaps as any child that has been born. Therefore I think when a child is allowed to remain in such wretched surroundings it has a tendency to make them criminals, what we call loafers at the present time.

10850. You would abolish this disfranchisement provision altogether?—Personally, I would not disfranchise anyone.

10851. But you are aware that one effect that that change would have is that the man in receipt of Poor Law relief would himself have a vote for the election of the guardians who administer

that

Chairman—continued.

that relief; do you see any harm in that?—I do not see any more harm in that than a man having a vote who is working for the municipality and giving his vote to a particular candidate standing as town councillor, because he has an idea that by a certain individual getting returned it will be a means of increasing his wages and reducing his hours; therefore I do not think it is any worse for a man to give a vote for a guardian in that direction than for a man working for a municipal corporation giving a vote for a town councillor.

10852. Have you any suggestions beyond what you have said as to the prevention of the periodic recurrence of depression in trade and consequent dearth of employment; is that covered by what you have told us?—I should say, of course, that the cause of the periodic recurrence of depression in trade, and consequent dearth of employment, is on account of the great development that is taking place in machinery and workmen in all parts of the country being in the position to produce, as it were, a greater amount of commodities in a certain time than they could some years ago. I think that comes pretty well under the head of machinery. You see in times of prosperity machinery is introduced and developed in all its stages; the cotton workers and all other sections of men are in a position to produce more now than ever in the history of this country, and in a less time even; therefore I think that is the cause why we have these periodical depressions, and undoubtedly people manipulating markets has something to do with it; the commercial men manipulating the markets has something to do with bringing these depressions about.

10853. Commercial men develop the market a good deal, do they not?—I do not think so. I think I find just as much employment as any commercial man, although I am only an ordinary working man. I use clothes, boots, and furniture, and it is only by that method we are in a position to live. Therefore I contend I find as much work for an ordinary workman as you do yourself.

Mr. *Mather.*

10854. And the cheaper your clothing is the more you can afford to buy?—Cheapness is not the best thing always.

10855. But if we have, any of us, a pound to spend, the cheaper the clothing is the more we can get?—That carries something else if I get a suit of clothes which is only going to last me six months.

10856. Of equal quality, I mean?—I quite agree, equal quality; but the principle now is to work as cheap as you can, and all kinds of shoddy is put into it.

Chairman.

10857. I think I have asked you questions on all the points that you wish to touch upon?—There is the question of overtime, which I think has something to do with the matter of the unemployed. I am entirely opposed to overtime, of course. I was speaking about Marshall's great engineering works in Gainsborough. For the last 16 years that firm has been working overtime, with

Chairman—continued.

the exception of a small break at the time of the miners' lock-out, when they could not get coal; they work from an hour to an hour and a-half and three hours' overtime per night, and have done for the last 16 years. And there are many other departments of labour where they work overtime; and yet we find in this engineering factory that is working overtime, and in many other parts of the country, they say trade is depressed. It seems to me that you should put an end to this overtime system. I know it is a question that will have to be dealt with either by the trades unions or by the Legislature, which, perhaps, may be very objectionable to some men; still, sooner or later, I think overtime will have to be knocked on the head. And I think when the Government are giving out contracts to various firms, such as Marshall's, Maudsley's, Penn's, and those other places, it should be a condition of the contract that the workman should not be allowed to work overtime. I think that should be in specifications.

10858. You would not allow it even in time of exceptional pressure for a day or two, or even for a week or two?—I would not object to any exceptional circumstances where anything was required very hurriedly, if it was exceptional; but only on that one point would I be prepared to give way.

Mr. *Mather.*

10859. Do you know that overtime is very unprofitable to the employers?—I do not think it is always.

10860. I have had great experience of overtime, and I have known overtime in my own works. Like Marshall's, for many years, probably 15 years, I was obliged to work overtime for three months in the year. I ceased to work overtime, and enlarged the means of production, and improved the means of production, and I found it very much better. You have not considered that, perhaps?—Take a place like Marshall's; if they did not work any overtime, or if it was not allowed, the result would be that they would have to extend their factory, and lay down more plant and machinery, and extend their buildings.

10861. It does not always follow; mechanical invention is not a finite quantity, and if the employer is compelled by force of circumstances to exercise more ingenuity in actually doing away with labour altogether, it might come in the long run that the pressure of the law that prevents his working more than a certain number of hours would increase the mechanism so much in his trade that the men would be permanently reduced in number?—Personally, I believe that, even if no pressure were brought to bear upon employers, if they can see a means whereby they can increase their methods of production, they will do it in spite of anyone.

10862. There is a degree of pressure, of course?—Perhaps if there is a little pressure brought to bear upon them that may be the means of their seeking around for further improvements in machinery.

10863. I entirely agree with you that overtime is a mistake and ought to be abolished?—That is my opinion.

Mr. *Randell.*

10864. On the question of allotments you do not wish us to understand, do you, that you are opposed to the granting of allotments to agricultural labourers?—Under the present system I should perhaps have to give way upon that point. But I do not believe in the allotment system at all as a kind of solution of this unemployed question.

10865. But dealing with society as you find it to-day, are you opposed to allotments for agricultural labourers?—As they are paid in such a miserable way, I find that in some instances it has a tendency to drag down wages. I am not altogether opposed to men having allotments if they are not purchased. In some districts the men are allowed allotments, and allowed to pay them off by instalments. In many places where they are in a position to purchase these allotments, as soon as the employer of labour begins to find out that the man has saved a few pounds, or has borrowed a little more money with a view of purchasing the land, then, when the purchase is completed, the employer of labour knows perfectly well that that man cannot very well remove, on account of the piece of land that he has purchased, as otherwise it would mean the man's removing to another part of the country, and he will leave the greater portion of the few pounds that he has invested in that land. Therefore, it has a tendency that way. I cannot mention any case in England, but I could cite a case in France where this system has been the means of dragging down the wages.

Chairman.

10866. That is to say, it gives the employers a hold over the men?—Yes. There is a different system, but on the same lines, in Gainsborough, where a number of men have saved a few pounds, borrowed the remainder, and purchased the house. The result is that when they have purchased the house they cannot very well leave Gainsborough, because if they do they must sell the house and lose the few pounds; and the employer of labour knows he has a hold on them, and he can pay them a low wage, and that reduces their wage.

Chairman—continued.

10867. That is not peculiar to allotments, however; any kind of fixed property would have the same effect?—I think it would.

Mr. *Logan.*

10868. On the question of allotments, do you not think that the agricultural labourer with a piece of allotment is a much more independent man than a man without an allotment?—No, I do not think he is.

10869. But that is only your opinion. You have had no experience of allotments?—Only by casual conversation with men when I have been in agricultural districts.

10870. Do you not know that in many agricultural districts men say that they do not know how they could have got through the winter at all if it had not been for their allotments?—I admit that they say that; but we find that before the allotment system was introduced men used to get on pretty well.

10871. But the allotment system is a very old one in this country?—Yes, but it has greatly developed in the last few years.

10872. I know a large number of agricultural labourers who have said to me that they did not know what they would have done if it had not been for their allotments?—It seems to me an absurdity for a man after he has been at work upon a farm 12 or 14 hours a day to have to turn to again, as it were, just to make both ends meet.

10873. I agree with you that an allotment to help a man to eke out a miserable wage is wrong in principle; but knowing, as I do, that you are anxious to improve the condition of your fellow workman, I am surprised to hear you say that you do not think that an agricultural labourer with an allotment is a more independent man than one who has no allotment?—It may, perhaps, be so in some districts, but in others I do not think it is the case.

Tuesday, 18*th June* 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (Durham).

THE RIGHT HON. A. H. DYKE ACLAND IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. ERNEST AVES, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

10874. I THINK you have been making a special study of the building trades in London in connection with some of Mr. Charles Booth's work, the result of which has been published in some of his books?—That is so.

10875. Can you tell us the kind of method in which you have carried on the special study of a trade like this?—Most of the facts and opinions that I shall state to-day are included in the report that I made for Mr. Charles Booth. The purely statistical part, in so far as it is derived from the census returns, was got out by Mr. Booth's own staff. My own part of the inquiry was connected with a more special study of the building trade as organised in London. The method of inquiry was by obtaining particulars in answer to circulars sent round to a very large number of employers in the trade, by interviews with several of those employers, by particulars obtained in the same way from the representatives of the various trade societies, and by interviews with individual employés.

10876. Have you anything to say with regard to the general composition of the building trade group with reference to the question of the unemployed?—I think one very important point is to realise how very composite the group is, how very much the different sections differ as regards the degree of skill their various members possess, as regards the conditions under which they work, and, therefore, largely as a consequence of these two points of difference, the different degree in which disturbing influences affect the different sections.

10877. If we take the case of severe weather in which kind of work are the members of the skilled branches most likely to be thrown out?—May I, in continuation of the former question, indicate two or three points. First of all, there is the main division between the skilled and the unskilled branches, and then the important distinction between work carried on inside, that is to

Chairman—continued.

say, under the shelter of the shop or the stone-yard, and outside on the buildings themselves.

10878. Will you tell us as to the severe weather and its effects?—It turns mainly on that question as to whether work is carried on in the buildings themselves or under the shelter of the workshop, as in the case of the joiners or machinists, because of the greater or less exposure to the weather to which the works under the one condition or the other would be subjected.

10879. And yet I suppose all the trade is interdependent, and that one part of it cannot go on very long without the help of the other. How far is that the case?—It is true to a very great extent. The other branches are dependent, for instance, on the work of the bricklayers and the masons as fixers of the stone, and the slaters and roof-tilers as being responsible for getting the roofs on. Of course, if the walls are not up and the roof is not on, the various classes of inside workers, house carpenters, plumbers and others, cannot get in and begin their work.

10880. So that the cessation of the work on the building itself very quickly affects any employment in the shops, I suppose?—It affects them, although it affects them somewhat later on. It would affect almost at once the subsidiary trades that were going to follow on, say the bricklayers on the building itself, but somewhat more remotely those who were working in the shops or the stone-yard. The joiner might go on, and probably would go on for a very much longer time than the masons as fixers. Certainly the joiners would go on much longer than the house carpenters or the plumbers would be able to, but ultimately, of course, they would be affected by inclement weather, for two reasons, I think: partly because, even if the orders were already in hand, the questions of storage of the finished work and of risk would become important, and partly because the question of lock-

Chairman—continued.

ing up the capital would also begin to have weight.

10881. Is any distinction to be drawn between the work which is done on new buildings and the work which is done on existing buildings in the way of repairs and renewals from this point of view?—Yes, I think so generally; because work on old buildings in the way of repairs and renewals is more protected, and therefore less subject to the influence of the weather, and also because work on old buildings (I mean the work of repair and renewal) is more subject to special influences, social and economic in their character, than work on new buildings. I can illustrate that by the effect that the London season would have on the West London painters and decorators for instance, and the corresponding influence on those who have to get their shops and warehouses and so forth ready for the busy season. Another good instance of the same thing is the fact that the joiners who are engaged by the big shop-fitting firms, are generally busiest in the winter time, because then they are preparing for the fitting up of shops, which in their turn will be busy when the summer season comes on.

10882. Is there a tendency during the season for some of these skilled workmen to find difficulty in getting employment in this special trade of shop-fitting?—I do not know that it amounts to that, because work on the whole in shops of that kind is fairly continuous, but in so far as there is a variation, the tendency is for them to be busier in the winter than in the summer. There is a certain amount of export trade in this branch which tends also to equalise the amount of employment throughout the year.

10883. In that particular branch there is a certain amount of export trade, which I suppose tends to make general employment somewhat steady throughout the year?—Quite so.

10884. Now, as to the two main classes of workers, taking the skilled workers first, can you give us any particulars as to their wages?—The average rate for almost every branch of the skilled trades is 9½*d.* an hour. The chief exceptions of those who earn habitually more are the plumbers, who earn 10½*d.*, and the masons when employed as fixers, that is to say, not in dressing stone, but in fixing it in position, who earn 10¼*d.* an hour. Masons, also, who work on granite, are paid 10¼*d.* Of course, there are other exceptions in the case of skilled men, specially skilled joiners and specially skilled decorators, for instance, who might earn more than the 9½*d.*, but those as a class are exceptions. The prevailing rate for the skilled men is 9½*d.* The chief exception below the 9½*d.* of the skilled men is the 8½*d.* rate for painters.

10885. The rate that you speak of, I suppose, is what would be ordinarily called the union rate?—I am speaking of the union rate which on the whole prevails.

10886. For men not in the union you would say, on the whole, the same rate of payment prevails?—On the whole it would prevail for most of the main branches. The painters that I mentioned just now are, of course, the most composite section in the whole group. The half-skilled brush hand very often does not get more than 7½*d.*; on the other hand, the highly-skilled painter and decorator, the man who can do the best work of all kinds, gets as much as 10½*d.* or 11*d.*, or even 11½*d.*

10887. Then, leaving out the painter for a moment, whose wage varies rather more, the ordinary rate for the skilled worker is 9½*d.* an hour?—Yes.

10888. And that prevails pretty largely throughout the whole group?—Yes. Another class that one would be inclined to mention as offering exceptions would be the handy men, the men who do not stick to one branch or the other, who might be bricklaying one day and jobbing of some other kind the next. They, as handy men, would very often earn lower rates. There are carpenters of the same class, but with the fully skilled man in all the main branches 9½*d.* prevails, whether he be a unionist or not.

10889. Now, come to the general labourers, whom we, perhaps, are more directly concerned with. What class of workers do you indicate by the term general labourers. Do you classify the general labourer at all in the building trade?—Yes. The term general labourer is not one that I use or that is used, as a matter of fact, in connection with that trade. The term general labourer is very much wider. It includes a great many workers who might never have done a day's work in connection with the building trade at all; porters of various kinds, navvies, and a nondescript class who habitually earn a promiscuous livelihood, who would do any kind of labouring work, all those and a great many others might quite well schedule themselves as general labourers, and undoubtedly would often do so.

10890. But are labourers who work in connection with the building trade to be divided into classes?—Yes, and they again can be subdivided.

10891. Would you say how you classify them?—The main divisions are the following: first of all, three classes of men who very often, although, of course, not exclusively, keep to their own special branches of labouring work. These are the scaffolders, the hoisters, and the timber men. The scaffolders, of course, are the men who put up the scaffolding; the hoisters are the men who either with or without a crane do the hoisting and putting into position of girders and big things, and help in moving the stone and other heavy things. Then there are the timber men, who are responsible for the strutting up of the sides of deep foundations. Those are what one may call the most skilled branches of the unskilled. Then there is another class of men who are called housebreakers, who are, to a considerable extent, interchangeable with the other branches, and especially with the scaffolders. They are men who are employed in demolishing old buildings that are going to be pulled down, and to clear sites. Then the third class consists of the various sections attached to the skilled trades: the bricklayer's labourer and the mason's labourer, the carpenter's labourer, the plumber's labourer, the painter's labourer, and the plumber's, smith's, and fitter's mates. There is then the excavator, the man who is employed in digging foundations, mixing concrete, and filling in

Chairman—continued.

in foundations, largely interchangeable with the third class, namely, those attached to skilled trades, but including also a great many who cannot get work in any other capacity.

10892. Will you tell us at this point what are the wages of these labourers so far as you know?—The scaffolders, hoisters, and timber men are paid 7*d.* an hour. Those attached to skilled trades, and the excavators are paid 6½*d.*, and men employed as housebreakers are also paid 7*d.* because of the additional risk; standing on a wall that is being pulled down is a very risky operation, and they get the extra halfpenny too; 6½*d.* and 7*d.* are the prevailing rates.

10893. Are these classes subject to the influences of the weather more than the first class we have spoken about, the skilled workmen?—Not as a class. To a very great extent of course they are subject to exactly the same influences as the skilled men.

10894. Especially those who are attached to the skilled men?—All those who are attached are exactly in the same position.

10895. With reference to the others, what do you say?—With regard to the rest, the excavators are most likely to be stopped by inclement weather. They work on soil, and soil if it gets hard and frozen cannot be worked, and they would be stopped. Those who are least subject to the effects of the weather are the scaffolders.

10896. Which of the class on the whole tend to be least well-off from the point of view of what they may earn in the whole year?—I should say certainly that class which is most exclusively employed on the foundations as excavators.

10897. Their wages are the most uncertain?—Yes, most uncertain; and also as a class a man who is working the greater part of his employed time, or almost the whole of it, on that branch of the building trade, will probably be a less valuable man than a man working on any other branch of labour, and will thus be most liable to dismissal.

10898. Can you tell us at all, from your observation, whether these labourers, speaking generally, are mostly town-born men or men who have come in from the country to compete with the town-born men?—I have no full particulars on that point; but I think there is no doubt about it that a very large majority are *born* in the country, but I think that a very much smaller proportion probably may be described as having been *bred* in the country than is true of, say, the bricklayers or the carpenters or plasterers. A very large proportion of those classes are not only born, but get their initial training, in the country, the country being for many reasons the best training-ground. But I do not think that that would hold with the labourers.

10899. You think that more of the skilled labourers will have been born and trained in the country than the labourers?—Of those branches that I mentioned (not, for instance, of the plumbers, and not the painters), but of the bricklayers, the plasterers, and the carpenters and the joiners, and I ought also to have mentioned the masons.

10900. You have made some inquiries, and asked questions, and so forth, to bring you to this opinion?—I have a certain amount of data, but I also draw the conclusion from my knowledge of the men, from those that I have seen, and from the character of their work. A man who comes up from the country when he is an adult is not, as a rule, a man who comes in to the lowest rank of any group of trades. In the building trade, a man who comes up as an adult and takes his place in the ranks of the trade is the man who knows some branch of the trade. I think one may rightly say of the builder's labourer that he does not come up as a rule from the country as an adult.

10901. Is your view confirmed at all by conversation with large employers on this matter?—No, I cannot say that it is.

10902. I suppose it is a very difficult subject to be sure about?—It is very difficult.

10903. You think you have fair ground for the view that you hold?—Yes, I think so.

10904. I think in some part of Mr. Booth's books there have been some special inquiries with relation to certain building firms on this matter. Did not Mr. Llewellyn Smith make certain inquiries?—Yes, in the first volume.

10905. And his special inquiries tended in the same direction?—Yes. I should not like to commit Mr. Llewellyn Smith to what I have stated, but the general burden of his conclusion was that men who came up from the country came, as a rule, to a definite job, and did not come to take their chance.

10906. They did not come to what is called the residuum, but they came to a pretty good job when they came up?—Yes.

10907. Before we leave this question of the work of the skilled labourers will you tell us what is the ordinary number of hours per week that they work?—The exact number varies with the season, being longer in the summer than in the winter, but according to the agreement of 1892, it averages out for the whole year at just about 48 hours per week.

10908. Then in some weeks it is less than 48?—Yes, for a certain number of weeks in the winter.

10909. That applies broadly throughout the trade?—Yes.

10910. Both for skilled men and unskilled?—Yes, broadly. Of course the unskilled men being so very largely dependent on the others, what rules with the skilled men almost necessarily rules for the unskilled.

10911. In the trade generally is there anything which accentuates the difficulty of season in relation to this trade?—Yes, I think there are two or three rather important influences. I suppose that, generally speaking, one would say that everything that tends to make employment irregular also tends to increase the chance of men being not only out of work but in difficulties when out of work when the dull season comes round, and there are two things especially that do tend to make employment irregular in this group. First of all, the practice of shifting so very constantly from employer to employer, sometimes done voluntarily when a man has some preference, because he likes a foreman or a shop

Chairman—continued.

a shop, or because he has a chance of getting work nearer home, or whatever it may be; but more often of course compulsorily shifting. Then the difficulty is very largely due to the contract system, by which contracts are undertaken by contractors and the men are taken on very largely by the foreman for the individual job. They are all subject to an hour's notice, and although if they are competent workmen and are steady they would be kept on, where they are wanted, they are all liable to dismissal at an hour's notice.

10912. I suppose it is much more difficult in this trade than in other trades, which are fixed in a particular locality, to be certain of continuous employment for many of the men?—Very much more difficult.

10913. They have to be constantly watching to see if a new building is rising as soon as they have finished one job in order to obtain another?—Yes. One finds that almost every foreman would have a nucleus, on any big job, of men that he knows, and very likely would have their names and addresses, and would write to them if the men did not follow him up on their own account, but the main body taken on would be taken on simply as casual applicants for work.

10914. Therefore, there is always a large fringe of the workers who are somewhat uncertain as to whether they will get a job in a few week's time or not?—Yes, put in that way a very large proportion.

10915. As a matter of fact, a great many of them do not often go more than a week or two without finding work, I suppose?—That is so, except, of course, at times of the year either when trade is exceptionally dull or when the weather is inclement.

10916. What is the worst time of the year?—Of course any given time when there is a frost.

10917. Apart from frost?—The early months; January would undoubtedly be the worst month. May I mention one point on the other matter, in the jobbing trade; that is to say, when employers have to send men to do odd jobs in private houses and so on, it is a much more common practice for them to have a permanent staff. There are, of course, many advantages in this: they are able to move them about from job to job, and the individual man secures more continuous employment. In the case of one employer, he said he did not hand over, as was the common practice, the responsibility of taking on men to his foremen, but did it himself, with this special object of having men permanently, and being able, as the foreman is not able to do, to move them on from job to job, the foreman being unable to pass them on to another job of which another foreman would be in charge. Although one understands why the other practice is adopted, it seems a very desirable thing that the practice of this individual employer should be more widely followed.

10918. Does the employer you speak of desire to give greater continuity of work to his men?—Yes. I have not got his evidence with me, but I remember he speaks of the proportion to which he is able to give regular work, and it is very much above the average.

Chairman—continued.

10919. You think that possibly some further organisation of the trade might give better security to the individual man?—I think it might give better security. Of course, from the conditions of the trade, and the fact that in one year a firm may be employing two or three thousand men it may be, and another year only 700 or 800 men, it is evident that there must be a very great deal of discontinuity.

10920. Is the employer you spoke of just now a large employer?—He is a contractor, but not a very large employer.

10921. Has anything occurred in the building trade of late years to disturb or alter the conditions of employment; the larger use of machinery, for instance?—In the case of machinery not to any very considerable extent excepting as regards labourers. One does hear a great many complaints that they are displaced very largely by the hoister and the Scotch steam derricks. I am inclined to think, myself, that although a certain number may be displaced by machinery, the effect of its introduction is rather to change the character of the labourer's work than simply to eliminate him. In the skilled branches, there is most machinery employed in the machinists' shops, which tends to deprive the joiners of some of their work. Different opinions are held among joiners as to what the real effect upon them is, some of them holding that a joiner is rapidly becoming a man who simply puts together pieces of work prepared by other people and makes nothing; others holding that the increased cheapness of the simpler parts of the work enables architects to estimate for more elaborate work, and in that way to secure to the joiner himself not less but a greater amount of work actually due to the introduction of machinery. I should add, it is not new machinery, but rather adaptations and improvements of old machinery, and a wider extension of its use.

10922. Should you say, from your own observations, that any very large proportion of the skilled men have been thrown out of work and fallen into a lower grade in consequence of these new processes?—No, I think not.

10923. They have been absorbed into new forms of work, which has not injured them?—I do not think, as regards any branch of the skilled trades, the effect of the introduction of machinery is sufficiently important to have displaced any considerable number.

10924. And your view with regard to labourers is the same?—In the main, with somewhat greater qualification. You asked me if there was any disturbing influence, and I should like to mention what seems to me more important than the introduction of new machinery, that is to say, the introduction of new processes and the introduction of new materials. I have put down some instances such as the use of terra-cotta or fancy brick facings for plaster stucco facings and stonework; for roofs the use of zinc instead of lead affecting the plumbers' trade and introducing the new class of zinc workers. The substitution of electric lighting for gas-fittings; the extended use of iron and steel girders and the patent flooring of different kinds, tending to affect the house carpenters; the use of metal lathing

Chairman—continued.

lathing instead of the ordinary wooden laths, affecting lathers; the use of slab plaster work displacing to some extent the ordinary plasterers. The last has not up to the present time been a very important influence, but it may become so.

10925. What has the effect of those new processes been?—They all tend to make things harder for the special section that they affect. The gasfitter, for instance, is having rather a hard time, and the old bellhanger, due to the introduction of electric lighting and electric bells.

10926. You do think that difficulties and hardships have arisen out of these changes?—I do, decidedly; hardship to many individuals who belong to the section affected.

10927. Then taking the case of such men who may be out of work through such causes or through any other cause, can these men easily fall back on alternative employments?—In the main I should say not easily. Skilled men as a rule keep exclusively to their own trade, and in a good many cases even what I have described as the more skilled of the labourers do. Such a man as a clever scaffolding hand, for instance, would do nothing else. If he could not get scaffolding work he would wait till it came round again. Of course, there are a certain number of labourers who go into the gasworks and have entirely different employment in the winter time. The painters, as I have said, are a very composite group, and many of those are only painters for, it may be, a few weeks in the year; they may be anything at any other time, waiters or scene-shifters, or anything. I am speaking now of men who ought not to be called painters properly, and for whom the term would be objected to by many in the trade, but they class themselves as such, and therefore have to be considered as such. There is another kind of work which is open to some men when they are out of work, and that is taking small jobs on their own account. It is the sort of work that bricklayers and carpenters especially are able to do, and, no doubt, a great deal of home work is done by carpenters.

10928. Small jobs for their neighbours?—Small jobs for their neighbours, or they make things to sell, and so forth. In my report I alluded to this, and said that it existed, certainly, as a possible alternative in some trades to a considerable extent, but that it rather had to be recognised as a resource; and that it was quite impossible to measure its actual use. Then at any given time when the unemployed question, as such, is before us, the neighbours of these men would probably not be very flush, and as their chief, their customers would not be very likely to be buying things or making work.

10929. So that, practically, you do not think that with reference to the skilled men and even the more skilled labourers that there is much for them to fall back upon when they are out of work?—Not for skilled men, except in the case of these nondescript painters. Much more so in the case of labourers.

10930. We have been sometimes told that work would be better distributed so as to cover what

Chairman—continued.

are ordinarily slack times with advantage. Have you considered that question, and have you any suggestion to make in relation to that?—In that connection I should like to mention two things, one is (and I mention it without any technical knowledge of what it is worth) a report made by the Consul General at Christiania, on the possibility of doing bricklayers' work in frosty weather. This memorandum is printed in "Laxton's Builders' Price Book", for 1894, page 37.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

10931. Is the reference to the Parliamentary Papers given?—No, it is called the Report of Her Majesty's Consul General at Christiania, and the reference is not given. The practice seems to require greater care, but as far as one can judge not necessarily greater expense, and the main points seem to be that in the mixing of the lime special precaution has to be taken, and that the bricks used must be kept dry. Once or twice or even more in the collection of evidence I was told that a certain amount of the cessation of work during inclement weather is a cessation due not always to absolute necessity, but rather to the convenience of the employer. I would not attach undue importance to that, but as there would not be very much work going on, and capital might be short, and wages would not have to be paid, work might very often, I think, be stopped a bit earlier than it really need have been. Also, I have come across cases where work has been carried through during quite severe weather, which proves that with care it is possible to do it, but I am not prepared to say as to the extent to which the need of extra care means additional risk, or, on the other hand, to say to what extent it may also mean additional expense.

Chairman.

10932. I suppose their ordinary contracts are made without any proposals to incur additional expense at times like these?—Yes, certainly; and of course in the ordinary form of agreement, in the clause which refers to industrial disputes and disturbing influences of that kind, inclement weather is also mentioned, so that the contractor is protected. There is one other point in that last question of giving out the work that I should like to mention. It seems to me to be a quite possible plan and one that could be carried out to a greater extent than it is at present.

10933. You mean the putting out the work at a particular time of year when the trade is normally slack?—Yes; although I have not sufficient technical knowledge of the trade to know to what extent the work would be open to the risk of being less well done or done at greater expense; but one point in connection with the unemployed that I should like to mention is, that if work was put out in that way during the normally dull times, by hypothesis at that time a very large number of men would be out of work, including not only the more necessitous cases of the unemployed, but also many of the more competent men, and those men, of course, would naturally be chosen to do the work. There is no proposal that the London School

Chairman—continued.

Board, or any such body, should choose the more necessitous cases; they would choose the more competent hands, and therefore it follows that not only would the more necessitous not get work during the unusually dull times, but when the busy times came round they would have so much less chance of getting work according to the amount which had been given out during the dull time.

10934. You mean it would be more continuity for the skilled men without doing very much for those who are more necessitous?—Quite so. It might not only not be very much, but it might even tend to make their position harder.

10935. At other times?—Taking the year through.

10936. Have you anything more to say on that point?—No, except to note that it tends for a certain section to produce a greater regularity of employment. I think that in spite of the point I have mentioned above it is a desirable practice, but it always seems to me that it ought to be done with a clear understanding of what the effects would tend to be.

10937. Would you tell me generally whether you think the building trade has been a fairly prosperous trade in London of late years?—Yes, there is no doubt about it; I am not prepared to speak for 10 years.

10938. Five years?—Certainly for the last three or four years. I think I should be quite safe in saying for five years.

10939. You have not observed yourself, I suppose, a great amount of suffering and distress from want of employment arising in that particular trade?—No, I cannot say that I have.

10940. You have no further or special suggestion to make in relation to want of employment in that particular trade?—No.

10941. You think that on the whole your observations would tend to show that there is no very special case for change, or asserting any particular remedy in this particular group of trades?—Yes; speaking generally, that is so.

Mr. *Mather.*

10942. If that is so, I presume the Committee need not, so far as you are concerned, make any closer investigations into the conditions of the building trades in London. So far as your own experience is concerned you would say the Committee need not spend much time in considering the position of the building trade in London?—That might be my opinion, but, of course, the building trade is a seasonal trade. The ordinary seasonal condition of the trade seems to me to be such as to enable me to answer you in the negative, but, naturally, when one has such a season as the season of 1894 and 1895, there would be in some branches of the trade a special degree of necessity, but that does not mean that the trade, as a whole, considering it in its fairly normal conditions, is a trade which should be made the special subject for inquiry.

10943. Your opportunities for observation, I presume, have been somewhat extensive and very long?—Do you mean in connection with this trade?

Mr. *Mather*—continued

10944. Your observations connected with the building trade must have extended over some period of time?—Yes, for about three years. I began to inquire about three years ago, and although I have had other work to do and have not been able to keep at it I have had it in my mind since then.

10945. Apart from actual statistics which you have calculated, upon which I presume there is no doubt, what opportunities have you possessed for inquiring into the various matters on which you have expressed an opinion this morning; have you, for instance, had many opportunities of discussing the building trade conditions with large employers of labour?—Yes, with a certain number of large employers and with a very large number of men in the trade generally.

10946. Are the opinions you have expressed this morning as matters of opinion chiefly the result of the information derived from those employers?—No, I should say not chiefly; they are the result of the whole inquiry, which included interviews and reports of interviews made for me in a few cases by others who were helping me, in every branch of the trade; professional men, architects and others, and employers and the working men themselves.

10947. You have, I presume, investigated yourself personally, or caused investigation to be made, into the conditions of the unions in the building trade, and the opinions of the union leaders, and also the ordinary working men in the various branches?—Yes.

10948. Therefore, the information you gave us this morning is based on the evidence collected from experts in the trade, both working men and employers of labour and architects?—That is so.

10949. And no opinion you have offered to the Chairman is based on an academic view of the case, but is a practical view derived from this information?—I ought to be able to carry my mind back to all answers that I have given, but I think I can answer you in the affirmative.

10950. There was one discrepancy, if one may call it so, in your evidence. You said that the skilled men are employed during the winter months, at a time when buildings are not being erected, in the workshops of the builders, and the stonemasons are employed in preparing the work for the buildings, and that work is frequently stored up for months together, and finally brought to the buildings when the building opportunities occur. In relation to the general labourers including all the classes you have named you gave us four classes of labourers. These persons are entirely engaged on out-door work, are they not?—Yes.

10951. Therefore, their work is contingent on the weather, and the opportunity of erecting the building?—Almost entirely.

10952. You intimated that they shared somewhat the same advantages as the skilled men, but they had other employment apart from that of workmen on the buildings under erection?—I did not mean to imply that the skilled men who were working in the shops, or under shelter in the winter, were the same men who had been working on the buildings. I meant that those who were employed

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

employed in the joiners' shop, or in the stone-yard, or under shelter in the shops, would have a greater chance than the skilled man in the same trade, or the allied trade, who was habitually employed on the building.

10953. It frequently happens that the man who is employed in the shop is sent out to the building?—Very often. In the case of the carpenters and joiners, they are generally distinct.

10954. It is not the case that general labourers can be taken from the building, whether they be excavating or erecting scaffolding and turned on to the workshops?—No, and I did not mean that to any considerable extent the carpenters who were working on the buildings would be taken inside the joiners' shops. My impression is that it is done to a small extent. Might I say that in London, although there is a certain amount of interchange between the shops and the job, in the case of carpenters and joiners, in the main the men work at one or other of the branches, and it is a feature of the London building trade that there is more specialisation than I suppose there is in the same trade in any part of the world.

10955. Turning to the matter of statistics on which, I presume, you are infallible, because you may obtain correct statistics from these points, we come to the wages of skilled men. You said the average week consisted of 48 hours, and a man at full work during the week would earn about 38*s.* Can you give us that which you have not yet, I think, stated to the Committee namely, what would be the yearly income of a man earning 38*s.* a week when in full work, but taking the building trade as a whole with all its peculiarities, subject to changes of weather and spasmodic influences of all sorts, what would be the average yearly income of a good skilled tradesman in the building trade. Would it not, at 48 hours per week, and 50 weeks in the year, be 95*l.* per year. As compared with 95*l.* per year you possibly have statistics of what would be the income of such a person, namely, the well-conducted working man?—I have, as a matter of fact, got three kinds of evidence bearing on that point. First of all, the returns made by a considerable number of employers for single weeks, which, in the case of the bricklayers, average out at 35*s.* 2*d.* Then I have also had a certain number of specific cases in which bricklayers, masons, joiners, carpenters, painters, scaffolders, and a labourer had kept their own private accounts, in some cases, for long periods; in one case for 14 years, in another case for six years, in another for 11, and so on. Those I have averaged out, and, in the case of the masons and the bricklayers, those that have been given me averaged out at 33*s.* 10*d.* They are actual cases.

10956. Do you mean 33*s.* 10*d.* for 50 weeks?—For 52 weeks. That is, however, the actual average earnings of a certain number of specific cases that have been handed in to me.

10957. In order to give the Committee an idea of what the condition of workpeople is in the building trades as a whole have you no statistics to show what is the average earning of a thousand men during the year, well-conducted

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

working men, who work whenever work is to be obtained?—I have not, myself, facts of that kind as to so large a number of men as that, but I have a certain number of estimates, and, personally, I think you would have to wait a very long time before you got returns for 1,000 men who had kept an exact record from January to December. These estimates average out at 31*s.* 6*d.* per week, and in this chapter of Mr. Booth's book I express my opinion that this amount is not far from the actual truth, that taking the average weekly earnings for the whole year of a man who is neither exceptionally smart or exceptionally incompetent, if I put it at 31*s.* 6*d.* for the bricklayers and plasterers, I am not far from the mark.

10958. Can you explain what surprises me, because everyone knows the condition of the building trade, and how fluctuating it is. Comparing the statement you have made with one's own knowledge of the men in the engineering trade, for instance, where employment is much more regular where it is not governed by the weather, in that trade, taking the average of the men at 38*s.* per week for a full week, the average on the year comes very far below the total number of weeks at 38*s.* a week, and I am rather surprised to hear that in the building trade you have kept so near the actual wage?—The 33*s.* 10*d.* is only the average of a certain number, quite a small number, of selected cases of men who have kept a long record of their earnings. I do not accept that as the true average, except in the case of the few instances that I have given.

Mr. *Logan.*

10959. Exceptional men?—Exceptional men.

Mr. *Mather.*

10960. You can give the Committee no information on the point as to the average yearly earnings in the trade of the bricklayers, carpenters, and stonemasons?—I can in the way I have just mentioned, but taking all these facts together, the normal yearly rate, the average returns from employers, the specific instances, and the average of a certain number of selected estimates, I have arrived at the conclusion that we can put the average down at 31*s.* 6*d.*

10961. For the whole year?—For the whole year.

10962. If that has been proved to be the case I am not surprised you should say the building trade is in a very happy condition. Can you give us any idea with reference to the earnings of the general labourers on the whole year?—I cannot give them with as much assurance. My estimates there were between 17*s.* per week and 31*s.* per week for scaffolders and labourers, and the estimates average out at 23*s.* 3*d.* I am inclined to think that this may be a little bit over the mark, but I do not think it is very far out.

10963. Do you mean that builders' labourers, in anything like a general sense, obtain over 1*l.* a week all the year round?—I think a builders' labourer who works consistently as a builders' labourer probably earns that.

10964. Under the conditions of the trade,

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

with the peculiar fluctuations, and the weather influences being regarded as very important factors in the matter, do you believe that a general labourer in the building trade, a well-conducted thrifty man, can obtain work throughout the year to give an average of 21*s.* or 22*s.* per week for the whole year?—Yes.

10965. Those facts are very satisfactory, but they surprise me. Have you any knowledge of the effect upon the earnings of the workpeople in the building trade, and the reduction in the hours of work, which I think was established in London about three years ago. They reduced the number of hours per week for the whole trade?—Yes.

10966. Have you any knowledge of what the effect of it was upon the earnings of the men, or on the regularity of the work, or on the increase of work?—On the whole it has tended to make work more regular. Of course, not only has the length of the working day been shortened, but overtime in some branches has been almost entirely abolished.

10967. Have you any personal knowledge on that head or did you make any special inquiry on that point?—It came up constantly, of course, in conversation, but I cannot give any figures illustrating the actual effect on the actual earnings of the change.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

10968. I want to ask you in relation to this amount of money earned per week, that Mr. Mather has been asking you about. May I be allowed to ask you how you took those statistics as to the amount of money the men averaged per week the whole year round. You gave it, I think, at 31*s.* 6*d.*?—The conclusion I arrive at by a process of comparison with other figures that were available, and also by considering what amount of idle time would be possible for a man whose average was 31*s.* 6*d.* per week.

10969. How much idle time would a man have in the year to average 31*s.* 6*d.* per week in the year; it means one day per week, does it not?—About eight or nine weeks in the year.

10970. It is one day per week?—Yes.

10971. Is it your experience of the London building trades that they only lose one day per week, including holidays, and frosty weather, and sickness?—Of course there are very many men who lose a good deal more, but I have instance after instance of men who for years and years have lost practically no time at all.

10972. Are you now speaking from a number of special cases, and not from the aggregate number of men employed?—Yes.

Mr. *Benn*.

10973. Your evidence has been confined to the building trade?—Yes.

10974. Would you take it that the prosperity of that trade is a fair type of kindred trades in London; when I say kindred trades, I mean trades subject to the same class of fluctuation?—My own opinion is that it compares favourably.

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

Are you thinking of the carmen's trade, for instance.

10975. Yes, take the carmen's trade?—Speaking generally, I should say that the building trade has been a more flourishing trade than trades with which it might be compared in London.

10976. Would you not place it at the top of the list?—Yes, I should be inclined to, of any big group.

10977. And much above most others?—Comparisons of this kind are very difficult to make off-hand, but my impression is that it is certainly well a-head.

10978. It would not be wise for this Committee to take the prosperity of the building trade as a guide with regard to similar industries?—No, I think not.

10979. Now you have had, as I am aware, exceptional experience in the East-end in dealing with this problem of a man, a competent man in many cases, being thrown out of employment for no fault of his own and owing to the prolonged cessation of work, being in view of the workhouse. Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee as far as London is concerned which would enable some form of relief to be offered to that man without his either losing his vote or becoming a pauper?—Do you mean relief offered either by the State or the municipality.

10980. I ask you for a suggestion. You know the London problem well?—No, in those circumstances I do not think I have any suggestion to offer.

10981. You have nothing but the Poor Law and the Charity Organisation Society?—I did not mention them. You are using the Poor Law as symbolising all official forms of relief, and the Charity Organisation Society as symbolising all forms of voluntary charitable effort and friendly help, are you not.

10982. Yes?—With that definition I should say I have no further suggestion.

Mr. *Logan*.

10983. Do you not think that the prosperity of the building trade in London causes a large number of men to flock to London when the trade is busy?—It certainly is constantly exercising an attractive force. It has not been mentioned as a special subject of complaint to me, but the fact does remain, of course, that men are constantly coming in from the country.

10984. You would not be prepared to deny that it is a fact, if I were to put it to you as a fact, that the prosperity of the building trade in London has a tendency to draw men from various parts of the country?—It certainly has a tendency, the strength of which, however, would be entirely determined by the corresponding activity of the same trade in the provincial centres.

10985. Quite so, but may not the prosperity in one particular trade in London, acting as it does as a means of drawing men to London, be the cause of a number of men being out of employment, men coming here and not being able to find work?—The fact of men attracted by the prosperity.

10986. Yes,

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

10986. Yes, may not the exceptional state of prosperity in the building trade so attract men as to bring more men to London than can find work?—Personally I do not think it does work out quite in that way, because, as I said earlier in the evidence, speaking of the migrants from the country, as a class I do not think they are the men who are out of work. As they come they undoubtedly tend to make it harder for some others who are already on the spot.

10987. You said, in answer to the Chairman, that you thought it would be desirable, if it could be arranged, to give out the work during the time of the year when work is generally slack?—Yes.

10988. Is not that asking people to do the impossible, for instance, all builders work whenever it is possible for them to work, and the only reason why the builder does not work in the winter is because he cannot. Are you not, in suggesting he should work during the very time he tells you he cannot, asking him to do an impossibility?—There are two points on that: First of all, there is only the suggestion of an amateur that work may be possible in a greater part of the year than is generally considered to be the case, and even during frost as is suggested in the report I have mentioned; and secondly there are some branches of the trade in which work is certainly not impossible. It is only perhaps to be described as necessarily done under somewhat less advantageous circumstances.

10989. Taking the building trade as a whole, do not you think that the builders of London work all the hours they can work in the winter?—No, I am not prepared to answer that in the affirmative without qualification. Of course the stock exception is the painting.

10990. The painting is only done when the house is finished. The time when that work is stopped is the time of frost, or in the time of pouring wet weather. If the weather is fit to work, if it does not rain so as to compel the builders to stop, he does not stop; it is not to his interest to stop?—Not as a rule.

10991. You say the London builder does stop when he might work?—I said that it had been suggested to me that in some cases work was stopped sooner than was absolutely necessary.

10992. You do not tell the Committee of your own knowledge that that is the practice in London?—Not to any considerable extent. I agree with you that new work, on the whole, could not be started during the normally dull times; on the other hand, I should think one would be quite safe in holding the opinion that in connection with the organisation of the labour in the building trades by the exercise of more care and consideration on the part of the employer, greater continuity of employment could be secured.

10993. You think that the employer does not work the length of time that he might do in the winter months?—In some cases.

10994. That is the inference we must draw from what you say?—In some cases I should be inclined to say that.

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

10995. Do you think that it pays the builder to let everything stand when he has got all his staff organised ready to go on with the work?—As a rule not, but in exceptional cases it might be a convenience to do so.

10996. What sort of exceptional cases?—It might be shortness of capital, for instance.

10997. I do not think you ought to lead this Committee to infer that an improvement can be made as you suggest, in the way in which work is done, based upon the practice of a builder, who is short of capital, and, therefore, not able to do the work in the best possible manner; that is a thing that does not apply to the great bulk of London builders?—When I made the suggestion I was not thinking of new work.

10998. As a practical man I am anxious that the Committee should not take it from you that any great amount of building work can be done in the winter time more than is done now. I want to know from you whether you are of opinion that the builders of London stop their works in the winter when they might carry them on?—It is a difficult question for me to answer off-hand, because there are certain unknown quantities. At the moment I should say no.

10999. You seemed to infer just now that the uncertainty of work on the contract system is largely answerable for men being out of employment?—In so far as it tends to bring about great discontinuity in the employment of the individual man.

11000. I agree with you, and I think it is the main cause myself. Are you of opinion, supposing municipalities did their own work, that that would tend to greater continuity of work for the trades generally?—I have a great difficulty in answering that question, because it seems to me to depend entirely upon the policy in conducting and carrying out their own works that would be adopted. Speaking generally, I do not see why it should unless they did it from the same motives as led the London School Board to do some of its painting in the winter time; but the answer seems to me to resolve itself into a question of administration.

11001. Is it not the fact that now in one six months the amount of work done may be double or treble, say in London, that done in the corresponding six months in the year before by a given municipality?—Yes.

11002. Supposing a municipality divided its work over three, four, or five years, and did the same constant amount of work per month, do not you think that they would be simply stopping the influx of labour into London, and so providing constant employment for the men that are here?—Assuming there is that body of work waiting to be done that could be thus controlled, it would certainly have that effect.

11003. But the work is to be done year by year, and I should like to know whether it would not be infinitely better to divide that work over a certain period of time, instead of having, as is the case to-day, in one June 500 bricklayers employed, and perhaps in the corresponding June in the next year only 350 bricklayers employed. I ask you whether you do not think it

Mr. *Logan*—continued.

it would be a good thing for the working classes generally if municipalities so arranged their work as to do about the same amount of work month after month?—I do not think it follows that it would be advantageous if the municipality did its own work. It might give out the work with the same discretion whether it employs contractors or whether it does it itself.

11004. I do not bind you to the wisdom of a municipality actually doing its own work; that is a matter of opinion?—In the way you suggest it certainly might be split up

Mr. James Morton, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

11005. Are you Chairman of the Unemployed Executive Committee of West Ham?—Yes.

11006. Will you tell us how long that committee has been in existence?—It has been in existence since last November.

11007. It was formed, in fact, at the beginning of the winter?—Yes.

11008. You want, I think, to tell us something about your opinion and that of others whom you represent on the work which has been done in West Ham for the unemployed, do you not?—Yes.

11009. What is your own view of the work which has been actually carried out this winter?—My individual opinion is that it has not touched the fringe of the unemployed question. It has been simply playing with it. At the meetings that were held of the unemployed and the public, they all agreed that what had been done, so far as the Poor Law Guardians were concerned, did not really deal with the matter. We applied to them, after the statistics had been gathered by the Trades Councils of the unemployed at West Ham.

11010. May I ask how your committee was formed?—It was elected amongst the unemployed assembled in the Grove one day. They had been promised some work by the cleansing department of West Ham. They were disappointed; they were indignant at the disappointment, and they assembled in the Grove, and I, as one, was selected as one of the spokesmen.

11011. To go to the town council?—To go to the highways committee, and to get an understanding with regard to this disappointment and the reason. We went to the works committee as a deputation of six.

11012. Had your committee been formed then?—No; the committee was appointed at this meeting. This deputation was formed as a committee for the rest of the season until something was done for the unemployed. We waited on the works committee, and it was shifted from the shoulders of one to the other, and we left the highways committee just as wise as we went to them. We did not bother any more with them, seeing we could not get anything from them, and we went to the West Ham Poor Law Guardians with the same deputation. When we went to them they offered us nothing else but the stoneyard. The stoneyard at that time was pretty full up; in fact, they said they could not take any more in; and even the house itself was over-crowded as well as the stoneyard.

11013. What did you ask them for?—We asked for work. So far as work was concerned, they said they could not give it to us unless we could formulate some scheme to them whereby they could give it to us.

Chairman—continued.

11014. Within their power under the law?—The work we asked for was within their powers.

11015. What kind of work did you ask them to give?—At Forest House, which belongs to the guardians, there is ample ground to put a number of men on for the purpose of cultivating it for kitchen garden produce for the use of the union. We drew up a scheme to that effect, and we asked the corporation and the guardians to contribute so much each for starting the unemployed there. We submitted the scheme to them, and they were highly pleased with it, only the Local Government Board would not allow them to go on with such a scheme.

11016. Did the board of guardians submit the proposal to the Local Government Board?—I believe they did. They gave us to understand they had sent the scheme there, and also a deputation of the board, to the Local Government Board. On the second visit we paid to the Poor Law Guardians they gave us to understand they had visited them, and also communicated by letter with the Local Government Board, and that they would not allow them to go on with such a scheme, and, consequently, we had to go back to the borough council. We went back to the borough council, and we were more successful the second time, because the snow being on the ground after Christmas, from 400 to 600 men were employed in clearing the streets in that direction.

11017. That was before the bad weather came on?—We went about from one place to another prior to the bad weather; we got practically nothing done for us until the bad weather set in.

11018. Then they began clearing the streets from the snow?—Yes; if the bad weather had not set in there would have been a large sewer opened, which is now started, and a number of men are employed on that; and there were two streets in Old Canning Town which were opened up for paving. They would have been opened up earlier had it not been for the severe frost that set in, but before the frost had properly cleared away they did open up the ground, and employed some 800 to 1,000 men per week. They gave one man one day, perhaps, out of eight or nine, 6*d.* an hour for six hours per day. That continued till that job was finished. Even that in itself did not materially help the unemployed in any way, because it only meant 3*s.* out of eight or nine days, which was not sufficient to keep any man and his wife and family.

Chairman—continued.

family. Then the unemployed met from time to time; and as our meetings were open-air ones, the public generally attended them as well. We had very large meetings, and the question was thoroughly discussed, and the public took part in them as well as the unemployed. Various suggestions were made, and we sent a deputation to the council to bring pressure to bear on the Government to do something on behalf of the unemployed. They agreed to do so, and I believe they did. The opinion generally was that the Government ought to do something on behalf of the unemployed.

11019. Are you going to tell us what the opinion was at your meetings on this subject, or are you going to criticise the actual work that was started?—No, I am going to speak of what took place at the meetings and what was the opinion of the meetings. The opinion of the meetings was (and they were composed of all sections of opinion, both political and orthodox, and otherwise), seeing that there were so many people starving and no proper means of feeding, and also keeping them warm in such severe weather, that the Government ought to do something for them, and the unanimous opinion was, that seeing there was so much waste land and idle labour, and so much money going out of this country for food stuffs, that the Government ought to step in and insist on the land that is now lying idle being brought into cultivation, or having the land taken possession of by various bodies deputed by the Government.

11020. You are not speaking of land only in West Ham, but land generally throughout the country?—Yes. The opinion of the meeting

Chairman—continued.

was in the general sense, not locally upon these questions, because they all recognised that it was a national question.

11021. The feeling was that a great many of those who were not employed in West Ham would take advantage of such a proposal, and go and work on the land?—Yes, because if it was started in West Ham they would flock from other districts, of course; and to prevent that it was absolutely necessary that it should be a national question, and the proposal was put forward that the parishes of London should be divided into four districts—north, south, east, and west, and the land most convenient to those districts would be procured, and that the *bonâ fide* unemployed would be put there, or more probably those who had been reared on the soil, and who had been forced through circumstances into the industrial centres should have the opportunity of going back. This raised another question again as to who would be willing to go back. We held meetings in various parts of the borough and took the opinion of the workers, and I may say that each meeting we held with regard to this question as to who would be willing to go back, we found that a great many, I may say from 20 to 30 per cent. of the meeting, was in favour of going back to the land even under the present conditions, if opportunities offered themselves of getting work, with a small wage and the same conditions under which the farm labourer works to-day. But they found it was impossible in the country to get work under the present conditions, and therefore they could not go back, and they were compelled to stay where they were.

MR. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN TOOK THE CHAIR.

Chairman.

11022. Will you continue what you were saying when the Committee adjourned; you were telling us the opinions of your committee on the question of employment?—Our executive and the unemployed and the public who attended our meetings, as I have said already, were of opinion that the Government should do something, seeing that there was so much land lying waste, and so much labour, and so much money in the country, and also that there was so much money going out of the country for foreign produce in the matter of foods which the people could grow in the country themselves. That raised the question in this discussion as to the difference in cost that would arise between the labour employed by the Poor Law Guardians or the relief given by the Poor Law Guardians, and the labour given by the Government in establishing national farms or national colonies to deal with the unemployed. That, as I say, raised the question of the cost between the two sections. In West Ham, as it is reckoned, it would cost about 5*s.* 4*d.* per individual per week to maintain the men in the union. Taking 100 men with average families, it would come to about 150*l.* per week to maintain those people. It was also pointed out that even under the system

Chairman—continued.

of national colonies, paying 6*d.* an hour for 48 hours a week, it would only come to 120*l.* paid in wages, which would maintain an average family, and which to-day has to maintain more than an average family; and in this way it was reckoned that the unemployed would have the opportunity of earning a portion of the 60 or 70 millions of money which goes out of the country for food stuffs. Of course, objections again were raised with regard to competition, and as to the restrictions placed upon the land. The meetings were also of opinion that the Government ought to see that facilities should be given, or they should insist upon more facilities being given, for this land being acquired in the direction I have mentioned; that is, as I said, dividing London into four districts, and the various parishes throughout the country, according to the number of the population, being divided into districts, each district to have an establishment responsible to Government, but which it managed itself. The unemployed were to be set to work to produce food for themselves, and also food for the various institutions which depend upon the rates, and also to supply even the Government Departments; for it was pointed out on various occasions, as it has been pointed out since in this

Chairman—continued.

House in discussions that took place not long ago, that a great percentage of the commodities used in the Army were of foreign produce, and even since then there have been great objections as to that taking place; it is every-day talk in working men's organisations. Such a plan as that would give the unemployed an opportunity of earning that money instead of its going abroad.

11023. Do you consider that an ordinary unemployed labourer, who has never been accustomed to work upon the soil at all, if he was put to ordinary farm work, could do much good in the way of producing corn and beef and other commodities in competition with the foreigner?—I may say that point was dealt with, and it was suggested, or it was given out, that in the industrial centres there was an enormous number of farm labourers who had been attracted to industrial centres, and who had been forced, through want of employment in the rural districts, and one thing and another over which the workers themselves had no control, to come to those centres. The opinion was expressed pretty freely that a great number of those would be only too glad to get back to the land. Consequently the committee held meetings in various parts of the borough, and took the opinion of the meetings, and I think I may safely say that from 20 to 30 per cent. of the meetings were of opinion that even under the present conditions the farm labourers would be only too glad to go back to the land, providing an opportunity were given to them for doing so. But it was pointed out that even in the country, as well as in the industrial centres, it was almost impossible for a farm labourer to get work because of the various new methods, or improved methods, of cultivation as regards reaping, and so forth, and in that way they were driven into the industrial centres or into the union where they lived, or they had to make a living the best way possible. The opinion was, that if the Government were to do as I have described, or to assist these districts to do it, the farm labourer would have the first preference of going back to the occupation of his choice or of his birth. In coming in contact with men who have been brought up in the country they have expressed to me individually that they would be only too glad to go back to the country, no matter on what conditions. The opinion was expressed that those men would thus have the first preference of going back to the soil, and that would give a man, who was born and brought up in an industrial centre, an opportunity of getting work at the industry or occupation at which he has been in the habit of working.

11024. It would relieve the congestion and competition in the industrial centres?—Yes. If we look at all our large industrial concerns on the railways, and large factories, for instance, we find the labouring section are composed chiefly of farm workers and farm labourers; they are more keenly sought after because of their being strong and robust men, and more capable of doing a hard day's work than a man who has been brought up in an industrial centre because of his physique. That puts the town man at a disadvantage, and a great number of these men coming in owing to

Chairman—continued.

improvements in machinery, and one thing and another of that kind which cheapens the cost of production, and does away with manual labour, we find these men are forced into the ranks of the unemployed. Even to-day on my way here I had to pass on my way to the Town Hall the new theatre which is being built at Stratford; and I was surrounded there by a number of men who have somehow been casually employed since the winter; many of them one could hardly say had been employed it may be a week or a fortnight at a time. There were about 200, if not more, at that theatre, where they have begun to excavate the ground for the purpose of laying the foundation of the building, and looking round that body of men we have a class of men who would be only too glad to go back to the country again. Not only that, but we have found tradesmen who are out of work because younger men are preferred. One man in particular came to me, and he came to me last winter also. I had made careful inquiries into that man's circumstances last winter, because I thought he was a suspicious man; but I found that the man's circumstances deserved immediate attention; he is only one of many thousands I have come across during this last winter that were situated in the same position. That man is not an old man; he has not turned 50; but simply because he has grey hair he cannot get work. He is a painter by trade; he has had odd jobs from landlords and from some employers who have been extra pushed for men; but as to permanent employment, he tells me it is impossible to get it; they employ young men now in preference to old. This tells very much even against skilled workers. Even engineers and men from all classes and conditions of skilled labour are flocking to the ranks of the labourers, and in that way it is making the chances of work for a man who has not been brought up to a trade more precarious; and therefore, no matter how good a man's abilities may be as a workman, or his references as to respectability and sobriety, those things do not stand him in good stead now, simply because there are so many men in the market. During the taking of the census by the Trades' Council of the Borough of West Ham, I had charge of one district as agent, and I had four canvassers with me, and, of course, being unemployed myself at the time, I did a good deal of canvassing myself. In the district from Stratford Bridge (that is where the station of the Great Eastern Railway to Woolwich is) to Bow Bridge the visitations were 1,738. Deducting 642 women workers who were also unemployed, we had 1,096 in work out of 1,738; but taking the whole census in the borough right through, there were upwards of 10,000 unemployed altogether, that is, including Canning Town, Silvertown, and all within the Borough of West Ham, which is a wide one, including Forest Gate as well. In visiting those people I came across people who generally reckoned themselves to be of the respectable working class who would rather suffer than show their misery or their poverty. Those people are a class of people who never apply

Chairman—continued.

apply to the Poor Law; and that reason being shown, that is why the unemployed and the public generally in West Ham were not so very well pleased with the figures of the Poor Law guardians being taken as statistics for the unemployed, because they did not give reliable information. The only way we could get reliable information was from a house-to-house canvass, which we did by volunteers from various trade organisations, political organisations, and otherwise in the borough. With regard to these national farms, some people again contended that they could not produce the necessaries of life in this country cheaper than it could be done on the Continent. Taking the statistics of various eminent scientists and writers who have studied the question, such as Cobden, Ogilvie, Mechie, and Prince Krapotkine, and General Sir Arthur Cotton, of Woodcote Farm, Dorking, who, in 1893, after a scientific experiment on his farm, produced a crop of wheat yielding 130 bushels to the acre, with 6½ tons of straw, the fact can be proved; and taking, as Cobden says, the average production of England at 30 bushels to the acre, and taking this 130 bushels, we find that the 130 bushels is produced at almost the same cost as the 30 bushels; and if we take scientific methods of cultivation, we find the 130 bushels have been produced cheaper, and therefore there is no fear of foreign competition in that direction, if the Government would do as the public generally believe they can do, and are able to do if they are only willing, viz., to put such restrictions upon the land as to prevent people from keeping it lying idle as it is doing to-day. There is so much labour lying waste, and also so much money going out of the country which these unemployed do not get the chance of earning.

11025. Are you not afraid of being too sanguine in your views. Take the case of what are known as derelict farms, that is, farms which have been in cultivation and which have gone out of cultivation, because it was not found that it would pay to cultivate them, do you not think that private individuals, if that land was capable of producing 130 bushels of wheat, would come in and take the benefit of that fact?—There are farmers who no doubt would like to go in for them, but they are afraid of doing it. They do not study the scientific side of cultivation; they work rather on the present competitive system of cultivation, trying to take as much as they possibly can out of the land at the cheapest possible rate, and therefore impoverishing the land, and in consequence the land is no good to them in a few years, and they have to give it up or become bankrupt.

11026. You are familiar with Scotland; do you know the agricultural system in Scotland?—In Scotland, I may say, in the neighbourhood to which I belong, and where I was born and reared.

11027. Where is that?—Logie Almond, north of Perth; in that district which, in my boyhood days, used to consist of small farms, two years ago when I was north visiting the place, the farms I used to see when a boy were entirely absent, and the land lying waste.

11028. Not absolutely uncultivated, I suppose?—Yes; there were even weeds and shrubs growing out of the very windows of the houses; and some of the farms were lying desolate, you may say a wreck. In making inquiries of some of the people round about there, as I did (because at this time I had got to take an interest in these questions), I was given to understand that by the time the farmers of that district had produced their crops and brought it into the market, it would not pay them, because large farmers, such as General Arthur Cotton, by applying the latest improvements of science to the land, and the cultivation of it, were able to have their produce in the market quicker and in a better state than the small farmers were able to do; and, consequently, these small farms went to the wall, and the labourers who used to work upon their farms went into industrial centres. I may say the whole district round there is completely depopulated to what it was when I was a boy. Then, again, so far as tradesmen are concerned, as I have already said, taking the ranks of the labourers generally, I care not what section of the labourers, in the shipbuilding yards or the engineering shops, or the building trades, you will find all classes and conditions of skilled workers and skilled tradesmen, who have served an apprenticeship to various trades, working there as labourers. Where I am working at the present time (that is with the West Ham Corporation) there is a man working beside me who was a carpenter, and one who was a compositor. I myself unfortunately, or fortunately, in my younger days, when my parents came into town, went to a trade, and served my apprenticeship to it, but I never worked a week as a journeyman at it, because machinery at that time just came in and did away with the manual work; that was the rope and twine spinning. From that I went to sea, and even there you find now that the latest appliances are being brought into use there and displacing seamen also. Having had about 12 years at sea, I am now forced to take work in any occupation which I find I am capable of doing. It is the same with skilled labour, even among the engineers and cabinetmakers, and I find it is so even in the case of clerks. I was at a meeting last Sunday where there were some clerks complaining of want of employment, and consequently they will have to come down to the ranks of the labourers. The only way in which the difficulty can be met, so far as we can see, is that the natural resources of the country must be attended to. There was another point which was raised by some patriot at one of the meetings which we held in the Grove at Stratford; and I may say this man was very, very enthusiastic on this point: he instanced a case where a country was at war, and the grain was prevented from being exported after a certain date; that was when Turkey and Russia were at war; and he put it that if this country had any complications with any of the continental nations, seeing that we have to get all our food stuff from those countries, a crisis would arise, and, consequently, we would be starved into submission, or something of that kind. That might happen by a combination of the European powers, and this man contended that

Chairman—continued.

that if that was to be averted this Government, or any Government in power at the time, must, of necessity, take up this question, even from that standpoint alone. I may say that these enthusiastic meetings were all in favour of what the speaker said, although, from my own personal standpoint, I do not put much stress upon it; I am simply giving the opinions of the meetings, and the public who attended our meetings, on this point. Of course, so far as I am concerned with my own individual opinion, it conflicts a good deal with some of the opinions that have been put forward; but as I am simply a delegate here to give the opinion of those I represent, it would not do to give my opinion unless I was asked for it.

11029. There is one point which I do not know that you have touched upon, namely, the question whether depriving a man of his vote because of his receiving relief is a material element in the question?—Yes. I have omitted to deal with that point, and I am glad you have drawn my attention to it, because that was one point that was strongly pressed upon me, that various men, whom I know, even among those belonging to the Labourers' Union, of which I am a member, instead of applying to the union, even went the length of selling and pawning their household effects so as to save their votes, and they contended also at those meetings that it was a cruelty practised upon those men that they should be put in this position so that they would not have the rights of citizenship to raise their voice to right any wrongs that existed in the community, simply because, through no fault of their own, they were compelled to seek parish relief for their wives and families.

11030. That is to say, you would exempt men who, having been hard working and decent living men, and prudent men, through some misfortune, not of their own bringing about, have got into distress; would you extend the same exemption to others who received Poor Law relief of the ordinary kind, or would you draw a distinction?—I would draw no distinction. My reason for saying so is that those people, no matter what their social condition is, that are compelled to seek Poor Law relief, are not themselves responsible for the misfortune they are placed in.

11031. In all cases?—I may say in all cases. I am speaking now my own personal opinion; and I say so because whatever cause outside the want of work, and outside, also, old age and infirmity, has brought a man or woman into that condition, that man or woman is not, I would say, responsible for the cause, because the cause has been brought about by economic forces.

11032. What I mean is, you would not make that universal, would you. Supposing, for instance, a man, instead of being thrifty and saving, and well-living, drinks pretty heavily and brings himself to poverty, you would not say that was due to economic causes, would you?—Yes, it is.

11033. You would go so far as that?—Yes; I go down to the causes of the drinking custom, or the drinking amongst the working classes as they may be gathered from the evidence or the conclusion of all the inquiries that have ever been

Chairman—continued.

made upon the drinking amongst the working classes, even taking the late Earl of Shaftesbury's opinion upon it in his evidence given in this House upon the question. He contended that the working classes did not drink for drinking sake, but that they are forced to it by the insanitary and unhealthy conditions under which they have to live, and adulterated foods they have to eat, which do not give them nutrition, or do not sustain their energy, and therefore fly to this drink in their ignorance, and also with the hope of reviving their energy for the time being.

11034. Of course, that is true enough as a corrective to the tendency to impute to the whole class drinking habits, but we must all know that there are individuals who have no insanitary houses, and no adulterated food, and yet who drink. I think you will admit that there are some people who are more apt to become paupers than others, through their own character, or want of character; would you not make any distinction in their case. Hitherto it has always been considered that the fact of losing their vote has the effect of inducing and stimulating men to exert themselves to avoid coming on the rates at all; would it not be a good thing to maintain that?—That is just the very reason why I would give these people who are down in the world an opportunity of raising themselves by giving them self-confidence again, and giving them to understand the responsible position they hold in society, that being amenable to the laws of the land they would also have a voice in making those laws.

11035. You do not include in-door paupers in that, do you?—So far as regards the aged and infirm people, I would say that they should have the same voice and the same rights as men in health and strength.

11036. Would you give a man in that position a voice in Poor Law elections, in the parochial elections which govern the management of the very fund from which he himself benefits?—Most decidedly; because while he was in health and in work, and a citizen, he contributed to those funds up to the time when, through physical inability, he was not able to earn a living to contribute to them any longer, and therefore I contend that he is living only upon the funds that he had contributed to during the time that he was able to do so.

11037. You do not think that that would lead to extravagant management of the local funds?—No, I do not believe so. As regards the vote for the Poor Law guardians, in my experience as being at one time a representative of a parochial board in Scotland, I found the more comfortably you kept the patients and the more you worked the institution to their interests, the more also the inmates tried to study the interests of the institution.

11038. In Scotland there is no out-door able-bodied relief, is there?—There is no able-bodied relief.

11039. That makes a great difference between the two countries?—But then, so far as the Poor Law of Scotland is concerned, there is one point I should like to refer to with regard to the want of giving out-relief in Scotland to able-bodied men, which is liable to lead to mischief in this way;

Chairman—continued.

way; I have, in fact, seen it myself while I was resident in Dundee. I may say I was also very active in the unemployed movement there in the winter of 1893, and I found men, and women also, who were in health, but who yet, so that they would not be able-bodied, inflicted upon themselves a wound which made them unfit for work; and then applied for relief and got it, because they could not be refused. That is making workmen and working women, in their desperation, dishonest both to themselves and to the community; so that I think the sooner that law is amended the better; and, in fact, the sooner the Poor Law system is swept out of existence the better.

11040. There cannot be many cases of that sort, I should think?—There are not many of them; but still when a disease like that takes root, it soon spreads amongst an increasing population, and having regard to the destitution.

11041. Some further questions will be asked you by Members of the Committee, but is there any other point you would like to volunteer a statement upon?—There is no statement that I could volunteer, except that, so far as the unemployed question is concerned, I can only see one way out of it. All schemes that may be tried, such as even schemes for finding work for the unemployed throughout the winter, or starting any scheme which is not taken up by the nation, but only by individual or local effort, will not deal with the unemployed question, but simply aggravate it. It aggravates it because, as we experienced in West Ham this last winter, there were a section of the people such as those whom you have referred to who have been brought to the lowest stratum of social disorder, that is, they are brought down to the lowest rung of the social ladder; those people with these agitations take advantage of them when they crop up. And not only so, but this last winter, after we had been fairly successful with the corporation in getting work, various other institutions opened up ways and means whereby food could be got, coals could be got, and clothing and blankets could be got; and upon making inquiry and visiting those places myself, I found out that even people who were in work were receiving those benefits, and the *bonâ-fide* unemployed were not. In that way I contend those institutions do more harm to the *bonâ-fide* working man than they do good, simply because when this class of people, who are sunk down to the lowest stratum and have lost all self-respect, take advantage of these institutions, people who do not think out these questions for themselves just jump at these instances to ridicule the unemployed movement or any movement that may be put forth on their behalf, and describe the unemployed generally as loafers or thriftless people.

11042. You spoke just now of there being only one solution of the matter; would you make your meaning a little clearer; what do you say is the one solution?—That the land and the people must be brought together. That is the only solution that I can see for it; that is to say, that the State shall take the collective ownership of the land. Of course we know that the question will be raised here of compensation to

Chairman—continued.

landlords, but the question arises again, Where is the compensation that the workers have got when they have been disinherited? At one time in our history we find the land was the possession of the nation, and we read in the works of various writers that even the mines were the property of the nation in the early mining age, and even long afterwards we find the land also, to a certain extent, was in the possession of the people. In books of history written by some writers we find that the land was the property of the people, and therefore we contend as workers that this inheritance of the people ought to be returned to the people; and so far as compensation is concerned, we consider the landlords have had enough of compensation out of it when they have been able to heap up all the amount of wealth which they have heaped up out of it until to-day, seeing also that the workers have been the sufferers all along; and the only compensation that the workers have had is the suffering they have endured up till now; and this unemployment is the outcome of it.

Mr. *Mather.*

11043. Are you representing here to-day the committee of unemployed persons constituted in West Ham during the last winter?—Yes.

11044. Did that committee comprise all classes of the unemployed?—All sections of skilled and unskilled workers.

11045. Was it a very large committee, representing all the opinions of persons in that position?—There were five on the committee and myself; that was the committee that formed the deputation. Outside of that there were 25 members of the working committee, as we called them. When we were to hold meetings in any special part of the district that committee of 25 was called together.

11046. And what was there outside that again, what was the outer circle; who elected these committees?—The unemployed themselves.

11047. What would be the number at the mass meeting?—At the first meeting we assembled, I believe, there would be from 500 to 600, as near as I could guess.

11048. Would you be prepared to say here to-day that the views given by you represent the views of the whole of the unemployed in the district of West Ham?—Yes, in so far as we never had any opposition to those views.

11049. Did you discuss at your larger committee meetings any other remedies than this, which you have stated to-day to be the only solution of the difficulty. For instance, did you discuss the remedy put forward by the honourable Member for West Ham, that a large sum of money should be granted by the Government at every period of distress, and distributed among the unemployed persons, irrespective of any work they did for it or any duty performed to society; did you discuss that plan?—I may say that that question was hardly ever touched upon, because it was only looked upon as a temporary relief.

11050. You devoted yourself chiefly to finding out a permanent cure?—Yes, to finding out a permanent cure.

11051. To find a cure for what I may call the

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

chronic unemployed in districts like West Ham?—Yes.

11052. And you came to the conclusion that the only remedy was to prevent the labouring classes coming in from the country?—Yes, by making the land more attractive, and the labour on the land more attractive.

11053. Also, having stopped the stream from the country, you think you could cause a counter stream from the towns back to the land of those who had originally come from the country?—Yes, that was the prevailing idea among the unemployed.

11054. Is that your own opinion?—No, it is not my individual opinion. My indvidual opinion is that that would stem the tide for a time only, but that ultimately, with the progress of science and genius, machinery would still be brought in and still continue to displace men; and no matter what palliative may be brought forward for benefiting the unemployed outside the unemployed or the community whose wants and necessities would be met, no real benefit would accrue.

11055. Then the committee must understand that there is a distinction between your own private opinion and the opinion expressed by the committee which you represent?—Yes.

10156. The committee whom you represent thought that national farms which might be taken up by the Government and paid for and compensated for by the Government in some reasonable way, would not be more expensive to the ratepayers of the country than the present system of Poor Law relief?—They contended that that would be cheaper.

11057. And that yet it would give employment to those working men who will not receive relief in any other form but through work?—Yes.

11058. That is the view of your committee?—Yes.

11059. But you go a step further than that, and say all the land should be taken away by the Government for nothing and divided up among the people of the country?—I do not say to be divided up.

11060. How would you deal with it?—Simply that the State should take control of the land and establish those institutions which I have already referred to. Those institutions will simply produce for the wants and the necessities of the community of Great Britain.

11061. The difference between you and your committee of the unemployed of West Ham therefore was that you would cause this national movement to be conducted without any compensation at all, and your colleagues on the committee, and generally the working people of West Ham, would give the proprietors of the land some compensation for the land taken from them; that is to say, they should be paid rent for it?—So far as the question of compensation for the land is concerned, that point was not touched upon. It was left as a matter of detail for the bodies who would take the matter into consideration.

11062. Without going into these somewhat abstruse questions, may the Committee conclude, as regards the unemployed of West Ham; that is to say, those people who felt the pinch of the shoe, and suffered hunger and all the difficulties connected with unemployment, that it was their opinion that instead of going to the guardians and obtaining public money in the way of doles, or going to the workhouse to be kept out of the rates, they wanted Parliament or society to find a solution in the form of some constant work, and that you thought that the only constant work that could be obtained was through the land?—That is the opinion of the unemployed themselves. I, as chairman, was under their guidance.

11063. I was only asking what was the opinion of the mass meeting, and not simply the individual opinions of the committee or of yourself; I gather that that was the opinion of the unemployed themselves; that they wanted work, and not doles of charity, and not employment through the rates, or test employment, or any relief other than ordinary work given for ordinary pay?—I may say that there were many men of pretty good social standing who attended our meetings and took a great interest in them; and so far as regards the contention in favour of this method of employing labour upon the land they contended that this method of employing the unemployed labour would be one of the best labour tests that could be put, because the labour in itself was elevating and it would give the individual an opportunity of raising himself in the social scale.

11064. Do you know anything about the work done on Wanstead Flats under the scheme suggested by Mr. Hills?—I did not go into the question minutely, simply because of the principle involved in regard to the remuneration.

11065. Did you take any interest in the work done by those men, apart from the question upon which you split about wages; did you watch the experiment with any interest?—I may say that the experiment that has taken place was simply useless.

11066. When you say that the experiment was useless, do you mean that they did no work?—They did no productive or remunerative work, and, of course, we contend, and, in fact, the unemployed themselves, and the organisations throughout Stratford, distinctly contended, that the labour executed upon that land in itself was degrading, because it was not remunerative or in any way elevating or productive; it was simply turning over the soil and there was nothing to come from it.

11067. But I have seen the results of the labours of those men, and I suppose you have also; one finds some very beautifully laid out pitches for cricket and places levelled for all sorts of games, and roads made over commons, and a lake formed, and large pleasure grounds formed out of what was formerly a rough piece of ground that had been in a state of neglect for hundreds of years; that has all been done by this labour which I am speaking of; have you not seen the work which has been done?—Yes. I have been over the plots on several occasions.

11068. You do not believe that the work was done by these men at the same price as it would have been done had the authority given out the contract

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

contract to a general contractor for the purpose?—So far as the contract was concerned, if you compare dealing with a contractor and the scheme of Mr. Hills, no doubt Mr. Hills' scheme was cheaper than under a contractor. But in West Ham, in such a case as that of preparing ground, or making roads, or anything of that kind, the Borough Council do it themselves, and employ their own labour direct, and consequently they are able to do the work more satisfactorily and cheaper.

11069. You have not followed the experiment with any personal interest, in consequence of the difference of opinion you had on the question of wages, I suppose?—No.

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham).

11070. I think you have only given us, up to the present, the opinion of the unemployed in West Ham?—That was all I was delegated to give.

11071. Their opinion resolves itself into this, does it not: that the solution of the unemployed problem would lie in getting the men back to the land; is it your opinion or their opinion that seeing there was a million and a quarter of unemployed (according to the evidence given to us by the honourable Member for West Ham), that million and a quarter of people could be employed upon the land of this country?—Yes.

11072. How would you do that. You said you would take four committees and divide London into four districts?—I would divide the parishes of London into four districts, and those districts would control their own localities or their own unemployed upon these institutions which they would be authorised to start; but they would also have to be responsible to the Government.

11073. Take the district in which you live (West Ham), the East-end district would include more divisions than West Ham?—In the Union of West Ham we have eight parishes.

11074. And how many unemployed have you?—To take the whole of the Union of West Ham, I could not definitely say; we only took the census of the unemployed within the Borough of West Ham. We have parishes in the union that lie a good distance out, such as Walthamstow. There are eight parishes. There is West Ham itself, Walthamstow, Wanstead, Woodford, East Ham, Leyton, Cann Hall, and Little Ilford. All those parishes are embodied in that union.

11075. If you divide London into four quarters, one quarter would include West Ham and a number of other places in the East-end of London, each of which has it own volume of unemployed. Taking your own district as it would be under this proposed arrangement, how would you take the unemployed from this district and put them upon the land, supposing you were on the committee for that district?—For that district it would simply be done in this way: that we would have a labour bureau where every workman would come and register himself as unemployed, his calling would be taken, and those who had been reared upon the land would be taken in, and those who had not been on the land would be grouped and put alongside of men

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

who had been reared upon the land and who knew the whole of the industry, and in that way the one would educate the others.

11076. It is very interesting, because if you could sketch out a plan by which the unemployed could be employed, this Committee might adopt it; and having formed this plan in your mind, I am asking you, supposing you were a member of the committee in the east district of London, how far would you go from London to get land to employ all the men who were unemployed?—Personally, I am not acquainted with the geographical position of the unoccupied land outside, and therefore I could not answer that question straight off.

11077. I think you spoke about the collective ownership of land; you did not mean by that to parcel land out to each individual, did you?—No.

11078. Have you any views about collective ownership in any other direction?—Yes.

11079. Would you have collective ownership for all industries as well as land?—I would have it all through: for land, for the instruments and means of production, and for the means of exchange and transit.

11080. Could you inform us how you would start to carry that out?—Each industry would manage the carrying on of its own industry. Taking engineers, for example; from the engineers the best men would be taken and would be put as supervisors or guiders of the industry for carrying it on; but they would be responsible to the central body of the country.

11081. That is the theoretical part; let us get to the practical side of this question. I quite agree that in any system, whether private or collective, the best men should be the supervisors, but let us start at the beginning. Take the engineering industries, and supposing you divide London into four districts such as you described, would you by Act of Parliament take those industries from private owners and put them under national management?—It does not require an Act of Parliament.

11082. How would you do it?—Simply by starting the industries in these institutions that the Government would take on. Are you speaking of it apart from the four institutions got up for the unemployed?

11083. You have said that you would have collective ownership of land without compensation?—Yes.

11084. Would you also have collective ownership of industries without compensation?—Yes.

11085. How would you do that without an Act of Parliament; would each district take the industries within its district and say, "These are ours"?—We would start it as one firm starts up against another; the nation would start up on the co-operative principle against the individual.

11086. Taking the industries which you have in West Ham, in which the men cannot be employed at the present time, would you have the nation go there and start opposition industries to those now in operation?—Not in the locality; it must be a national movement. It would not survive if it took only a given locality.

11087. In

Mr. *John Wilson* (Durham)—continued.

11087. In West Ham the people are living there in their houses and working at various trades of which I do not know the names; is it your idea that you would start trades outside of West Ham and remove the people outside of West Ham, or would you start trades under Government control in West Ham?—The idea is to decentralize the population just as much as possible.

11088. Those are terms I do not understand; I want to get at the truth of things, and to use the plainest terms; "decentralization" is a thing I do speculate much upon; is it your opinion that the Government should start an industry or industries in West Ham in opposition to the industries in West Ham, or should they take some localities where there are no industries and remove the people *en bloc* to those localities?—I presume if it was started under Government control, you would do just identically the same as you have done in starting shipbuilding under the Government or engineering under the Government. You have those establishments established already; you are already in competition with private firms there. Therefore if you carry the same principle out nationally there is no more harm in doing it nationally than doing shipbuilding and all that work at Pembroke, or Portsmouth or Chatham.

11089. Now, going to the other point you mentioned, about the method of selection and getting the best men; you will grant that private industries in this country depend very largely upon the employers picking out the most skilful men to manage the work?—You see the employer himself is not the conductor of the industry. It is the working man, the man who has risen from the ranks who conducts it, whom he selects from amongst his workers. The same thing could be done under the co-operative system.

11090. But the working man does not place himself in that position; the employer watches and sees that he is a skilful man and puts him in the place; he has been a man who works himself up; is that your idea?—So far as the employers are concerned I do not find that as a general rule.

11091. How would you select the best men to put in supervision of a national concern?—The best way would be this: seeing that it was to be a national concern, the individuals in a given shop, or in a given work, would themselves be the best judges of who would conduct the workshop under the national principle; and therefore the workers themselves would select the men from amongst themselves, who would guide the industry, seeing it was to their own interests.

11092. The people of London, taking the East and the West-end of London together, would pay their quota to start every one of these industries, but those who paid in the West-end where there are no industries, would have no choice in selecting the men to manage these national concerns; it would be simply the people working in them who would have the choice of the men?—So far as the choice is concerned, those in the West-end of London would have an industry no matter what it may be; it may be in the East-end of London; and at the same time, education will spread to that extent that they will be able to recognise that those people are looking after the interests of the community in selecting the best men from amongst themselves, and therefore no jealousy will spring up upon that point.

11093. You think no jealousy will arise?—There will be no jealousy or injustice, because along with the spread of this principle and the spread of education, people will come to look upon these things more as a duty.

11094. Do you not think you are aiming at an ideal that is hardly within our touch at the present time when you speak about principles guiding men?—No.

11095. It is a laudable ideal to aim at, but is it not rather outside our touch at present?—All principles should be guides.

11096. Is anybody guided by principles?—We can be guided by principle, and we must show an example to people who are not.

11097. We will be egotistical enough to think, if you like, that we are guided by principle; but leaving that point, is it your idea that the sole cause of the drinking in this country is an economic cause?—Yes.

11098. Is there no moral cause whatever connected with it?—There is a moral cause. That moral cause comes from the side of society, which brings about the economic evils.

11099. Do you think that if you could by any legerdemain whatever, form a colony, and give every man a good house and pleasant surroundings, and leave them there with facilities to drink, every man you put there would be sober?—I do not exactly say that every man would be sober, but ultimately he would come to be a sober man.

11100. You say ultimately he would become sober; how far would it be off?—We cannot expect to change a man within 24 hours into what we like.

11101. That is just what I am saying about collective ownership; the principles would have to work and be accepted?—I say those principles would spread.

Mr. *Round.*

11102. You admit, as I understand, that the ranks of the unemployed are swelled a good deal by the labourers who come from the country into the towns?—Yes.

11103. And they come there because their employers cannot make the cultivation of the land pay; you admit that is the reason why they come there, do you not?—Yes.

11104. That being so, would you not first, before you go into your scheme, think it right to remove the obstacles which prevent the successful cultivation of the land now?—Yes, and I say my individual opinion is that the only obstacle lying in the way of the cultivation of the land at the present time is landlordism.

11105. You will admit that there are heavy charges upon the land?—Yes, by the landlords.

11106. Taking, for instance, rates, land tax, and other charges that have to be paid which render the cultivation of land not a pecuniary success, do you think those burdens should be removed

Mr. *Round*—continued.

removed first?—Those taxes are not, speaking economically, a tax upon the land; they are a tax upon industry; and although they are called land taxes they are so only in name, but actually they are a tax upon industry, because the landlord, if he is taxed upon his land values, simply puts it upon his rent, and the farmer puts that tax, which the landlord charges him, upon the price of the commodities he has produced, and consequently it is a tax upon the farmer's industry that puts the farmer in such a position that he is unable to produce the commodities from the land in such a way as would give him remuneration for his labour.

11107. At the end of the harvest the farmer calculates his receipts from his own harvest, and he has to pay his labour and whatever rates and taxes he has promised to pay, and then he finds at the end that he has not got enough to go on with, and so he is obliged to discharge his labourers?—Yes.

11108. Would you not think it right to remove those heavy charges on the land first, so as to enable the present occupiers who do understand the cultivation of the land to go on with their industry?—We say that the best way to do away with these taxes upon land is by the State taking the control of it; you would do away with them in that way. We say, instead of the landlord receiving the rent, the State should receive the rent from anyone who may choose to rent the land.

11109. You are going further than my questions. I was taking one point only. For instance, taking the roads all over the country, they are paid for now in England by the occupiers of houses and land?—Yes

11110. Would you not throw upon the whole community the keeping up of the roads instead of one class only?—The community, so far as I understand, pay for the up-keep of the roads already; because, no matter in what way the money is received for the up-keep of those roads, it all comes from labour, and no matter which channel the money goes through, it all comes from one source.

11111. You refer to Sir Arthur Cotton, as having grown 130 bushels of wheat to the acre: what reference do you give for that case; did it happen in England?—It was at Dorking, upon General Sir Arthur Cotton's Woodcote farm at Dorking.

11112. Do you know how many acres of wheat were grown?—I did not pursue the article right through and take the amount of acres of which his farm consisted; I simply got the fact that he produced a crop of wheat yielding 130 bushels to the acre, and 6½ tons of straw.

Mr. *Mather.*

11113. It was about half-an-acre of land that Sir Arthur Cotton planted, I think, was it not?—It says 130 bushels to the acre.

11114. The whole of it was not an acre; it was about half-an-acre in a garden; it was a purely scientific experiment?—I believe it was an experiment made simply for scientific purposes.

Chairman.

11115. It was not continued year after year, was it?—No, it was only in 1893, I think.

Mr. *Round.*

11116. You know, do you not, that 28 bushels is the average we grow in England per acre?—Yes, I am given to understand 28 bushels is the average. Cobden in his work gives it as 30.

11117. We will take it at 28 or 30; you are aware, are you not, that a far greater average per acre is produced in England than in any other country in the world?—Yes.

11118. Therefore you could hardly deduce any results from any larger figure than that, could you?—Yes; taking Ogilvie, he says that if the whole of Cheshire belonged to him he could make it produce three times its present production, and he has in some of his works said at that time he was prepared to come before this House and prove it. Mechie said that England could be made to produce 424,000,000*l*, which is more than the produce of the land to-day.

11119. Mr. Mechie made a good many improvements, and benefited others by his experiments, but he was obliged to go back to the old system of farming before he died?—Then Prince Kropotkine, in his scientific methods of cultivation, says that the crops of this country could be increased by 75 per cent. by the selection of seeds and scientific methods of cultivation.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11120. Do I understand you to say that the land is to be owned by the State, and that different people are to pay rent to the State?—Yes; that is, providing any one has the inclination which leads him to farming, or anything else for scientific purposes, or even for amusement, if the State so willed it they could let him a portion; but instead of his paying the rent to an individual he would pay to the State, and so the community would get the benefit.

11121. If people paid rent to the State instead of to the landlord, how would that make farming so much more profitable?—Because it would do away with the heavy draws that there are upon land at the present time.

11122. Why?—Because of the rates and various other things that are imposed upon the landlord; the landlord pays it, but at the same time he puts it upon industry, and industry really pays for it.

11123. Who would pay for the keeping up of the roads and the police and other things that now come out of the rates?—I have no doubt that the community (until such time as they could do without those forces) would see that they paid it collectively. There is no trouble about maintaining the police at the present time, or maintaining anything that is necessary for the welfare and government of the nation.

11124. Would not somebody have to pay it?—The nation would pay it collectively. The burden would not fall upon one section of the community as it falls to-day.

11125. If the nation pays collectively, is not that another way of saying that the individuals in the locality would pay their share?—Not necessarily;

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

necessarily; because some localities are poor and others are rich.

11126. Taking the country all round, the result would be the same, would it not; that individuals would have to pay their share of the police and roads, and so on, and they would pay their rent to the State?—So far as altering the position, it simply means that they would pay it to their own exchequer instead of to individuals; that is all the difference.

11127. You think that paying it into another pocket would make agriculture prosperous at once?—Yes, to a certain extent it would.

11128. You said that 75,000,000*l.* was paid to foreign countries for food?—Yes, for foreign produce and food.

11129. If this plan which you propose were adopted you said that that money would be saved?—It would give those who are unemployed to-day an opportunity of keeping this money in the country by producing that which comes from other nations.

11130. How is that 75,000,000*l.* worth of food paid for now?—It is paid in various ways.

11131. Is it not paid chiefly by the manufacture of goods?—In some instances.

11132. Is it not entirely paid by the manufacture of goods?—No.

11133. Does any money pass in exchange; does any coin or gold leave this country; is it not all received from abroad into this country?—No, money changes hands as well as commodities.

11134. Is it not the fact that the exports of this country largely exceed the imports?—Yes.

11135. Does not that mean that goods are manufactured in this country that pay for the 75,000,000*l.*?—Yes.

11136. If that 75,000,000*l.* worth of food was not wanted from abroad, would it not mean that the 75,000,000*l.* worth of goods could not be made in this country?—If that 75,000,000*l.* were made in a collective sense in this country, or if the workers received the 75,000,000*l.* But they do not; it is a section of the community called employers and merchants who receive it, and therefore the workers do not gain by the importation into this country of the 75,000,000*l.*

11137. Do they not get wages for the manufacture?—Yes, those who are employed.

11138. Do any of those things grow of themselves; are not they all manufactured?—Yes.

11139. Is not the great bulk of the cost of manufacture the cost of wages?—Yes.

11140. Would not all that be stopped, and therefore the result would be that instead of making manufactured goods you would turn people to agriculture, which is not so profitable?—You see, the exports being in excess of the imports, it does not occur that the labour is employed all the more. Looking at the excess of exports, one would think that there was no man unemployed in this country; but the reverse is the case, because the improved machinery and the displaced labour cause the market to be glutted with unemployed men and women, and that shows that this money, or these goods that are exchanged for the imports, only go into the exchequer of a certain section of the community. Those who are displaced on the introduction of this machinery do not receive any benefit whatever.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

11141. Surely the workers in the industrial centres who produce these things which we export receive wages?—They receive wages.

11142. If you reduce the amount of manufactured goods that we export in exchange for the 75,000,000*l.* worth of food, do you not cut off so much labour in a way that would reduce the amount of employment to the country at large?—No.

11143. You do not think so?—No.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

11144. I understood you to say that the persons employed on Wanstead Flats considered the labour was degrading as it was not remunerative?—Yes; I contend that all work that is neither remunerative nor productive is degrading.

11145. Do you mean it was not remunerative to themselves or to those who employed them?—To the community.

11146. Including in "the community" those who employed them?—Yes.

11147. Do you admit that labour which is not to be degrading must involve profit to somebody, to the community or the individual?—It must be a benefit to the whole community.

11148. If it is a benefit to the individual, and not to the whole community, it is degrading?—It may be reckoned as a benefit to the individual in so far as for the time being it may find him a breakfast or a dinner, or pay for his night's lodging; but still, at the same time, the next day he is in the same place as he was prior to when he got this day's work, and therefore it is degrading because it raises up a man's hopes and the next day it crushes them down, and consequently it makes the man lose self-respect.

11149. My point is that from your point of view all labour must be profitable; is that so?—Necessarily.

11150. Your remedy for the existing state of things is to put people back to the land?—Yes, that must be the first step.

11151. From what you have said, it implies, as I understand, that the cultivation of the land must involve profit?—Not necessarily, providing that the community receive the advantage in so far as they are kept in comfort and in health, and with all their wants sufficiently supplied; beyond that there is no need for profit.

11152. Those who go back to the land are to be kept in comfort and health with all their wants supplied, even though it may be at the expense of the community?—Under the present system they are living at the expense to the community.

11153. Please answer my question. Is not the result of what you have just told us, that they are to be kept in health and comfort, with all their reasonable wants supplied, whether their labour results in profit to the community or not?—Yes.

11154. That is so; you admit that?—Yes.

11155. Therefore the question of profit is not a necessary part of your scheme for bringing the men back to the land?—No.

11156. The

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

11156. The scheme is the same, whether there is any profit to be made out of it or not. But you consider there is a large profit to be made out of the cultivation of land?—I consider that a great amount of profit could be made out of it under the present system, providing the restrictions upon the land at the present time were removed, or greater facilities were given for the land being brought into cultivation.

11157. You found yourself mainly, I think, on Sir Arthur Cotton's experiment?—Yes.

11158. You tell us you do not know whether that experiment has ever been repeated?—I cannot say. I have never heard any report to that effect.

11159. You do not know upon what area this wheat was grown; whether it was more than half an acre or not?—No; that was simply the figure given per acre.

11160. You base your idea as to profit entirely upon that?—I base my proposition upon this, that if 130 bushels per acre can be produced upon that land under those conditions, then, even under the present system, the land can be brought into such a position as to supply the market with that commodity which is brought from the Continent, and in this way it would employ a great section of the unemployed.

11161. You do not go so far as to say that every acre would produce 130 bushels?—I do not say every acre; but seeing that we have upwards of 20 million acres of arable land in this country, not including deer forests or land enclosed for other purposes, out of that 20 million acres, surely we could get as much as would meet the wants and the necessities of the unemployed, and, in fact, the whole community.

11162. Would you let me go by steps; what yield per acre do you expect to get from the 20 million acres; what would your average yield be?—Taking the figures of those men of experience who have made scientific experiments, and the figures of every statistician, and striking an average between them and the figures of General Sir Arthur Cotton, we may take it at 60 or 70 per cent. Sir Arthur Cotton gives 130 bushels to the acre and Cobden gives 30 bushels to the acre.

11163. You would take it at about 90 as the mean average?—I will give it at between 60 and 70.

11164. Shall we take 65 as the mean average production of the 20,000,000 acres of England?—Yes.

11165. Have you considered the question of soil at all?—No; I have not been able to go into that.

11166. That perhaps you would allow would make a little difference; can you grow the same quantity on the chalk that you can upon the clay?—I have not gone into details.

Chairman.

11167. You could not grow 130 bushels of wheat at Logie Almond, could you?—I do not say that we could grow 130 bushels all over the country. I have taken an average as 65.

11168. That is the point that the honourable Member is putting; what may be grown upon the best soil could not be grown upon inferior soil?—If we strike an average, we can get what would meet the wants of the community.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

11169. We may have possibly to recommend your scheme to the House for acceptance, and therefore I want to know exactly what it involves. You say you take as the average figure for the 20,000,000 acres about 65 bushels an acre?—Yes.

11170. You base your views virtually upon that. Do you know what the average production at the present time is in Norfolk?—No, I could not say definitely. I have read the production of last autumn in various parts of the country, and there were different figures given.

11171. May I put Norfolk as a fairly well farmed county; has not Norfolk a good reputation as a good corn-growing county?—I believe it has. I could not say definitely.

11172. Are you aware that the last Report of the Norfolk Chamber of Agriculture states that it is perfectly impossible at present prices to grow wheat at a profit at all?—Under the present conditions, and under the present system of culture; but using the latest and most improved condition, things would be different.

11173. What do you mean by "the present system of culture"; do you mean the four-course system, or what?—I mean by the present system just simply year after year planting and sowing seed in the ground without feeding the ground with proper manure, and without giving it the proper food, so that it will be able to rear the seed and be in a healthy condition.

11174. You are under the impression that it is very much a question of manuring?—Not exactly that. A good deal lies in the tilling of it; some simply till the surface and others go a good depth. The contention generally is that if you can till pretty deep and manure it well it will produce a stronger and heavier crop.

11175. Have you any practical experience in these matters?—I have not practical experience; I am simply going upon what I have read.

11176. You regard the question of production as simply a question of manuring and cultivating?—There is knowledge also required of seed, and so forth.

11177. Both manuring and cultivation, I presume, are questions of money?—Yes.

11178. If it paid to put into the ground either manure or cultivation, the private individual would do it, would he not?—No; because farmers have found that the more they improve the land the more burdens have been placed upon them, where farms have been taken under short leases and the like, and in regard to various other burdens that are placed upon them.

11179. I will not pursue that question, however interesting it may be. But take the case where a man owns his own land, is there any reason why he should not make it pay?—Unless the man has the capital to bring in all the latest improvements and uses scientific methods of cultivating the land, it would not pay.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

11180. Then is it a question of capital?—Yes.

11181. You think that if a man has sufficient capital he would make the land pay?—If the man was in a position to apply it and is able under the present system to compete in the market with the large farmer who has all the latest improvements and uses all the latest improvements of cultivating the land and attending to it he will be able to succeed.

Mr. MATHER took the Chair.

Chairman.

11182. You come here to give the views of the Committee of the Unemployed of West Ham; are you not now going rather deep into the ground?—Members of the Committee are asking me questions which lead me into it.

11183. It is for you to judge whether honourable Members are carrying you beyond your knowledge?—I simply come here as chairman of the Unemployed Committee of last winter.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone.*

11184. Then, may I take it that the Committee of the Unemployed of West Ham know just about as much of the cultivation and the tenure of agricultural land as you yourself do?—No; there are some far better versed in it than I am, because of their practical experience and knowledge: men, for instance, who have been reared in farm life the greater part of their lives.

11185. Are they men who have farmed themselves?—I will not say they have farmed themselves.

11186. They are lookers on who have seen most of the game?—They have worked as farm labourers and tilled the soil and attended to the farm as servants of the farmers.

11187. You represented their views when you say it is all a matter of dung and labour?—I am not going to say I represent their views on that particular point, because I have never got their views with regard to matters of detail as regards tilling and farm work.

11188. Can you tell us their views upon this one point: if tilling of the soil can be made to pay at present prices, why is it not made to pay by private enterprise?—The explanation that has been made here already is because of the heavy burdens that have been placed on the farmer.

Mr. *Heywood Johnstone*—continued.

11189. Whether he be tenant or occupier?—Whether he be tenant or occupier.

11190. Or an owner?—Or even owner. For instance, the railway tariff prevents a man from bringing his commodities into the market; there is a heavy tax put upon industry in that direction.

11191. It is really the weight upon the agricultural community in the shape of the burden of taxation and similar burdens which prevents the cultivation of land at a profit at the present time?—Yes.

Chairman.

11192. I suppose you do not wish the Committee to conclude, from anything you have said to day, in cross-examination, that either your own Unemployed Committee in West Ham, or yourself, desire to say anything more upon this question of employment than that you regard the land as a possible resource, not yet brought in, for the employment of the surplus labour in the towns; you do not go any further than that: that you regard the land as the best source, and the only source left, for the absorption of the unemployed labour?—That is the first step towards the solution of the unemployed question.

11193. That is the sum and substance of what you have to say?—Yes.

Friday, 21st June 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Benn.
Mr. Billson.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (*Govan*).
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HON. A. H. DYKE ACLAND, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. BOLTON SMART, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

11194. YOU are, I believe, Honorary Secretary to the Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed?—Yes.

11195. You are also a Poor Law Guardian of Stepney?—Yes.

11196. And a member of the Vestry of Ratcliffe?—Yes.

11197. I think you wish to give us just a short outline of the origin and the continuation of the scheme carried out by the Mansion House Committee; I assume you can give us that somewhat briefly?—Yes; the origin of the scheme, which took place in 1893, was owing to the consolidation of labour at the docks; that grew out of the dock strike of 1889, and the tendency, of course, was to eliminate casual labour, such as had been employed previously, taken on at the dock gates; and, as far as possible, to consolidate the labour which was necessary by increasing the number of permanent men, and making more permanent the casual labour. Of course, there was still casual labour left, but it was of a more continuous character, and a more permanent nature.

11198. Then the committee was formed specially to deal with this dock problem?—Yes, to deal with that particular problem.

11199. When did your committee begin actual work in this matter?—In 1893. The committee was called together at the latter end of 1892, and the work was commenced in January 1893. I may say the origin of the committee was after this fashion. It was felt by those of us who were living in the East End that a very great problem lay at our doors, as a very great number of men, probably about 7,000, would be cast adrift from their usual modicum of work at the docks; and a meeting of East End ministers and others engaged in philanthropic work was called at the Great Assembly Hall, Mile End. Then, unknown to us, another meeting was called by Canon Barnett at Toynbee Hall, and when the committee discovered their whereabouts and their intent an effort was made to join hands with them; that was successfully accomplished, and the whole situation was discussed then by a joint committee sitting at Toynbee Hall. The result of that was that it was definitely arranged that something should be done; certain principles were laid down and agreed to, which, of course, entailed a very great deal of give and take, as the joint committee was composed of extremes both in the direction of collectivism and individualism. However, eventually a common policy was agreed upon; then came the question of raising a fund. It was thought desirable that the Lord Mayor should be approached, and he undertook the chairmanship of the committee that was thenceforth called the Mansion House Conference. We met at the Mansion House, and, after considerable discussion, other members being added to the Conference at the suggestion of the Lord Mayor, he agreed to raise a fund for the scheme. Then the principal difficulty that seemed to face the committee was how to provide an efficient test of work for this casual element with which they had to do. They felt it was very essential that a strong test should be provided for these men. We were casting about at that time as to the possibilities of taking land for the purpose. At that time the County Council approached us through some of their members, suggesting that some 30 acres of waste land which they had, adjoining the Abbey Mills Pumping Station at Stratford, could be utilised for the purpose, the land to be eventually used for workmen's allotments; and we were given to understand that under the Small Holdings Act they would be obliged to fix the rent on the basis of out-of-pocket expenditure. Of course, if the London County Council had paid for all labour it would have sent up the rent too high for allotments. Eventually the offer of the County Council was accepted, and the work commenced in January 1893. The method of procedure upon application for help was, that men applying for assistance, who appeared to be within the scope of the scheme, were asked questions, and the case was taken down upon this form (*producing a form*), which is identical with that used by the Charity Organisation Society. The number of applicants applying in the first

Chairman—continued.

instance, that is those actually coming into contact with the secretaries, was 716.

11200. Was that during the early part of 1893?—Yes; out of that number the number of cases entered upon the case papers was 372. Of the 372 there were 70 rejections for various causes, and 22 applicants withdrew their cases. Of the 70 applicants who were rejected by this preliminary sifting process of inquiry there were some cases which were rejected as fraudulent, others as physically unfit for employment, others as ineligible through drunkenness, or other conspicuous defects in character, or for other causes. Of course we inquired into those cases in the usual way, very thoroughly, by application to past employers, relieving officers, the Charity Organisation Society, at previous addresses, and so on; and in every case the home was visited.

11201. Was it a necessary condition that these men should have worked in the docks at one time or another?—Yes; one condition was, that they must have been at least waterside labourers, either dockers or those who were dependent upon work at the docks in a subsidiary way.

11202. Will you now describe the nature of the work at Abbey Mills?—Yes. The mode of procedure was that if a man was accepted for the test at Abbey Mills he was given a work ticket, of which I have one here (*handing in a ticket*), with certain rules printed on the back. That work ticket reads thus: "The work given by this committee is only temporary, and this ticket is not available beyond the week in which it is issued. Rules: (1.) The wages will be 6*d.* an hour for a day of eight hours (8 a.m. to 12 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.). No man taken on after 8 a.m. (2.) No pay for meal time. (3.) No smoking allowed while at work. (4.) The foreman has authority to discharge any man at once for idleness or bad conduct. (5.) This ticket must be given to the foreman at the end of the week." With regard to the work ticket, I ought to say that it was non-transferable. The work was controlled by a superintendent and a staff of gangers. The superintendent was a skilled man, who was recommended to us for the purpose by Messrs. Cutbush, the horticulturists. Under the superintendent and the gangers the work was carefully supervised. As far as possible the committee wished to preserve the normal conditions of labour; and the superintendent and gangers were instructed not to drive the men, for that would defeat the purpose of the committee. We wished to know whether the men were really willing to work, and therefore we preserved, as far as possible, the normal conditions of labour. The gangers were instructed to carefully watch each man each day, and hand in a report, if necessary, to the superintendent each evening as to how the men had behaved and whether any man was shirking his work. If any man was found to shirk his work, he was warned once, and then dismissed if it occurred again. Each man, when put to his work, was instructed to carefully review his own position during his spell of work, and, if possible, to prepare some scheme for his permanent benefit, when he came before the committee for settlement; for the object was to provide for the permanent reinstatement of the men.

Chairman—continued.

11203. You do not mean, I presume, permanent reinstatement in the docks?—Permanent reinstatement anywhere.

11204. Because I presume reinstatement at the docks was more or less out of the question?—Yes. We were able to reinstate about nine men with B. tickets in the docks. The committee began by using their personal interest; but they immediately dropped that, because they found that although, by using personal influence, they could push a man in, they almost invariably pushed another man out.

11205. Do you mean using their personal influence with private employers of various kinds?—Yes, with the docks especially.

11206. With regard to the 372 applicants who were entered on the case papers and whose cases were actually taken for visitation, they were not all set to work?—No, they were not all set on the work. I will now give a general classification of those 372 applicants before going to work, or before arriving at the committee stage. Ninety-six were not offered test work for various reasons; five of those were helped in other ways; 276 were offered test work; 12 refused, having obtained other employment; 11 refused for other various reasons; 25 were dismissed from work for idleness or insubordination. I may say that nearly the whole of the 25 were dismissed at one sweep. We had some little difficulty, and we thought the best way would be to nip it in the bud, and one whole gang was accordingly dismissed there and then.

11207. They were not employed again?—No. That accounts mostly for the 25; then four were dismissed for incompetence or physical unfitness; and 224 finished their period of test-work.

11208. What was the period of test-work?—It varied. The test proper was 14 days, and if any scheme was possible for a man, the committee kept him in hand till it was carried out.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

11209. Do you say the length of the test was 14 days?—It was 14 days before they came back to the committee for settlement.

11210. How long were they working when you say the test was 14 days, did not some of them stay seven weeks?—Yes; but for the purpose of the test in the first instance, as to the willingness of a man to work, it was 14 days. Then he came back to the committee and presented his scheme for settlement, either for a migration or emigration, or in some other way.

Chairman.

11211. I believe you have some particulars as to the 372 applicants whose cases were entered on the case papers?—Yes, the case papers give a number of interesting particulars relating to the applicants. To take the birthplace first, an analysis of the alleged birthplaces of the 372 applicants shows that there were 228 born in London; urban, 36; rural, 2; uncertain, 12; Scotland, 3; Ireland, 17; abroad, 3; not stated, 71; making a total of 372; out of that total 228 were

Chairman—continued.

were stated, as I say, to have been born in London. The Committee felt that this birth table went to show that town poverty of the type that leads to a demand for relief was very largely a town product. It is indirectly influenced by the influx of countrymen, but it is directly a town product. The countryman does not come on our hands, but he pushes out another member of the community who comes upon our hands.

11212. The number of actual country-born in England was only two, I understand?—There were only two returned as rural.

11213. The fact that so very few of these men were country-born is evidence, in your mind, that the country-born man gets a better position when he comes to London than these town-people have?—Yes, decidedly.

Mr. *Mather.*

11214. He is stronger, I suppose?—Yes.

Chairman.

11215. Then, I think, you have some particulars as to the ages of the applicants?—Yes; under 25 years of age there were 30 applicants, over 25 and under 35 there were 134, over 35 and under 45 there were 122; over 45 and under 55, there were 74, over 55 and under 65 there were 12; 65 was the limit of age we drew in 1893. Then, I have some figures as to the number of rooms occupied by each family, as showing the class of men dealt with; the figures represent families in every case, because we only dealt with married men. The number of families who occupied one room each was 192, occupying two rooms 103, three rooms 45, four rooms 13, and not stated 19.

11216. I understand you only dealt with married men?—Only married men; there were just one or two exceptions, but those had relatives dependent upon them, an aged mother or something of that kind; so that practically they were in the position of married men.

11217. I think you have some statistics as to the number of applicants in trade societies?—Yes; 189 out of the 372 stated that they were or had been members of a trade society; but of those 99 had run out of membership; 22 societies were included in the list, in spite of the limitation to dock and water-side labourers, which goes to show, what is very well known, that casual docking was resorted to by every kind of man who happened to be thrown out of his own employment.

11218. How many of them were still paying members of trades unions?—189 were or had been members of a trade society, and had run out; so there were 90 in a trades society.

11219. And still paying?—Yes; that is, they had not run out. Of course there is a certain amount of grace given.

11220. Did you ascertain at all how long any of these men had been in a trades union?—No; except that I remember very distinctly in the personal cross-examination of these people that very many had not been in a trade society until the commencement of the agitation which eventually produced the strike of 1889.

11221. That means that some of them had been for a comparatively short time in the union that was formed at the time of the Dock Strike?—Yes, necessarily so, because the organisation of casual labour was in a very backward state until immediately previous to the strike.

11222. It is probable that very few of those casual men had been connected with the more organised unions that existed in the skilled trades?—Yes, we had a few instances, but they were quite exceptional.

11223. You have also some particulars as to their membership in friendly societies, have you not?—Yes, 158 out of the 372 stated that they were, or had been, members of a club or benefit society, and 70 of these had run out; so that about the same number were still in a benefit society.

11224. You know, of course, the report from the Board of Trade on the subject of the unemployed?—Yes.

11225. I see the number of applicants are classified under trade societies at page 246 of that report?—Yes; these figures are from that report mostly. Mr. Llewllyn Smith had full access to our case papers.

11226. The information which is given in the report is partly obtained from you?—Yes. The information may be taken as absolutely correct. It was confirmed also by private inquiry.

11227. Will you tell us how the cases were finally dealt with after they had passed through the test?—Of the 224 who completed the relief work, 19 got work of their own accord; two got work with the assistance of the Committee; helped with tools or equipment, 14; provided with the B. ticket at the docks, 7; fees paid to the trade society, or money advanced for this purpose, 23 (that was, in instances where it was impossible for a man to go to work unless he was re-instated); emigrated, 16; migrated, three; set up as hawker or dealer, five; temporarily assisted with money, six; passed on to another agency, one; not permanently helped, or no record, 128. Of course it will be remembered with regard to these figures that the unit represents the family, which averages five persons to each.

11228. Then I gather that one-third of the cases received no permanent assistance after you had dealt with them?—Quite so. As regards those men, so far as the main purpose of the Committee went, it failed. Of course there was the subsidiary help in the relief work given; but that was not the main object of the Committee.

11229. Will you tell us what you think were the causes of failure?—With regard to the reasons of some of the failures, I may say many of the men had no idea of re-instatement beyond getting a temporary job. Some who were considered suitable for emigration declined (usually throwing the responsibility upon the wife); others could only advance impracticable suggestions which the Committee were unable to entertain. If you will let me, later on in my evidence, I should like to mention some other difficulties which cropped up later, in the following year, which may have some bearing upon that point.

11230. Did you make any inquiry into the cases that were more or less satisfactorily started as

Chairman—continued.

as emigrants after they had been settled out in the colonies for a time?—Yes.

11231. Can you give us the particulars with regard to those cases?—The particulars were obtained six months after the sailing of 14 out of the 16 families emigrated to Canada, and they were as follows: A. was found to be earning 25*s.* per week as a driver, and the sister, who had gone out with the man and wife, is a servant, earning a good wage. Then as to B., the report is, no steady work, dissatisfied (said to be lazy); C., getting on well, earning 6*s.* 3*d.* per day; D., working as a platelayers' labourer, earning about 35*s.* per week; E., stableman at 33*s.* per week; F., blacksmith, four children in work, family earning 3*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* per week. I have had a letter, subsequent to this report, from that man, in which he states that he has a six-roomed house, furnished well, and that he is doing very well; G., driving stationary engine, earning 7*l.* 18*s.* per month; H., in full work, wages not stated; I., in full work, wages not stated; J., working at forge, earning 4*s.* 2*d.* per day, with prospect of rise; K., obtained and lost several places, last heard of in work; L., employed in iron works, stated to be comfortable; M., employed as general labourer; N., found work, nature not stated. Inquiry was also instituted into the 76 families who were assisted beyond test work; 14 could not be traced; one had died; of the five set up as hawkers, four had failed, and the other one was not flourishing. Of the 23 restored to trade societies, 18 were inquired into, and of these, seven had improved their position; of the seven who received B. tickets at the docks, one could not be traced, and the others had improved their position, in the sense that they were no longer excluded from dock work. Of 15 men (out of 19) who had obtained work themselves at the end of their test work, five appeared to have bettered their positions; nine appeared no better off, and one had died. The two men for whom situations were obtained by the committee were still in the same employment; and of five men traced (out of six) who were assisted with money, three were found to be doing well. Of the 11 men traced (out of 14) who were helped with clothes, tools, &c., having already a definite prospect of work, four had improved their position; six were in much the same position as before, and one was in the workhouse. It was found by this inquiry that a very small proportion of the cases dealt with had subsequently applied for relief, either to the Poor Law authorities or the Charity Organisation Society. I may say that that is a report independent altogether of my committee. The inquiry was conducted by the Charity Organisation Society.

Mr. *Benn.*

11232. You say a very small proportion applied for relief afterwards; can you say how many out of the 370?—I cannot say; the report of the Charity Organisation Society says "a very small proportion." Six months subsequently to the test work given at Abbey Mills very few were found to have applied for relief, either to the Poor Law authorities or the Charity Organisation Society; which goes to show that where the committee did not help in the primary sense of their purpose they had really helped the men, from the fact that they had not since applied to the Poor Law, nor yet to the Charity Organisation Society.

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

Chairman.

11233. Do you think that of those that were settled in some way or another a great proportion have really been permanently assisted by your work?—I think so, decidedly.

11234. What sort of proportion?—Just in the proportion I have read.

11235. I did not know whether you might have a summary of the figures which you have given?—No, I have not got a summary.

11236. It would be a considerable proportion?—Yes.

11237. Had many of those people applied, to your knowledge, to the Poor Law or to the Charity Organisation Society, before they came to you?—A large number of them had had medical relief from the Poor Law. That is very usual in the East End, of course.

11238. You have no particulars about that?—No; the case papers would show, but unfortunately I have not a table setting that forth.

11239. Coming to the question of finance, will you tell us how much was raised in funds for the work in the year you have just described, and what was the expense of the scheme?—Unfortunately I cannot give you the total raised; I can only give you the total of the first year's expenditure; you will understand we have two accounts, and I simply have the committee account. The total amount expended was 1,315*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, and the analysis goes to show the following items: "offices, fire, lighting, stationery, printing, postage, &c., 19*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*; salaries and wages to officials and agents, inquiry officers, &c., 34*l.* 10*s.* 4*d*; superintendent and gangers, 79*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*; purchase of tools, 83*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*; wages paid to unemployed, 564*l.* 16*s.*; relief to unemployed, 107*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; sum expended on emigrating unemployed, 416*l.* 17*s.*; various incidental expenses, 9*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.*; making up the total of 1,315*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

11240. Of course there was no profit at all on the work done?—No, except in the sense that it profited the neighbourhood by enabling the County Council to let out the land at reasonable charges to working men in a very poor neighbourhood in Stratford.

11241. That has been done?—Yes.

11242. The land in consequence was fitter to be cultivated after the work your people had done upon it?—Decidedly.

11243. What was the nature of the work there?—Levelling and draining, and the construction of a large dyke from one end to the other, and the laying out of roads, and improving the dykes that already existed. There is a backwash there from the Lea, and the land hitherto has been flooded each winter, and by opening up fresh dykes and improving the banks of the dykes that existed the land was practically rescued from being waste land to become what it is now, viz., allotments.

11244. Would

Chairman—continued.

11244. Would the work include actual digging?—In some cases we dug.

11245. Now turning to the following year, will you tell us what happened then?—The conference at the end of March 1893 adjourned until the 27th of October in the same year, when the industrial conditions of East London were again discussed at a series of meetings extending to the commencement of the new year (that is 1894). It was agreed, early in January 1894, to repeat the scheme of the previous year, with some alterations as to area, &c., as recommended by the executive committee.

11246. What were the reasons why you decided to repeat the scheme early in 1894?—It was thought desirable to do so for many reasons. One reason was that we had a very large number of people who were still affected by the want of work at the docks, on the old lines, and the waterside labour generally was very depressed that year.

11247. Did you make any alteration in your methods?—Yes; the alterations were first of all with regard to the area. In the first year the area included the Poor Law Unions of Stepney, Poplar, St. George's-in-the-East, and Mile End Old Town, with a population of about 378,000, I suppose. The committee in 1894 enlarged the area so as to embrace the whole of the Tower Hamlets. Then in the next place the restriction as to the applicants being waterside labourers was removed, and workmen, except those engaged in seasonal trades, with proper qualifications as to 12 months residence, &c., being eligible for the scheme. We found there was a very great deal of distress on the Bethnal Green side, which includes a very large number of people who are not engaged in waterside labour. Then in the third place the age limit was reduced from 65 to 55. Moreover, it was decided not to entertain any of the 1893 cases, should they apply, unless they presented some distinctly new feature, so that we should not deal with the same men twice. The total number of applicants for 1894 was 414; and of these 30 were out of the area, 38 were single men, 36 were over age, 19 were 1893 cases, 34 were seasonal trades, 116 were unsuitable for various reasons, and 141 cases were entertained, making up the total of 414. The committee found still stronger confirmation than in 1893 that the kind of poverty dealt with is largely a town product.

11248. Do you think that the fact that fewer cases were entertained in 1894 than in 1893 shows that there was less distress?—No; I think the stringent methods of inquiry, and so on, checked the people from coming to us very largely. The first year we had a great many of the "dosser" element, the common lodging-house men, and that swelled the number to 716; and we did not entertain single men at all. The next year they were perfectly well aware of that fact, and therefore they did not come. That accounts, very largely, for the fall in the number of applications.

11249. You had not so many of what you would call good applicants in the second year as in the first?—No; many men were deterred by the inquiries; I have not the slightest doubt about that.

Mr. *Benn.*

11250. Did not the fact that the intention of the committee was to suggest emigration, largely enter in as a test question?—The previous year our emigration cases had been in the main successful, and we were so pleased with our efforts in that direction, that we formulated a rule that every man should have definitely presented to him the idea of emigration; and immediately that began to be talked about among the men in the district, they fought shy.

Chairman.

11251. That is to say they would not apply to you, because they were afraid you were going to press them to emigrate?—Yes.

11252. That was not a correct impression?—It was not an absolute condition; every man had it presented to him.

11253. You did make more efforts to try and persuade them to emigrate in the second year?—Yes.

11254. And many of them fought shy altogether?—Yes.

11255. What happened to the 141 cases which were entertained?—I can give you the details as to their birthplace, if you wish to have them.

11256. If there is anything notable in the way of change, you might tell us that?—There was rather a larger proportion of the London born. There were 94 London born out of the 141; 17, urban; 23, country; 4, Ireland; and 1, Jersey. Then I have a similar table to that, which I gave for the previous year, as to the number of rooms occupied.

11257. I think you need not give us those particulars?—I have one new table here showing the rents.

11258. Will you give us the rents?—The minimum, maximum, and average rent paid per week was as follows: for one room the minimum was 1*s.* 6*d.*, the maximum 5*s.*, and the average 2*s.* 8$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; for two rooms, the minimum was 2*s.* 9*d.*, the maximum 6*s.*, and the average 4*s.* 2$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; for three rooms the minimum was 3*s.* 6*d.*, the maximum 6*s.* 6*d.*, and the average 5*s.* 1$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; and for four or more rooms the minimum was 4*s.*, the maximum 11*s.*; and the average 7*s.* 1$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; then I have another table showing the number of people in each room, the minimum, maximum, and average number of persons occupying the rooms were as follows: occupying one room the minimum was two, the maximum was seven, and the average three and three-quarters; two rooms, the minimum was two, the maximum 8, and the average four and seven-eights; three rooms, the minimum was four, the maximum ten, and the average six and three-eights; and four or more rooms, the minimum was three, the maximum eight, and the average five and a-half. Then I have particulars as to the ages of the applicants. The ages of course were different that year, because they were all under 55.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11259. Did they work on the same land as in the previous year?—Yes, on the same land; it was the same scheme, except that the work was rather more skilled. I will come to that more in detail presently.

Chairman.

11260. Will you now come to the point of how the cases were finally dealt with?—The 141 cases entertained were dealt with as follows: emigrated to Canada 23 (that represents 115 persons in all, averaging five each family); helped to other centres, four; restored to trade society, one; found employment themselves or with assistance of committee, 16; situations pending at the suspension of work (that is, promised situations), five; applications withdrawn, 10; failed to appear before committee, three; failed to reach emigration office, four; rejected by emigration office (not for any fault of character in many cases, but because they were unsuitable for emigration), 10; refused emigration after approved, 15; discharged for idleness or bad conduct, 14; written off as unsuitable for various reasons, 36; making up the total of 141.

11261. The number of those who may be said to have failed to benefit, was how many?—Ninety-two.

11262. As compared with 128 the year before?—Yes.

11263. Do you wish to say anything more upon that point?—No, excepting that it will be seen that a comparatively small proportion have been permanently helped out of the total number. But it should be remembered that the committee were dealing in the main with men who had been for years compelled to go through all the exigencies of casual dock labour, and where it was not casual dock labour it was casual labour of other sorts; they were almost in every case men of the casual type.

11264. There were fewer men benefited in proportion in 1894 than in 1893?—Yes. That is mainly owing to the fact that so many refused emigration. Many of those people preferred to remain as they were, although their condition was a very serious one, rather than face the new life. Many of them have a horror of this outside life, even in the country here, let alone going abroad.

11265. You mean that if it had not been for that feeling about emigration, you might have had more people to deal with?—Yes, and possibly we should have tried to help them in other ways. We felt the best work we did the year before was emigration, and therefore we directed our best efforts in that direction.

11266. Therefore you were not so much engaged in trying to find them work in this country?—No.

11267. Do you think that pressing emigration in the way you did, with people of that character, was the best course to take?—I think a very grave mistake was made, unintentionally, of course. We received advice from emigration offices, experts, and so on, and we went upon their advice; but undoubtedly there was a very serious depression setting in in Canada previous to our sending out those emigrants, and it was the most unpropitious year we could possibly have had for sending out these kind of men to Canada.

11268. And, moreover, you say this class of men had evinced an extraordinary reluctance to emigration in any case?—Yes.

Chairman—continued.

11269. Was it the case that the reports that came from those who emigrated in the first year had an effect of deterring the others?—Yes, in two or three cases; the two or three failures were very busy in sending letters over to men on this side.

11270. Of course those who had succeeded they did not hear so much of?—No; they were quiet.

11271. Then, with regard to the finance of this scheme of 1894, will you give us some particulars?—The approximate cost of the scheme for 1894 was: Offices, fire-lighting, printing, stationery, postage, &c., 53*l.*; salaries and wages to agents, &c., 36*l.*; salaries and wages to superintendent and gangers, 115*l.*; salaries and wages to unemployed, 540*l.*; relief to unemployed, 24*l.*; emigration, outfitting, &c., 328*l.*; purchase of tools, &c., 6*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.*; making up a total of 1,102*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.* You will notice that a larger number of cases were emigrated and cost less than in the previous year. The explanation is to be found in the fact that the emigration offices assisted from their own funds. I ought to say that 40*l.* of the debit for offices, fire-lighting, and so on, belonged to the previous year.

11272. As regards the amount for wages you have given us, you spent nearly as much as that in the previous year for a smaller number of people?—Yes, we continued longer with our work.

11273. Does that mean that you worked a longer number of weeks?—That is so.

11274. What was the maximum number of weeks that you worked in either year?—In 1894 the length of time worked by each applicant varied according to circumstances when they came before the committee for settlement. If it was found impossible to reinstate the man in any way he was at once firmly but kindly told we could do nothing further. If, on the other hand, either by emigration, migration, or written promise of work in the near future, there was any hope of reinstatement, the man was returned to work, pending settlement. The period of work varied, therefore, from a fortnight to upwards of two months.

11275. Two months was the maximum in some cases?—Yes.

11276. Have you anything more to say about the work of that year?—Yes. I have here just a brief report given by the London County Council valuer as to the nature and the character of the work done.

11277. During the two years?—Yes, during the two years; more especially the year 1894. The work of 1893 consisted in digging and levelling; this year the men have accomplished work of a more skilled character. The nature and stability of the work is thus set forth in the Official report of the London County Council Valuer to the Small Holdings Committee of the Council: "The most important work is the new dyke which is 550 feet in length with substantial flood-banks, the latter being constructed to a level of × 8 above Ordnance datum. The work has been satisfactorily completed, though the facing of the bank on the west side

is

Chairman—continued.

is not so well finished as that on the east side" (there is a note that "the west bank was done in the very dry weather of March" of that year, and it was tremendously heavy clay, and it was therefore impossible to do it so well). "The work however is substantial, and will no doubt fulfil its requirements. The flood bank on the west side of field No. 5 has been shifted nearer the existing ditch, and a new 10 feet roadway formed at the bottom of the slope. This work is satisfactory. The removal of a portion of the clay bank in field No. 5, has been partially carried out, and the same remark applies to the trenches for the reception of sewer refuse on the raised clay land. The Committee thus see that a considerable portion of the work which they were able to place at the disposal of the Mansion House Committee has been completed, though I may state that a larger amount still remains for future operations should occasion require."

11278. I suppose no attempt was made to value the total amount of work done?—I think not. I have here a description of an average day's work at Abbey Mills accomplished by a staff of 41 men which I can give the Committee if they wish.

11279. Will you please do so. The description is as follows: "664 wheelbarrow loads of very stiff clay, dug and wheeled 280 yards, shot, levelled, and well rammed to consolidate banks of the new dyke. 240 wheelbarrow loads of hard core, loaded, and wheeled 30 yards, broken, levelled, and well rammed into new road."

11280. Has any attempt been made to value the land as it now stands as compared with what it formerly was?—That I do not know. Then perhaps I might mention some of the other difficulties the committee found in the average applicant. First, as to the difficulties in the applicant himself; he is an unskilled workman who has rarely had any permanent situation; secondly, he is strongly attached to his own locality, and is firmly convinced the committee can find him a job right here; and thirdly, he is generally convinced it is the function of the committee to remodel the whole industrial system with immediate benefit to himself. Having surmounted what may be termed the educational difficulties, the committee were confronted with various domestic hindrances, such as a sickly wife or child, abnormally large family, &c. There were also the grave dangers of loose philanthropy to avoid, and the usual industrial difficulties well known to all who study the conditions of labour. While it is ever easy to give the most demoralised man a dole and pass him on out of sight, it is often difficult, if not impossible, firmly to reinstate an honest man who has been worsted in the battle of life. Then there are certain facts and principles which seem to be demonstrated by the work of the committee, and which I should like to describe briefly. First, it appears from the small number of men dismissed for idleness or bad conduct (14 in 1894, 25 in 1893; or 39 out of a total of 513), a very large proportion of the applicants were willing to work if they could obtain it; secondly, it is quite

Chairman—continued.

clear an efficient test of industry can be applied without recourse to even the modified workhouse test. Thirdly, the character and quality of the work done by the unemployed at Abbey Mills is a standing proof that, with better opportunities, many of these families can be saved from the grip of poverty and pauperism. And, fourthly, the work has been carried on with a minimum of irritation to the hungry applicant, and a minimum of risk by fraud and deception to those who have made the committee their almoner. The men, instead of being put back to starve during the time necessary for proper inquiry in this second year of our work, were at once set to work. If, after inquiry and test work, the applicant was found to be unworthy, or could not be reinstated for other reasons, he had only benefited by getting a few days' hardly earned wage. So that even where the committee failed in its main purpose of reinstatement, it accomplished a most efficient work of relief, safeguarded on every side from the dangers of loose philanthropy. In reference to the cost of the scheme, it must be borne in mind that the committee were dealing in every instance with families, the applicant counting but one in our case return, representing an average of five persons.

11281. You mean that you were dealing altogether with between 2,000 and 3,000 people?—Yes.

11282. I do not think you have told us what would be the ordinary wages earned by the men per week?—So far as I could find out from the applicants, and from inquiries in various directions, I am afraid the casual docker under the old *regime* would average about 13*s.* a week, taking the year round.

11283. How much in an ordinary case would he get from you when at work?—He would get four shillings a day and a short day on Saturday.

11284. Making a total of 22*s.* a week?—Yes.

11285. During that time was he fairly able to keep himself and his family on what you gave him?—Yes. There was a most remarkable improvement in the men. Many of the men were scarcely able to wheel a barrow when they went down to the works.

11286. Many of them were getting higher wages than they had been able to obtain before?—Most decidedly.

11287. Would it be the case that what you were giving to them was about the same as what a docker working through the week would receive at the docks?—Yes; if he worked the whole week they would get exactly the same.

11288. I understood you to say that many of these men had never got near to this 22*s.* a week for many preceding months?—Quite so; the average would be about 13*s.* or perhaps 14*s.* a week. I think it is fair to say in respect to the statement about the average wage of the casual docker, that the docker's wife of course in very many cases earns money.

11289. By various jobs of different sorts?—Yes.

11290. Will you just tell us what was done during the past winter?—The work this year

Chairman—continued.

arose from the very great suffering owing to the prolonged frost. The committee had not intended to do anything at all this winter, unless there should be presented very special features of distress. I may say that the committee themselves this year were urged from various sources to undertake the work. I think they themselves were not at all anxious to re-open the work this season. We were expecting the frost to break every week from the first week. However, when we did get into swing (of course, you cannot start it in two or three days), it was just as the frost broke.

11291. In March?—Yes.

11292. Will you tell us what work you did?—This year when we applied for the work at Abbey Mills, the County Council suggested that they had work of rather a better kind at Lower Sydenham. It seems that they had taken the lease of 10 acres of disused brick fields, and this they intended in some way or other to be prepared for workmen's allotments, answering two purposes, I presume, that is to say, preserving it as an open space, and also providing workmen's allotments for a large number of men employed in the Crystal Palace District Gas Works down there. Therefore we accepted their suggestion, and sent the men to Lower Sydenham instead of Abbey Mills. There is just one distinction I should like to point out in regard to this year; it has not materially affected the returns, but it was understood in the committee, that if any man applied from any part of the Metropolis we should take him if he was suitable, and that we should not confine it to the Tower Hamlets as we had done before. That, however, was not proclaimed, in any way, indeed the scheme was not proclaimed or advertised in any way; we opened the works, and took the men as they came.

11293. Will you give the numbers, as you did in the previous cases?—I myself interviewed about 169; but many men came to the office at other times, whom it was impossible to see. One hundred and sixty-nine were actually interviewed by me, and of these 85 were entertained. I have the particulars here as to the birthplaces of the applicants, and also as to their ages; but there is nothing very special about them.

11294. I think you need not trouble to give us those details. Will you give us the results, showing how the cases were finally dealt with in 1895?—Of the 85 cases entertained, the analysis is as follows: helped to other centres, 1; found employment themselves or with the assistance of the committee, 26; situations pending at suspension of work, 11; applications withdrawn, 2; failed to appear before committee or at work, 5; discharged for idleness or insubordination, 12; written off as unsuitable for various reasons, 12; various schemes for reinstatement either by stock, tools, &c., 16. I may say in every case where tools or stock was provided for a man it was on the condition that he himself paid into my hands a shilling a day from his wages the whole of the time he worked. In that way they provided themselves with tools in several of the cases that are included in that item.

11295. Then about half of them were helped, and half of them failed to obtain any particular relief benefit?—More than half were helped; those who had situations pending at the suspension of work were all under written promises; they had work promised them.

11296. Coming to the financial part of the scheme, would you tell us what it cost?—The cost of the scheme of 1895 was as follows: fire-lighting, printing, stationery, postage, &c., 26*l.* (10*l.* of that belongs to the 1894 account); salaries to inquiry agents, &c., 25*l.*; salaries to foremen of works, gangers, &c., 108*l.*; wages to unemployed, 486*l.*; relief, 69*l.* (53*l.* of that was sent to Canada to help other cases that were in distress from the previous year); outfits, stock, tools, &c., 51*l.*; purchase and repair of plant, &c., 15*l.*; making up a total of 780*l.* We worked longer this time than we had worked previously. We worked practically three months.

11297. A certain number of the men were working three months?—Yes, we were far more strict in taking our cases this year, which accounts for the better proportion. The weeding was done before the men went to work rather than after, and no one was put on to work unless there was a reasonable hope of re-instatement.

11298. You only closed your works some two or three weeks ago, I think?—In the first week of June.

11299. Why did you close them at that particular moment?—The men had gradually been settled until we got down to the number you have here, and it was impossible to keep the staff on another two or three weeks in order to help these men, and we have helped them in other ways, and they will be all in work, I presume, by the end of this week.

11300. I think you wish to say a few words as to the utility of the scheme, apart from the direct cost?—Yes, we felt, and I felt especially, that much good would come from the scheme, because every scheme of this kind carefully carried out helps to focus the problem that must be dealt with. Many of the theories as to how these people can be helped are chastened by experience, we are brought face to face with the causation of the distress, and led to seek remedies for the cause as well as to alleviate the distress, which I am sure we all deplore. I think such schemes also tend to bring philanthropy and economic science nearer to each other, and to become mutually helpful.

11301. You look upon this as being useful as a sort of experiment?—All through the committee have looked upon their work as a sort of experiment.

11302. You look upon it as an experiment, rather than as a particular method of affording relief?—Yes; it has been experimental all through.

11303. You would not, as the result of the three years' work, recommend the expenditure of similar sums of money wherever the unemployed problem presented itself?—In answer to that, I must say I do not know of anything where an attempt has been made that has succeeded so well and has worked so safely, in spite of the smallness

Chairman—continued.

smallness of the returns; it is the best thing that I have any knowledge of at all.

11304. You mean that the money, though a large sum, has been better spent in this way than in many other instances?—Decidedly.

11305. As to the problem generally, have you anything to say as to the result of your experience. Have you any suggestion to make with regard to the question we have before us in this Committee?—Yes. So far as the amelioration of relief goes, I should suggest that it is impossible for any voluntary committee to deal properly with this work. They can only deal with it in a very piecemeal kind of way; they have not at their command the necessary machinery to do it as it ought to be done; and I think, as regards the amelioration, when there is a properly ascertained necessity, help should be granted from the common poor fund, that is, that relief works should be paid for from the common poor fund.

11306. Relief granted to whom?—To applicants who are suffering from temporary out-of-work, from any acute cause.

11307. What I meant to ask was through whom is the relief from the common poor fund to go?—That I am not quite sure about. As a guardian I am very much afraid of suggesting that those people should come to the Poor Law in the ordinary way, or rather should receive it through the usual channel.

11308. If the relief from the common poor fund does not come through the board of guardians, I suppose it must come through the vestry?—I should suggest that works of public utility be undertaken, and a subsidy granted from the common poor fund, but only when there is a properly ascertained special need.

11309. Who is to be the judge of that?—That, I should suggest, would necessitate the reconstruction of our Poor Law government.

11310. You mean in London?—Yes; I think it would be manifestly dangerous to say to a certain district, "Now, we will make you a grant from the common poor fund whenever you desire it," unless you had some safeguard; and the only safeguard I know of is to constitute the whole of London as one Poor Law district, to be governed by an elected body; this elected body, of course, drawing representatives from every section of it, so that those who found the money would have a say upon the question when the need arose.

11311. Would you merge the present Poor Law Unions into one great union?—No; I should preserve the administrative power of the guardians up to a point, and the control would be exercised by an elected body rather than the permanent body we now have.

11312. The control of what?—I am speaking now of the Local Government Board.

11313. Would this elected body you speak of be elected by different bodies of Poor Law guardians?—Yes.

11314. What would its functions be?—Its functions would be to control the expenditure.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11315. How would it be elected; would it be elected specially by itself?—I should presume it would be elected by the boards of guardians.

Chairman.

11316. It is to control the boards of guardians?—Yes.

11317. Would it control their expenditure generally, or their expenditure on this particular point?—I am only looking at it from one standpoint now. Of course, if you say to this district or to that district, "We will supply you with funds for works of public utility from the common poor fund," I can easily see that a very great danger might arise; and some check is necessary as to determining the question whether the problem had become sufficiently acute to demand this special remedy. You must have somebody to settle that point. You cannot leave it to the people in the district. I think it would be unfair to draw money from the common poor fund and then leave it to the people in the particular district to say when they need the money and when they do not.

11318. I understood you just now to say you were doubtful whether this money should be granted to the guardians at all; you thought it might be granted to the vestries?—Yes.

11319. Then I assume the task of this elected body would be to say whether certain monies should be allotted to certain vestries from the common poor fund?—Yes.

11320. You think if they said that such funds should be allotted that would be satisfactory?—I think so.

11321. Have you anything more to say upon that point?—No, I think not.

11322. I suppose you think that the work carried on by the local authorities should, to some extent, follow the lines which your committee has gone upon?—Yes, unless they can devise better plans. I personally do not know of anything better.

11323. But I suppose you would subject it to some restrictions as to its being terminated within a limited time, and so forth?—I presume so.

11324. Certain rules would have to be laid down as to the way in which the money was expended and the conditions under which it was to be expended?—Decidedly.

11325. Have you anything further to say on the general subject before us?—No, I think not, excepting as to adjudging the equitable proportion of responsibility for the unemployed problem. I think that has a bearing upon the question, because there is a disposition in some quarters to unduly press upon those who are suffering under the difficulties of the situation; and I think there should be a very strong recognition of the fact that this is a very, very complex problem, and that whatever faults we may lay at the door of the man himself (and there are very grave ones), there are very many circumstances over which he has had no control, and which have helped to drag him down. The two great causes of degradation, as regards the men themselves, I should set forth as being drink and casual labour. I put casual labour second as a root cause of demoralisation among the men.

Chairman—continued.

11326. Does your experience lead you to suppose that this very difficult problem could be ameliorated by wise action on the part of local authorities in giving employment, the employment being given mainly, I assume, as a test?—Yes.

11327. You wish that to be done not by the Poor Law authorities, but by the vestry?—Yes.

11328. What is your view with regard to the effect of relief in connection with the question of disfranchisement?—My view is, that there should be a broad distinction drawn between a confirmed pauper and a man who is driven, under exceptional circumstances, to seek relief occasionally. We all know that we have a class of people who almost from generation to generation have been paupers, and others who have become confirmed paupers within the length of their own life.

11329. Do you think you could draw a distinction in an Act of Parliament which would disfranchise the regular paupers, as you call them, and which would keep the Parliamentary vote for those who were only applying at a given moment, and for a short time?—I think so; by the number of applications.

11330. You mean when a person had applied so many times he should be disfranchised?—Yes, he should be disfranchised for so long; I do not say he should be permanently disfranchised even then. If the man improved and re-instated himself as a good citizen and a self-supporting man, I would restore to him his rights of citizenship.

11331. Do you think that would work; it is rather difficult to put those things into an Act of Parliament, is it not?—I know it is.

Mr. *Billson.*

11332. Can you tell me what proportion of these people would have come on the Poor Rates if you had not taken them up?—I cannot tell you the proportion; probably very many of them.

11333. You think that a considerable proportion of this sum of 1,315*l.* which the scheme of 1893 cost you would have been paid out of public money if you had not paid it?—I think so.

11334. But you have formed no idea as to the proportion, whether it would be half or three-quarters of it?—No; I have not formed any idea as to the proportion.

11335. If you had had a larger area to deal with, I suppose you would have had a much larger number of people to treat?—Doubtless.

11336. Then do you think that if a system such as yours were extended all over the Metropolis, it would meet with the same sort of results that yours met with?—I do not think I suggested dealing with the whole of the Metropolis under the scheme I suggested, at one time.

11337. You look upon your scheme merely as an experiment?—Yes.

11338. How are you going to apply that experiment to the actual position?—Do you mean under the same conditions as have been suggested?

11339. Yes?—Taking, for instance, St. George's in-the-East, supposing there were some acute problem to be dealt with there through want of employment, the St. George's guardians would represent the matter to the controlling body as suggested; they would hear the evidence about the matter, and judge as to whether the problem was specially acute or not.

Mr. Billson—continued.

11340. Seeing that you give permanent employment, practically if such a scheme were established, would you not draw out a great number of people from other industries?—There is no suggestion to give permanent employment.

11341. How long do you propose to keep them?—I should not like to say off-hand.

11342. You would keep them till you had re-instated them, I suppose?—Not necessarily.

11343. If a man at the docks was only getting 13*s.* a week, would he not be very much induced to throw up that work and come and take work at your place?—I can conceive cases where even with the acute problem it would be absolutely dangerous to give more than a limited length of time for employment at these works; because if an industry is absolutely dead, the best thing is to scatter the people as soon as you can. But there is the immediate problem that has to be dealt with even then.

11344. You would take a man for a certain time as an experiment?—Yes.

11345. If you cannot succeed in re-instating him, would you let him go back again?—If he could not be dealt with under that scheme, no doubt he would have to come down lower, and would have eventually to go to the Poor Law. There is a proportion of the men who have to pass through periods of difficulty from time to time who could be saved by such a scheme from becoming paupers.

11346. Does not it occur to you that your inducement would make a great number of people dissatisfied who now, at all events, are getting on pretty well?—I do not think so.

11347. I mean because of the full wages you give for the time?—I do not necessarily bind myself to that under the scheme.

Mr. *Benn.*

11348. Your idea would be that, instead of an allowance of so much per head per day for paupers as at present obtains, under the common poor fund, it would be the same scheme of allowance of so much per head per day for the unemployed during a crisis we will say, and with the proper safeguards that those thus assisted were honest people out of work through no fault of their own?—Yes.

11349. That is your idea?—Yes.

11350. The scheme with which you have been associated, I take it, would only be utilised by a local authority in the event of the local authority having no local works which would cover the crisis in a particular district?—Exactly.

11351. You have referred to St. George's-in-the-East; do you think if such a fund were available a great deal more could be spent during such a period in St. George's-in the-East than is now spent?—Most decidedly.

Mr. *Benn*—continued.

11352. So that your scheme of test work on the land need only apply to cases of exceptional distress where there was no local work to provide the necessary test?—Yes.

11353. You are familiar with the foreshore of the Thames, are you not?—Yes.

11354. Could you tell the Committee whether, in the event of such a fund being available, it is not a feasible scheme that the foreshore of the Thames could be improved in some such way as that indicated by the Abbey Mills scheme?—I have no doubt whatever, so far as the quality of the labour goes, there would be no difficulty at all. As to the actual work to be undertaken on the foreshore, of course I have heard and read a good deal about it, but I am not in a position to express any opinion personally upon the point. But if there is work to be done in that direction that would be profitable; I am quite sure the labour we have would be admirable labour to use in that direction.

11355. As to the poverty of the Tower Hamlets generally, you have been very intimately in touch with that district for two or three years, have you not?—Yes, for six years.

11356. Can you give us any information throwing light upon the fact that, during the last five years, the pauperism of the Tower Hamlets, judging from the official returns, has trebled. I notice that that is so?—Yes.

11357. What would be the general explanation of that melancholy fact?—There are a variety of causes. I know one great cause of the increase, so far as my own union goes, is that we have to deal with the very great difficulty arising from the influx of a very undesirable type through the opening of free shelters and that kind of thing. In the half-year ending with Lady-day, 45 per cent. of those coming into our workhouse at Stepney come from free shelters or common lodging houses.

11358. Is it not the fact that some districts of London are getting richer and more respectable, while other districts seem to be getting more miserable and poorer?—There is no doubt that is another cause. We find among our men in cases where we succeed in making him more respectable, and restoring him to the normal conditions of living and so on, he takes flight and runs out to Forest Gate or somewhere of that kind.

11359. And leaves you with the residuum?—And leaves us with the residuum. There is no doubt about that.

Chairman.

11360. You think Stepney is poorer now than when you first knew it?—Undoubtedly; it is growing poorer every day, and shops are closing.

Mr. *Benn.*

11361. That, I take it, would be your plea for the application of some general fund for London such as you sketched out?—Certainly.

11362. With regard to the Abbey Mills scheme, did I understand you to say that in the very large majority of cases you were satisfied that those men who came under your care were willing to do the work, and that they would do an honest day's work if they had the opportunity?—Decidedly.

11363. And yet they were to begin with a very unfavourable type because they were mostly London born men and casual dockers?—They were the best men of the lowest type.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11364. As regards the land upon which this work was done, I presume it was not increased in value to anything like the extent of the cost you put upon it?—I should say not.

11365. The cost working out at something like 80*l.* an acre?—Yes.

11366. It was not worth 80*l.* an acre more than when you began?—I forget what rent they are getting for it now.

11367. You do not look upon this as a commercial scheme?—No.

11368. I noticed in your expenses that the amount paid as wages comes to, roughly speaking, about half the cost?—I think that is about the average.

11369. Do I understand the cost of the management of this scheme involves an expenditure of nearly as much as you give in wages?—No, I do not think so.

11370. What proportion is the cost of management?—Looking down the figures at a glance I should say slightly over half. The initial expenditure for tools and plant is very large, but it is smaller the next year.

11371. All I was asking was the proportion of the cost of management; do I understand you to say it came to about half the amount expended?—I have not gone into it sufficiently to say; I have not the proportion here.

11372. It is a very large proportion, is it not?—It is very considerable. I do not like to answer the question haphazard, but I will work it out if you wish.

Chairman.

11373. Could you take any one of the years, the accounts of which you have given us, and see what you make the cost of management come to?—Yes, I will take the first year. I understand I am not to include the purchase of the tools.

11374. Only the cost of management?—Working it out I find that the total expenditure was 1,315*l.* and the cost of management 142*l.*

Mr. *Bartley.*

11375. That is a little over 10 per cent?—Yes.

11376. I understood you to say you did not intend to go on with this experiment this year; the plan was given up after two years, was it not?—Not absolutely given up.

11377. I understood you did not intend to go on with it this year?—We had no intention unless some great need for it was pressed upon us.

11378. Do not I understand that you consider this a sort of permanent system for preventing the pauperising of individuals?—I was simply

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

drawing a distinction between the adjourned meeting of the first year and the fact that we did not adjourn the next year but we simply ceased our operations and made no arrangements for the next meeting, that is all. It was left open to be called together if necessity arose.

11379. Does that suggest that you thought it was successful, or was it unsuccessful?—I do not think we ever thought it was unsuccessful.

11380. But if it was successful why did you not contemplate going on with it?—Because we think it undesirable to go on unless we have some special problem to deal with.

11381. You mean this is only to meet special cases?—Yes.

11382. As regards the common poor fund, do you not think there is great danger in drawing upon that fund for all districts?—I do not think so if it is properly safeguarded.

11383. Is it not the fact that when a central fund is drawn upon by any district the expenditure is much freer and more lavish than when the expenditure has to be met out of the rates?—Not when it is controlled by the people who find the money.

11384. Do you not think that when money is to be drawn out of the Imperial Exchequer, any locality would draw and spend it more freely than if it had to find the money out of the rates?—I do not think that case is exactly similar to what I am proposing as regards the common poor fund. Here the thing is focussed. We are dealing with London, and every London man understands London interests far more acutely, and feels his own personal responsibility far more than he would do in the case of something that affects the whole country.

11385. You are a Poor Law guardian, are you not?—Yes.

11386. Have you not often noticed in the board when an expenditure has to come from the Imperial Exchequer, the guardians are much more apt to be lavish than if it has to be met out of the rates?—In the case of some guardians, perhaps, there is a good deal of ignorance.

11387. Is it not the case with all guardians that they are more apt to be lavish in their expenditure in such a case?—I do not think so. If you take, for instance, the up-keep of our schools; I am a member of the board of management of the south metropolitan schools, and I am quite sure that there is as much care exercised there in the administration of the funds of that school as in the administration of any relief we have to pay for directly.

11388. You think that if every parish and every union in London were drawing upon the common poor fund for relief works, through the vestry or otherwise, it would not lead to enormous expenditure?—When they could only do so with the consent of the controlling body, I do not think so.

11389. Is this controlling authority to be elected like the County Council?—Yes.

11390. Would you have a special election for that body?—I do not know whether they should be directly elected or nominated by the various Boards of Guardians.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

11391. You do not contemplate the election of a second County Council for the purpose?—No. All I am anxious for is that this governing body should not be subject to the same kind of local influence that possibly might be brought to bear on any Board of Guardians for work within their own district.

11392. Would it not be elected by exactly the same people?—No; it would be elected by the whole of the various bodies.

11393. But the same people would have votes?—That is not the point. What I am anxious to avoid is this. Supposing St. George's-in-the-East had the privilege of going to the common poor fund directly, at their own initiation, to obtain funds therefrom to deal with any unemployed problem that might arise in their district, if they themselves could settle when there was a problem which was to be met in that way, I see, as I have said, great danger; but if there is a controlling authority to settle that question in the first place, I say that alters the question altogether.

11394. Do you not think they would return members to this council, or whatever it is, who would be disposed to let them have money for the relief works?—I do not think so.

11395. Why not?—Because they all run equal risks.

11396. Would they not all want to get as much as they could out of the fund?—I do not think so.

Mr. *Round.*

11397. You would not leave this controlling power to the Local Government Board?—I think not.

11398. Why not?—Because they are not an elected body?

11399. That is the only reason?—That is the only reason.

Mr. *Mather.*

11400. The character of the work you gave to the selected men, after you had weeded out all the unworthy persons, was entirely upon the land, was it not?—Yes.

11401. I presume it was work done with the spade, the hoe, and the rake?—The spade and pick principally, and the barrow.

11402. Those men I think you said were almost the whole of them men who were not born in the country, and were not accustomed to agricultural work at all?—Very few of them.

11403. Did you find any difficulty whatever in getting those men, I mean the selected willing men, to work well and ably with the tools you gave them upon the work which they had to perform?—As a rule the first two or three days they suffered a great deal.

11404. But taking them a fortnight or three weeks after they had begun working, how did you find them?—The improvement was marvellous, and the adaptation which they manifested to the work given to them. I think everybody concerned was as astounded on that point as much as anything.

11405. They were employed upon agricultural work, I suppose?—A great deal of it was navvy work.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

11406. But the levelling of the land and preparing the land would be ordinary farm labourers' work?—Yes; but the dyke work, and much of the work that we did at Lower Sydenham, was very heavy navvy work.

11407. You said this land was prepared for allotments; in fact the land has since been acquired by the County Council and let out for allotments, has it not?—It was theirs previously.

11408. Is it being tilled and cultivated now by working men?—Yes.

11409. Do those men work upon the land as the means of getting their living?—No.

11410. Do they simply work on it in their overtime or their leisure time?—Yes.

11411. Do you suppose, from the experience of the work of those men on this piece of land, that they could have been drafted off under your system of re-instatement, as you call it, into permanent farm work?—Yes.

11412. Supposing they had been taken a step further and had an acre of land given to them under proper control, could they have gone on to regular farm work?—With ordinary instruction they could.

11413. Judging from your experience of those men taken from the docks, for instance, or casually employed persons in the east end of London, there is nothing in their character, or in their capacity, that prevents them from doing work upon the land if they have the chance?—There is one thing that is very strong, and that is the fact that those men had been accustomed to town life all their days. You must remember that they came back to the town each evening after their work.

11414. That is rather the social side of the question; I am speaking of the actual work to be done. From your experience, would you say that this class of men, if they were put under favourable social conditions to work upon the land, they getting their living from the land, would do the work although they had not been born in the country, or had not been trained in early life to do farming work?—Most distinctly I should say so.

11415. And, following up your experience, do you see any objection to a scheme being carried out that would carry forward such men as you have dealt with, I mean well-behaved, well-conducted men, to permanent work upon the land under such social conditions as would make it attractive?—I should very gladly welcome it.

11416. You think they would be quite capable of doing the work?—I think they are quite capable to do it.

11417. You think they are as intelligent to do the work as ordinary farm labourers?—I think so, quite.

Chairman.

11418. I suppose you would hardly say that any part of the work which these men were doing was ordinary farm work?—No, except the digging.

11419. It was rather more, on the whole, what you described as navvy's work, was it not?—Yes, except the digging and levelling, and that kind of thing.

Chairman—continued.

11420. An ordinary farm labourer now-a-days does not have so much digging to do, but he has to do such things as hedge cutting and looking after animals?—Yes. These men would not know about hedge cutting but they would know something about digging, after the experience they had with us.

11421. You are speaking of digging rather than the ordinary farm work, such as looking after animals, and ploughing, and various other kinds of farm labour which require a certain amount of skill, in which your experience with these men, I presume, would not enable you to draw a direct inference as to their capacity?—Yes. I have some ground for forming an opinion upon their capacity because we had some of the men taught milking before they went abroad, and they tumbled to it very easily.

Mr. *Mather.*

11422. Supposing these men had such experience as you might give on such a piece of land as you had, in hedging and thatching and any other farm work, would you suppose that their natural incapacity, or such incapacity as you noticed in them, would prevent their doing that work?—I do not think so. I think they would be very quick at it, myself.

Chairman.

11423. When you said they were accustomed to town life, did you mean that the men on the whole preferred a town life to the country?—No; what I meant was that if you send a man out to the prairie straight from a city, in many cases the wife grows sick and they make straight for a town. But if you could take these men out into the country and give them 12 months round of country life and test them on this side instead of on the other, I think it would be far preferable.

11424. You think if that were done you might get many men who would go out to the colonies and do well there?—I think so.

11425. But you would not expect the first 12 months to be altogether lucrative; somebody must provide the money for that time?—Yes; upon that point I may say I have been making inquiries during the last few months in Lincolnshire, and I find that there are several farmers who would be willing to take families, if they could get something for their keep, and to instruct them in the management of stock and farming generally for 12 months.

11426. Without paying them wages, of course?—Yes; and not only that, but they would want to be paid something; they would be receiving not only the individual man, but the families, and they would want to be paid something for their keep.

11427. It would not be lucrative during that time?—No.

Mr. *Billson.*

11428. Do you find an objection on the part of these people to going into the country?—Yes, in some cases; in other cases I have had men come to me and beg me to find employment upon the land; they are willing to go to the country and to do anything.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

11429. Do you find amongst this class of people a strong prejudice against going to the colonies?—Yes.

Mr *Round.*

11430. Do you know any cases where farmers in England have taken on men from among those who have worked under the scheme you speak of?—No; there is just this. Many of the men in this district have some knowledge of farming, that is to say, they go every season fruit-picking and pea-picking and hop-picking, and they get a little knowledge of the country in that way.

Mr. Mr. *Round*—continued.

Mr. THOMAS MANSELL, called in; and Examined, as follows:

Chairman.

11431. YOU were foreman, or is it right to say you are foreman?—I was foreman.

11432. You were foreman to the relief works carried out under a committee at West Ham, at the Wanstead Flats?—Yes.

11433. Can you tell us how many were employed when you were at your busiest time?—180 each day; the average about a hundred.

11434. Then I think they were sub-divided into gangs, were they not?—They were sub-divided into gangs; we first tried them in large gangs, then we made them into smaller gangs.

11435. What was the size of the large gangs that you began with?—The large gangs did not get on; they could not earn the amount of money that we allotted for the work.

11436. What was the size of the large gang; how many?—Twenty-five in a gang, two twenty-fives.

11437. That was the beginning?—That was the beginning of digging.

11438. Then, when did you change to smaller gangs?—In about a fortnight. We let those two gangs of twenty-five have about a fortnight to see whether they would get better than they were at the commencement. I ought to say that these two large gangs were not at the commencement of the work in 1895; we were digging and levelling before we put them into gangs on that system.

11439. At first they were all working together?—They were all working together; we divided them into gangs of about twenty, but it was a different kind of work; it was digging, filling, or picking and filling, and wheeling from where the ground was so high to where it was low, and then to be levelled; but where the gangs of twenty-five were, that was tolerably level ground, only turfy, and had to be dug two spits deep for potato planting; that is where the gangs of twenty-five were tested.

11440. And you found that twenty-five was too large, did you?—That was too large; they did not earn near the money they were taking at the rate that was put down per rod.

11441. That is because there was not enough foremen to look after the work?—We judged that.

11442. Then what did you do; what sized gangs did you make then?—We reduced them to gangs of ten; we paid the ganger a penny an hour more than the other men, just to look after the ten men. Then there were nine beside the leader; nine men and the leader constituted a gang of ten.

11443. Then the work paid better?—Oh, yes.

Chairman—continued.

11444. Because the work was better looked after?—Better looked after; that is right, sir.

11445. What was the largest number of gangs of ten that you had?—Seven (seven gangs of ten); about 70 men.

11446. And at that time I suppose the work was paying better than at any other time?—Considerably better; but on the digging it never paid as well as it did on the pecking, filling, wheeling and levelling (that is moving earth); moving it from one place to another; but some of the men in the gangs of ten (we would take notice of two or three of the best men) could earn 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* a day, whilst others would not earn more than 1*s.* a day at the same rate per rod per man.

11447. And did you find there was much difference between the men when they were levelling and when they were, for instance, potato planting. Some men do better in one kind of work, and some men in the other kind of work?—Some men do better in one, and some in the other. Those which had been brought up on the land when young you could trust to level and plant more than those which had not been used to it when young.

11448. Had you a good proportion of them who had been on a farm when they were lads or young men?—Well, the gangers principally had been brought up on the land; the men that we picked out to lead the others. Then we would give each gang perhaps two, three, or four men that had been something used to it. I allotted them out so far as I possibly could so that the gangs should be somewhat similar to each other.

11449. You knew quite well which were the men that had some experience of this sort?—That is right.

11450. And most of these men had been country born men?—Yes, I believe so.

11451. Do you know at all how far these men have got into other work since they left off your work?—Well, of course the good workmen that were intelligent and willing to work were, as far as possible, provided with work at the Thames Ironworks. We got them situations when there were men wanted there; we drafted them from the Wanstead Flats to the Thames Ironworks.

11452. Are there a good many of them now in work at the Thames Ironworks?—There is a good few of them at work at the Thames Ironworks.

11453. Has the business of the Thames Ironworks increased then so as to take on more men?—It was increasing just about that time, about the middle of the season; about February and March they were getting rather busy there.

11454. And

Chairman—continued.

11454. And Mr. Hills made arrangements for taking them on?—Whenever I saw a man that was worth recommending I sent his name on to the timekeeper and arrangements were made for a good few of the men as far as possible.

11455. I suppose that might have happened in any case, apart from Mr. Hills' interest in your work?—Yes; we got work at several other factories there for men from the Wanstead Flats, where I had a little influence and could recommend them.

11456. Then what sort of work would they be getting now at the ironworks?—General labour; we had chippers and drillers there, men who could use a hammer and chisel and could drill.

11457. And who were out of work?—Who were out of work.

11458. And when they got back to the ironworks they took up their old style of work?—That is right.

11459. Do you think most of the deserving men who have been working under you have got back to work now?—The majority of them. We did have a few left even until the last with us that were tradesmen, men who had served their time at a trade; they were rather old, they were "past forty" as the saying is, 50 years of age, or something like that, and they cannot get situations so readily as younger men.

11460. And some of those are out of work still, I suppose?—I believe some of them are out of work still.

11461. But on the whole the bulk of them have got back again?—On the whole the bulk of them have got back again.

11462. Now as to the character of the men as a whole (of course, I suppose there were some exceptions), were most of them pretty willing to do their best to do a good day's work?—Well, more than the majority of the men that we took, I think, were willing to try to earn the money that they took; but we did have some that did not care; they only looked after the money at night that we paid them. That is all they wanted; you had to make them work, or nearly so. Some we had to discharge because they would not work, or we considered they did not do sufficient, or what they might do. There were some who were not quite capable of doing as much as others, but they were willing; they were physically incapable, and they could not earn as much as other men.

11463. But they did their best?—They did their best. If you put them in the gangs some men would grumble at having to carry others upon their backs; but we must find them work somewhere. We allotted them in the best way we could. We averaged the gangs as near as possible, so that there should not be any ill-feeling in the matter.

11464. But some of the members of one gang earned more money than others?—Yes; if we had paid them singly there were some men who would have taken a bonus every day or every week (they took it weekly); they would do more work than would come to the money that they took.

Chairman—continued.

11465. Some of those men who were willing but were really not fit to do a full day's work, were, as you expressed it, carried on the backs of the others?—That is right.

11466. But you tried to allot these gangs of ten in such a way that each gang should be equal to the other gangs as far as possible?—Quite right.

11467. Would you just tell us how the men were paid, and how much they received, each gang?—Well, each man had a minimum rate of 4*d.* per hour, and then we gave them a shilling a rod for double digging.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11468. In addition?—No; we allowed them to work six hours a day, which amounted to 2*s.*; if they could earn 2*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.* 3*d.*, or 2*s.* 4*d.*, or whatever they could earn, they had it at the end of the week as a bonus. Their work was measured up every day, and, as I have said before, there were some men that could earn a good deal more than they received. If they had taken the money they did earn at the rate of a shilling per rod, they would have taken as much as (often) 3*s.* 6*d.* per day.

11469. But they could not earn that, because they were working in the gang?—The other men kept them back.

11470. And I suppose those men you speak of who were the best workmen are probably the men who have got employment now?—That is quite right.

11471. Then as to the whole work, when you look back upon it, I suppose it has not been a paying transaction from a business point of view?—No. Some people say "not"; others say "yes." I suppose the same amount of work taken by contract may be done for less money than that was done for, but, taking all-comers, I question whether it would or not. You see, if the contractor undertakes to do a certain amount of work of that kind, he picks his men. We took all-comers, as it were, you see; they were registered; they had a ticket given to them, they were sent to me, and I found them work.

11472. You were bound to find work for them whether you thought them good workmen or not?—If they were willing. If they would not work, and we thought they could work, we had to pay them off.

11473. Then you think that is the chief reason why, if it had been a contract, it would not have turned out a paying contract, because you had to take the weaker men?—That is right; but I believe it could be made to pay at that rate.

11474. Even on that system?—Not taking all-comers. I meant at the rate of pay.

11475. Supposing you had been the contractor, and had been able to pick your men, and took the best half of the men that you did employ, you think you might have made a paying job of it?—Yes, I have no doubt at all about it.

Mr. *Mather.*

11476. Was there anything in the nature of the employment there that you think was unfitted for the mixed quality of men you received; that is, was the work very hard for them; was it

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

a cruel test of their willingness to do the work you had to offer them?—No, it was not a "cruel test," because the minimum rate was 2*s.* per day, or 4*d.* per hour.

11477. I do not mean in the sense of payment, but you took, as you say, all sorts and conditions of men, mixed men?—Yes.

11478. Were some of them so incapacitated from doing such heavy work as digging, excavating, and so on, as to make it rather a cruel test upon their physical strength in that given work?—Well, some of them could not do a day's work; perhaps 5 per cent., five men out of every hundred.

11479. When they first came?—Well, they never would be able to do a good day's work (not a real day's work) not like another man; and I question whether at the rate of 1*s.* per rod at any time they would be able to earn their 2*s.* per day.

11480. Were they physically weak?—Physically weak.

11481. I suppose many men came to you emaciated and hungry in a certain sense?—That is right.

11482. They only came to you at the last stage of their distress?—We had men who when they had been at work perhaps an hour or two hours of a morning would fall down in the winter time; in the cold weather they would fall down. We have had to carry them into the shed and give them a little food and bring them round, and in the course of a week they have been men who could do a day's work.

11483. After having been a fortnight or three weeks with you were they reinstated in fairly good health and capable of doing a decent day's work?—I believe all the men (I might say the bulk of the men) were in better condition when they left us at the fortnight's end than when they came to work.

11484. After a fortnight?—That is the time we kept them on. We kept about 23 or 24 men as leaders continuously.

11485. Did you find as a rule that the men took up the work quickly; were they able to go and dig and wheel the soil, and so on quickly?—They did very well indeed, some of them.

11486. You told me that when you were there you had all sorts of men; even a watchmaker was there digging, a man accustomed to such delicate work as watch making was there digging the soil?—Yes.

11487. You had clerks?—Yes, clerks.

11488. Men unaccustomed to use tools were there?—We had clerks, electricians, engineers (various descriptions of engineers), and as I have said before, chippers and drillers, boatbuilders, and those who were on boat building when at their trade; of course, we had a good number of painters, bricklayers, and men of that kind, because it was a hard winter, and those men were out of work, they could not get any work in their own business, and they registered and came to work with us.

11489. On the whole, do you think the men you dealt with were fairly well satisfied with the form of relief you offered them in the way of work?—The way they wanted to keep on showed that, because it was hard to get rid of them at the end of their fortnight; they would ask for another week, or a day or two, or something of that sort.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

Mr. *Stuart-Wortley.*

11490. What was the maximum number of hours a day that you allowed them to work?—Six.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11491. Do you think you permanently relieved and took off the labour market any casuals?—Yes, we did. Of course, some of our men, after doing the fortnight's work, would then go to stone-breaking; they would go down to the Leytonstone Union.

11492. Then you think that, in addition to the absolute relief at the moment (which, of course, is important), you did tend to cure some and to make them more permanent workers?—Oh, yes. There were plenty there that would have a knowledge of using their spade or shovel, or a pick, who had not that knowledge when they came to us, that would be tolerably decent fellows to go digging, or land-levelling, or anything of that.

11493. What proportion do you think you permanently improved, I mean as to the power of earning their own livelihood?—Well, I should say, taking those out that were used to that kind of work, or who had been brought up to it when young, taking painters and paperhangers, and those kind of men, they got so that they could use a spade or shovel, or wheel a barrow on a plank; those men would be capable of going to work at that kind of work wherever it was offered to them at any time now, I believe, which they could not do when they came to us.

11494. You mean you technically taught them?—Yes.

11495. Did ever any of them show signs of being more independent at the end and more reliant upon themselves than when they came to you?—The painters and paperhangers, of course, we lost; they came, perhaps, two or three times during the cold weather, but as soon as the weather broke and they could go to their own trade we lost those kind of men.

11496. But did not you tell us that a great many wanted to stop longer even after the inclement weather was gone?—Yes, those would be men who had not found employment; but I said those who had a trade (painters and paperhangers for instance) were anxious to stay as long as the frost stayed, or as long as the hard weather was on. As soon as they could get work, of course they left us; but we always had more men than we could take on from the registry office.

11497. The fact is that you paid them lower wages as an inducement to them to leave you as soon as possible, I suppose, and go to their own trade?—That was the reason.

11498. I believe the works are not going on now, are they?—No.

11499. If they were going on now, do you think you would still have men in this height of the summer?—We had men at the finish, the latter end of the first week of May; I think it

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

was about the 9th or 10th of May. We had men then that had not work to go to, as far as I know, although the numbers had decreased considerably; both the registry offices were closed, but these were men that continued to go for tickets each week, they went to see if they could get a ticket.

11500. Were they the physically weak ones?—No.

11501. Could those do a good day's work?—They were merely surplus labourers in the borough; there were more men in the borough than there was work for, and these were men that had not work, therefore they came there.

Chairman.

11502. Is there anything else specially connected with the work that you would like to say to us?—Well, I have been here in the Committee-room on Tuesday and to-day and I have heard the gentlemen speaking (Mr. Martin and the gentleman that was here to-day), and I think there have been some good suggestions put. There ought to be something that would be of a permanent character for the unemployed. Where the money is to come from is for you gentlemen to decide, and how it is to be done. There ought to be something of a permanent character, because I believe the unemployed men can earn what they take; and if it was systematised the unemployed men could earn money enough to keep themselves and their families, I believe.

11503. You are speaking, I suppose, of the times of special distress, are you?—Yes; or wherever in any district or in any borough there are more men than there is work for. I suggest continuous land cultivation.

11504. Do you think that West Ham is exceptional in having more men about than there is work for?—Yes.

11505. You think it is rather a special case?—Yes, I do. On account of the docks and various factories down there, there is a glut in the labour market there, and there are more men out of employment, as a rule, in that district than in most districts round London.

11506. Do you think these men could be taken out on to the land in the country?—I think so.

11507. Are you able to find out at all from the men you employ whether any of them would like to go back into the country again?—Yes.

11508. They would?—I know they would. I have had a little fruit farm for two or three years; planted a new plantation; I have gone to live at Bishops Stortford, and there are men who have offered to go with me down there if I could take them.

11509. From West Ham?—From West Ham. They have offered to go down there if I could take them, and work down there at the same wage that they had on Wanstead Flats.

Mr. Bartley.

11510. Two shillings a day?—Twelve shillings a week, sir. Of course, I do not say that is sufficient; I am only saying what they told me.

Mr. *Mather.*

11511. They were willing to go?—They were willing to go.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11512. And men who really would work?—Really would work. One of those men was a ganger down at the Flats; he had a gang to lead.

Chairman.

11513. I suppose you know men who have come up from the country who have got very good jobs of work, and who have stayed in them?—Yes, a number of them.

11514. But there are a certain number like those you speak of who have not managed to find work?—That is so.

11515. And you think some of those would be willing enough to go back to the country if they could find work?—That is the way they express themselves.

11516. But I suppose they are not willing to go back to look for work in the country?—No; it would be no use to go to look for work in the country, I think unless there was a situation provided for them.

11517. Is that because they guess that there are already in the country quite as many labourers there as are wanted?—That is right.

11518. But your opinion is that some method should be found, when there are a large number of unemployed men, to carry on something like the work that you carried on?—Yes.

11519. Or some similar kind of work in the country?—I think so.

11520. Of course, it might cost a good deal?—Yes, it would cost a good deal, because there would have to be provision made (unless the railways would carry them cheap) for housing them; there would have to be cottages erected, or something like that.

11521. But you think it would have a good influence upon the men?—I think it would have a good influence upon the men and it would relieve the labour market; it would take the men from the congested parts of the city or manufacturing districts round the city.

11522. Do you think it would improve their character?—I do.

11523. Keeping them steadily at work instead of idling about?—That is right.

11524. Of course, if done on a very large scale, it might cost a great deal of money; you admit that?—Yes, that is the question to be settled. Where is the money to come from; who will find the money?

Mr. *Mather.*

11525. But you say they could support themselves if they got the chance?—That is my opinion.

11526. It is only the start that would cost the money?—That is it. I believe they would support themselves.

Chairman.

11527. The pick of them?—Yes, the pick of them, of course.

11528. There will always be some weak ones who cannot earn their living?—There are always some weak ones.

Mr. *Mather.*

11529. You would select those that were to go to the land?—I think they ought to be selected.

Mr. *Mather*—continued.

I believe two or three good workmen can carry another one (a middling one) with them as a rule; and on the land there are always some easier jobs than others; they are not all hard.

Mr. *Bartley.*

11530. They do not like carrying them, do they?—Those that are good workmen object.

Mr. *Bartley*—continued.

We appealed to their common sense, and told them that the others had got to live the same as they, and we generally got on pretty well with them.

Chairman.

11531. That was the condition on which they came there?—That is it.

Tuesday, 25th June 1895.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Acland.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Bousfield.
Mr. John Burns.
Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Heywood Johnstone.
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Logan.
Mr. Mather.
Mr. Pickersgill.
Mr. David Randell.
Mr. Round.
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham*).

MR. MATHER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. WILLIAM VALLANCE, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

11532. YOU are, I believe, Clerk to the Whitechapel Board of Guardians?—I am.

11533. You are prepared to give evidence as to the powers at present possessed by the guardians in dealing with cases of distress?—Yes.

11534. What are the powers at present possessed by the guardians in dealing with cases of distress resulting from want of employment?—The powers possessed by Poor Law authorities in relation to cases of distress are derived from the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. In London and other urban unions the Out-door Relief Regulation Order of the 14th December 1852 operates. The rule which at present obtains under this Order, requires, as a condition of relief to able-bodied male persons on the ground of want of employment, either the acceptance of an order of admission to the workhouse or the performance of an adequate task of work as a labour test. There are exceptions; firstly, in cases of sudden and urgent necessity; secondly, where a person requires relief on account of any sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity affecting such person or any of his family; thirdly, in the case of a person requiring relief for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the burial of any of his family; fourthly, in the case of the wife or children of a person in custody of the law; and fifthly, in the cases of resident families of non-resident heads. There is also a general power given to guardians to depart from the regulations as to relief (with one exception) if, upon consideration of the special circumstances of any particular case, they deem it expedient to do so, conditional upon their reporting the same, and the grounds thereof, to the Local Government Board; the relief so given between the date of such departure and the receipt of an answer from the Board not being deemed to involve any violation of the order.

Chairman—continued.

11535. Can you furnish any comparative statistics of Whitechapel pauperism, say in 1870 and 1894?—Taking 1870 and 1895, the number of in-door paupers (being the mean of those relieved on the 1st of July and the 1st of January) was 1,311 in 1870, and 1,546 in 1895. The number of out-door paupers was 3,554 in 1870 and 322 in 1895, making the total for 1870, 4,865, and for 1895, 1,868. It is difficult to make any useful comparison of the number of able-bodied males included in the foregoing figures, since there was no separate infirmary in 1870, and there was, consequently, no sub-division of those in health and those who were temporarily disabled by sickness. It may be stated, however, that the highest pauperism was reached early in February of 1870, when the number relieved in-door was 1,419 and out-door 5,339. Of the former, 112 were classed as "able-bodied," and of the latter 1,683 were so classed.

11536. May I ask what is the population of the district over which you have control?—74,462.

11537. Were there any special circumstances connected with the administration in the former year, that is, 1870?—Prior to 1870, the policy and practice of the guardians were neither better nor worse than those adopted in other unions in other parts of London and the country. Its relief system may be said to have been that of meeting apparent existing circumstances of need by small doles of out-door relief; the in-door establishments being reserved for the destitute poor who voluntarily sought refuge in them. Able-bodied men, who applied for relief on account of want of employment, were set to work, and in return were afforded out-door relief in money and kind. Under this system the administration was periodically subjected to great pressure; so much so that the aid of the police had not infrequently to be invoked to restrain disorder and afford necessary protection to officers and property. Police protection was

Chairman—continued.

even at times required for the guardians during their administration of relief. The experience of the winter of 1869–70, however, was such as to lead the guardians to review their position, and earnestly to aim at reforming a system which was felt to be fostering pauperism, demoralising the poor, and wronging the ratepayers.

11538. Since these changes were made has there been any recurrence of the exceptional pressure upon the rates?—In Whitechapel, notwithstanding the virtual suspension by the guardians of the Order of 1852 (that is the Order in operation as regards out-door labour) there has been, during the last 25 years, no exceptional pressure (other than upon the accommodation of the separate infirmary) such as to necessitate the opening of a labour yard. During the last winter, there was perhaps more distress than in previous years, owing probably in part to the severity of the weather and to other seasonal causes, not forgetting the fact of the stranding of many of the second-rate labourers, as the result of labour combinations. But notwithstanding that the Poor Law authority and organised and unorganised charity have sometimes been exercised as to the best means of providing for the absolute wants of the poor without undermining their self-respect and engendering a pauper spirit, it has not been found necessary, to adopt exceptional measures of relief.

11539. Has any complaint been made by the clergy, workers among the poor, and others, that the policy of your administration has entailed suffering?—On the contrary, there is evidence of sympathy and approval on the part of the clergy and workers. The clergy are well represented on the board of guardians; the Whitechapel Committee of the Charity Organisation Society are working in closest co-operation; and others who are and have been for years seeking to ameliorate the condition of the poor, largely concede that the policy of the guardians has been contributing to a better state of things. They bear testimony to the fact that, however sad may be the lives of many, there has broadly been a raising of the standard of existence; whilst certain it is that more money is put by in savings banks, rents are better paid, and the poor are more contented than formerly.

11540. Can you tell us what changes have been brought about as the result of the experience of the winter of 1869–70 to which you have alluded in relation to the relief of the able-bodied who seek relief on account of want of employment?—First of all, as to workhouse administration, I may say the Whitechapel guardians have invariably sought to carry out fairly the policy of neither making paupers nor neglecting them. In their workhouse the guardians have departed from the ordinary workhouse rules as regards labour, by practically abandoning oakum-picking, stone-breaking, and other forms of associated labour, and by substituting corn and coffee grinding, wood-chopping, sawing and bundling (for firewood), flour-dressing, mat-making, tin working, smith-work, carpentering, coffin-making, furniture-making, bricklaying, whitewashing, painting, glazing, chimney-sweeping, shoemaking, tailoring, water-pumping, gardening, &c.; workmen from outside being seldom required for repairs or work of any kind. Bread-making has also been carried on in the workhouse in supersession of contract for the supply of bread for the use of the workhouse and infirmary. Generally, it may be said that every pauper is employed to the extent of his ability, and, as far as possible, at his own trade; the guardians relying upon dissociation and continuous occupation for discipline, and the absence of extra diet for work, however skilled and useful, as a deterrent. In connection with workhouse administration I may also say that, perhaps, the weakest point is in the withdrawal, more or less, of official supervision and restraint during the evening hours; that is, from half-past six to eight o'clock; there being thus no check upon idle and vicious conduct and conversation. In 1882 the guardians sought to remedy this state of things by obtaining the authority of the Local Government Board to enforce the attendance of the able-bodied male paupers in the dining hall of the workhouse during these evening hours; and they appointed a male and female instructor (a male instructor for the male paupers, and a female instructor for the female paupers) to attend in the evenings; the design being, not so much to impart mental instruction as to exercise a salutary restraint upon conduct and conversation during the evening hours, and to inspire the paupers to renewed efforts to obtain an honest livelihood. The occupation, in the case of the men, consists mainly of readings and conversation upon such subjects as the conditions of labour, emigration, thrift, temperance, &c., the subject being usually suggested to the instructor by some passing event in connection with labour. The female instructor is usually occupied with the women in their day-room in reading useful and helpful books, and in teaching those who are willing to learn to knit socks, scarves, infants' boots, hats and hoods. The arrangement, it may be said, has been entirely successful, and is still at work; whilst more than one Board of Guardians has, after a visit to the workhouse, readily followed the example. Beyond this, I may say that the master and matron have strict instructions to carefully examine into all cases of admission to the workhouse for the first time, and, where a man is admitted for the first time apparently with some good in him, and he answers his questions satisfactorily, the master is authorised and required to communicate at once with me if any difficulty arises, or, if he sees it is a case which can be so helped, to send a note with the inmate to the Charity Organisation Society. In the case of young women who come for the first time, in the same way the matron seeks to save them from contact with others by taking the young woman into her own kitchen and keeping her as her servant, and providing for her sleeping in a separate dormitory with some three or four others of a similar character. In that way we seek by every reasonable means to make the workhouse helpful rather than hurtful.

11541. As to the labour test, you have adopted, I believe,

Chairman—continued.

I believe, useful and profitable employment upon which these inmates may cheerfully engage, rather than the ordinary labour test associated with the workhouse?—The experience which the guardians had prior to 1870 led them in that year to close their labour yard. The guardians felt it was a more eligible form of relief than the workhouse; that it was attractive to the least deserving, and encouraged the belief that the legal obligation is imposed upon guardians to find employment for persons out of work. The guardians felt that it was susceptible, too, of great abuse, and partook of the character of relief in aid of wages since the man whose employment at his trade is partial, or, during a portion of the year, only sees in this form of relief the undertaking of the State to make good the deficiency. I am strongly of opinion that recourse to the labour yard under the regulation order should be reserved alone for periods of exceptional pressure. With regard to the enforcement of the workhouse test, especially in seasons of great depression, there is a public sentiment antagonistic to a form of relief which is thought to have the effect of breaking up the home, not that it really does involve the breaking up of the home, but in order to avoid even the appearance of breaking up the home, the guardians in 1887 sought from the Local Government Board the issue of a modified workhouse test Order, which would enable them to deal with any exceptional pressure by reason of want of employment without involving the appearance of breaking up the home. Under that Order the guardians were able to ensure the preservation of the home, and, at the same time, to afford adequate security against a too ready dependence upon the rates for support by affording out-door relief to the wife and dependent children of an in-door pauper so long as he might remain an inmate of the workhouse. The Order was not put in operation, because the guardians undertook that only under exceptional circumstances would they do so; but under this Order it is provided that, "(1) The guardians of the poor of the said Whitechapel Union may, after not less than seven days' notice of the proposal has been sent by their clerk to each guardian, pass a resolution to the effect that the powers conferred by this Order shall be exercised by them, and a copy of such resolution shall be forwarded to us by the clerk within one week of the same having been passed; (2) From and after the passing of such resolution, and during a period not exceeding 12 calendar months from the date hereof, it shall be lawful in the case of any able-bodied male person relieved in the workhouse who shall not in any one week, ending on Saturday, be absent from the workhouse more than once, not for a period exceeding 24 hours, nor without the consent of the guardians, for the guardians to relieve out of the workhouse the wife and family of such able-bodied person, and also such person while he is so absent from the workhouse as aforesaid without setting such person to work during the time or any part thereof that he is so absent." Those were the provisions of the Order which we sought. But under ordinary circumstances the necessities of out-of-work cases were found to be sufficiently

Chairman—continued.

met by dealing in a precisely similar way with the head of the family as regards the workhouse, and asking organised charity to co-operate with us to keep the home together outside. It was only, indeed, in the event of any exceptional pressure, when voluntary charity would be unable to cope with the numbers, that we sought this authority from the Local Government Board. The authority contained in that Order has expired, but, no doubt, were the necessity again to arise, there would be no difficulty in obtaining its re-issue.

11542. Have you tried any experiments connected with the employment of the unemployed upon land?—For several years past the Whitechapel Guardians have at intervals had under consideration the question of the practicability, either directly by the development of the workhouse system in the direction of an agricultural training home, or indirectly by co-operation with voluntary agencies, of so dealing with the destitute unemployed as to make the provision as helpful as possible without inducing recourse to the poor rates for support. It is to be observed that at no time have the guardians sought to break down the barriers of a wise and sound administration, but rather to strengthen their position as strict administrators by bringing ameliorating influences to bear upon exceptional cases of distress. It is now more than seven years (it was in January 1888) since the Whitechapel Guardians appointed a committee to consider a "proposal for training able-bodied men in country pursuits by means of the Poor Law." It was felt at that time that the statistics of pauperism had to be read side by side with such facts as the congested condition of the labour market, the gravitation of the unemployed to London and other large centres, the gradual decline of agriculture in England, the dependence of the country upon foreign importations, not alone for bread but for meat, fruit, poultry, and dairy and garden produce, and the loss of wealth and employment which is involved in the abandonment of the soil. It was felt, however, that the condition precedent to any single Board of Guardians formulating a practicable scheme must necessarily be that such Board is in actual need of workhouse accommodation, since in the hands of the guardians an industrial or agricultural settlement in the country would be but an additional form of in-door relief. Under these circumstances, and having in view that the guardians were not in need of such accommodation, it was decided to invite the guardians of all the Metropolitan unions to meet in conference to consider the question. I may say the proceedings at those several conferences will probably be found very interesting; but of course it would take too much time to go into them.

11543. Are they published anywhere?—Yes; I can furnish the Committee with the whole of them; and I think they would really be very interesting, as showing what led to the various conclusions. The consideration of the question, as I have said, commenced in January 1888, and in July of the same year we invited

Chairman—continued.

the Metropolitan guardians to meet in conference, and we met in Bartholomew Close.

11544. Can you give the reference to where the reports of this Conference are published?—I can furnish the Committee with the full report, if necessary.

11545. Can you give the reference, in case we desire to investigate them?—Yes; the references to the reports are as follows:

Report of a committee of the guardians of the Whitechapel Union, charged with the consideration of the subject of a "Proposal for training able-bodied men in country pursuits by means of the Poor Law, dated 13th March 1888" (marked A.):

Report of a committee appointed at a meeting of metropolitan guardians, held on the 23rd of July 1888, "To inquire into the practicability of establishing Agricultural Training Homes under the direction of the Poor Law" (marked B.):

Report of the "Agricultural Training Homes" Committee of the guardians of the Whitechapel Union, dated 13th June 1893 (marked C.):

Report of committee of the guardians of the Whitechapel Union *re* "English Land Colonisation Scheme," dated 3rd October 1893 (marked D):

Report of the General Purposes Committee of the guardians of the Whitechapel Union *re* the "Unemployed," dated 9th April 1895. (*See* Appendix).

As I have said, the Metropolitan guardians did so meet in conference, and, as a preliminary result, they decided to appoint a committee to inquire into the practicability of applying the surplus labour of the Metropolis to the unproductive land at home and in the Colonies, and the desirability of carrying out a scheme for this purpose under the direction of the Poor Law. At this stage it was felt by the Committee that they could not hope to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion without the advice and assistance of practical agriculturists, especially those connected with Poor Law administration; and they accordingly sought the co-operation of chairmen of boards of guardians in the county of Essex, in the direction of obtaining advice, information and assistance, to enable the Committee to determine the practicability of the proposal. The replies received were not encouraging, and as it was found that the "Mansion House Conference on the Unemployed" was then actually engaged in launching a scheme of "Agricultural Colonies to be worked by private charity," the Conference eventually decided to allow the question to stand in abeyance pending the result of the Mansion House experiment.

11546. Was that the Abbey Mills scheme?—It was an experiment prior to that which fell through altogether. Then, in common with a large and thoughtful section of the community, it was felt by the guardians that the last word had not been said upon the subject; hence in April 1893 the guardians again took up the subject and re-appointed the Committee. The Committee forthwith called in experts to confer with them, including Captain Gretton, Mr. Hazell, and Captain Trotter; and the opinions of selected farmers and others were sought as to whether men with their families could be housed, employed, and fitted for emigration in consideration of a capitation payment. The replies received were as discouraging as those received in response to previous communications, one farmer and guardian observing that "if the man's morale and physique promised well for the experiment, he would not be in such a case." I may say my own personal conclusion upon the whole matter was expressed in the following paragraph of the report which I drafted: "In considering how far the establishment of an agricultural training home or homes is practicable, it has to be borne in mind that guardians can alone approach the question from the standpoint of the Poor Law, that is to say, from the standpoint of a possible development of the workhouse system in the actual treatment of paupers. If the guardians should foresee the possibility of improving their workhouse administration and making it more and more contributory to character, self-help, and industrial habit, they would doubtless be quite justified in seeking means to that end, whether in the direction of the establishment of an agricultural training home or otherwise, seeing that any such provision would not be, in its broad features, a departure from the principle of maintaining the able-bodied poor in a well-regulated workhouse. Possibly this even may seem to some an ambitious proposal; and yet those with the largest experience are those who are most conscious of the importance of making in-door relief as helpful and as little hurtful as possible. On the other hand, there are those who would so far relax Poor Law administration as to attract the 'out-of-work' men of the better sort who now suffer privation rather than resort to the Poor Law; and truly if one class more than another claims commiseration and practical help, it is the latter. But here it seems to be of great importance, not only to give priority to the claims of the self-respecting poor in any scheme for improving the condition of the unemployed, but equally so to see to it that the aristocracy of the poor are not attempted to be saved from the Poor Law by the machinery of the Poor Law. Such an attempt would be fatal to character, and inimical to the interests of the community. Dealing, therefore, with this class alone, and not with those who already resort to the workhouse, your committee are of opinion that any scheme of an agricultural training home must necessarily be carried out by a body or organization outside the Poor Law." The committee re-opened the question again in October 1893, upon receiving a communication from the English Land Colonisation Society, and a proposal was made that the guardians should send a given number of men to a farm, under the direction of the society. One paragraph from the report of the committee of the guardians will explain what was done under that: "Your committee desire in the first place to state that they are not prepared to make any recommendation which is calculated to weaken or impair the strict, uniform, and well-understood administration of the last 23 years. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that during that long period the guardians have continuously sought to attract voluntary

Chairman—continued.

voluntary and organised effort in the direction of saving the poor from pauperism ; and the success of that effort has been contributory to the unbroken character of the administration. In the present instance, it does not appear to your committee to be necessary for the guardians to indentify themselves with the actual scheme of the English Land Colonisation Society, by giving adhesion to its principles, supporting its methods, predicting its success, or even accepting the statements as regards the condition of the labour market upon which the proposals are based. The society is about to try an experiment in the direction of saving a certain class of destitute poor from pauperism ; and the sole question is whether the guardians will, under the statutory powers already existing, be disposed to assist in it, seeing that as regards Poor Law administration it will in no way impair its efficiency, whilst in the present state of public opinion it will present an interesting and instructive object lesson." The result of this was that, inasmuch as the society itself had not a farm, and Mr. Walter Hazell was actually starting at that time a small farm at Langley in Essex, where "men and youths, who, either from their own fault or from misfortune, cannot make a living in London, are received for a few weeks with a view to giving them a little farm training and to test their fitness to work on the land in Canada," the guardians sent six men to this farm.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

11547. I suppose they were selected men ?—They were men who first of all appeared to be fit for out-door work, and who in the next place were willing, and apparently thoroughly in earnest. The condition was that they should "grind their teeth," as we term it, at work, that they should go to this farm for 12 months, and then be willing to be sent to a colony where they would be received and put on to their feet. In my letter to the Local Government Board I give the particulars of the six men sent, and then the letter continues : "With regard to the result of the experiment of sending the above-named men to the farm, I am to state that, in the opinion of the guardians, it has been as successful as could have been expected. Of the six men, but one failed to reach the farm, whilst the reports from the manager of the conduct of the remaining five have been entirely satisfactory."

Chairman.

11548. Did they walk to the farm from London ?—In two cases they walked ; in the other cases we thought that test was too stringent. I may say that Mr. Hazell's own suggestion was that that test should be first applied ; but, as I say, it was only applied in two cases. The letter goes on to say :—"It is to be observed, however, that in sending the men to the farm the guardians had no intention of seeking a relaxation of the conditions of relief to the able-bodied as a class, but alone to justify the rule of a strict application of the workhouse test by co-operating with voluntary agencies in the redemption from pauperism of those who do not ordinarily resort to the workhouse, and who give evidence of an

Chairman—continued.

earnest desire to obtain their own livelihood. The six men who were selected were the only inmates of the workhouse who were adjudged to come within that category, and who, at the same time, appeared to be physically equal to the strain and exposure of farm work, and they were sent to the farm on the distinct understanding that they conducted themselves well, and would, at the end of a probationary period of training, be willing to emigrate to an English colony. The two men who have already emigrated to New Zealand left this country full of hope and an evident determination to do their best. They had, physically and otherwise, greatly improved by their stay at the farm ; they expressed their gratitude for what had been done for them, and gave assurance that if they failed in the colony it would be from no fault of their own. At the same time it is to be borne in mind that the cases referred to were specially selected, and that the scheme of agricultural training of which they were the subjects was upon a very small scale, the number of men at the farm being but eight or 10 in the whole. Had the selection of men been a less careful one, or had the numbers at the farm been relatively large, the results would doubtless have been much less satisfactory, whilst the farm itself would have been but attractive as an eligible form of subsistence rather than as a means to self-dependence." Now with regard to the small number selected there, I may just say that later I sought to find other men to send to the farm in succession to those men, and I got the master to schedule all the men in the workhouse at that time (it was in the early part of this year) who were classed for diet as able-bodied. Some of those men are over 60, yet they are classed as able-bodied ; some are partially disabled ; but, as a rule, they are so classed because they are presumed to be able, if they make an effort, to do a day's work and to get their living. One hundred and eight was the total number of men classed as "able-bodied" in the workhouse. Out of those the number scheduled as physically able to do out-door work was 46. Of the 46, the number willing to go to a farm for training and thence to Canada was 30 ; 16 were not willing. Of the 30 who expressed their willingness to go to the farm but eight were adjudged by the master to be really fitted to bear the strain and exposure of farm work; that is to say they had been about London so long that they had got into an enervated condition. The judgment of the master appeared to be justified in the fact that a week afterwards, when I was about to give practical effect to the application for the eight, the master said, "Of the eight I scheduled last week, seven have taken their discharge"; they took advantage of the first gleam of sunshine, and they had gone, and but one remained. That one I did not deal with at the time, for the reason that I was very anxious in sending men to the farm to send them always in company, so that each man when he left this country for Canada or New Zealand, or anywhere else, might have a chum with him. I think there is a good deal in that.

11549. Have you anything to say as to the nature of the co-operation of the guardians with

Chairman—continued.

the organised charity and local authorities; you have already told us that you worked in connection with the charitable organisations in your district to some extent in keeping the homes together of those persons whom you give relief to?—Yes. The relieving officers are in constant communication with the Charity Organisation Committee with a view to saving from the Poor Law those who being in stress of circumstances are obliged to apply for assistance. In seeking the co-operation of the Charity Organisation Society we are not seeking the co-operation of another body akin to the Poor Law; because all the assistance which is rendered to the poor through that society (I am speaking of Whitechapel), is rendered through the hands of an almoner, who in every way that is possible tries to befriend them and to save their character and their position. Then for several years the guardians have endeavoured to secure the co-operation of the District Board of Works in cases of what I term "the front rank of resident heads of families of good character whose homes are worth preserving," the condition beyond that alone being that they have had a *bonâ fide* residence in the district for six months. Then, of course, we seek also the co-operation of organised charity for keeping decent homes together.

11550. You have not assisted in starting any relief works in Whitechapel during the last 25 years?—No. It seems to me to be at least open to question whether relief works would, under any circumstances, afford permanent relief. They can only be started by the Government or by local authorities. If by the former, it will be the admission of what seems to be a dangerous principle, the duty of the State to interfere with the law of demand and supply, finding work for the unemployed; and if by local authorities, it will practically amount to a system of present relief out of the pockets of a future generation, regardless of the fact that our children will have their own obligations to meet. Relief works, too, in common with special funds and organisations to meet distress, attract the poor from the country to towns, and add considerably to the distress itself, whilst the future conditions of labour are thereby rendered increasingly difficult.

11551. Have you formed any general conclusions from your long experience in Whitechapel as to the necessity of changes in legislation or administration to meet the question of the unemployed?—Beyond one point, which I will mention presently, I have not. I regard it as in the truest interests of the poor that the administration of the Poor Law, whilst humane, should be strict, uniform, and well understood; and I am of opinion that any attempt to break down the barriers against a too ready resort to it will but sap the foundation of individual character and injuriously affect the interests of the community. I am further of opinion that the existing law, wisely administered and working in co-operation with organised charity, is sufficient to meet ordinary recurrent or seasonable periods of distress; and that where, by reason of exceptional circumstances which prevent such charity from dealing effectively with the families of charge-

Chairman—continued.

able heads, the Modified Workhouse Test Order, if put in force, would afford the ready means of keeping decent homes together, whilst placing the burden of sacrifice upon the man alone. The one point which I have excepted is that in relation to the "habitual pauper," to the man who uses the workhouse as a legal means of avoiding the necessity for self-maintenance by work; who makes a workhouse harder in its conditions than it would otherwise be; who enters and leaves the workhouse (subject to 24, 48, or 72 hours' notice, as the case may be) as and when he pleases. I do not recommend that additional powers of detention be given to guardians, but I am strongly of opinion that the present time, when it is sought to alleviate the conditions of Poor Law relief, is opportune for the Legislature to deal sternly with a stalwart class, who, month after month, and year after year, demand their "legal right" to relief upon the mere asking, who openly defy those who administer the relief, and make no honest effort for their own maintenance. I should be glad to see some provision of law by which a given number of admissions to the workhouse, extending over a given period, should constitute the subject an "habitual pauper," and render him liable to be taken before a justice; and that, upon being brought before a justice, he should be liable, at the discretion of the justice, having regard to all the circumstances, to be convicted and sent to a workhouse, or farm colony, to be specified, there to be detained and trained in useful labour during a period of not exceeding three months. When I speak of my conclusions, I should like to repeat that I still do not think that the last word can have been spoken upon the question of the unemployed so long as there remains in this country any large quantity of land actually out of cultivation, and whilst there is labour that can be put upon that land. Of course in what form it can best be done, or in what way a man can be brought into contact with the land, and be made to see that his future is assured by that contact, it is difficult at present to say. But, at all events, whilst I say that I have not reached any general conclusion, I make the reservation that in my judgment the last word has not been spoken in relation to bringing men back to the land.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

11552. You have a large Jewish population in Whitechapel, have you not?—Yes.

11553. You have given us the population; do you know how many foreigners you have in Whitechapel. The last Census would give it, I suppose?—I do not know what the figure would be. I have a return here of the nationalities of the inmates of the workhouse, and the number on the 17th March 1894; but that, of course, would not give you the population.

11554. No, that would not give me what I want. Do you not find very few Jews apply to you for relief?—Comparatively few; but there is an increasing number resorting to the Poor Law now. The Jewish Board of Guardians experience more and more the difficulty of dealing with their poor in the absence of a workhouse test

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

test. If the Jewish authorities were to start an institution akin to the workhouse, or if the guardians were to establish a workhouse for the Jewish poor, it would be regarded abroad as a refuge for the Jewish poor, where their religious obligations would be met in every possible way, and so the Jewish Board are fearful of attracting a larger number from Russia and Poland than at present are attracted.

11555. The relief they give is out-relief?—The relief they give is out-relief; but I think the relief that is given now is smaller in extent, and that the money is much more largely spent in paying the expenses of the people back to their own country, or forwarding them on to America, and dealing with them in some such way as that.

11556. You would agree, would you not, that the circumstances of Whitechapel are rendered peculiar by the very large foreign population there?—I should not like to say that Whitechapel can be actually and fairly compared with another urban district, not alone by reason of the Jewish population, but by reason of the large migratory population. I think I am right when I say that there are about 8,000 beds in our common lodging-houses, shelters, and refuges, and institutions of that kind, so that you get a migratory, nomad, population passing through the union, and that condition of things would not exist in perhaps any other union in London or the country.

11557. With regard to the work done in your workhouse, you try to give useful work, as you tell us?—Yes.

11558. Does that involve disposing of any of the products outside?—There is a small quantity of wood sold; but it is kept within very restricted limits. I think I am right if I say it does not average 1*l.* or 2*l.* a week.

11559. When you enumerated the number of industries that were carried on, that was simply work proper to the workhouse?—Yes, work proper to the workhouse.

11560. I understood you to say that you relied on dissociation for discipline; I did not quite understand what you meant by that; in the workshops do they not work together, or is the work cellular?—It is not cellular. By dissociation I mean that the forms of employment are so varied that the men are distributed all over the place. You will find one man in a section of the building cleaning windows, another engaged in painting, lettering, or graining, and another couple of men or three men will be in the carpenters' shop. That is what I mean by dissociation; they are so distributed about the place that that is in itself a sort of discipline; because the habitual pauper is a man who likes a crowd; he likes to sit down on a seat and break stone or pick oakum if he can carry on conversation with his fellows. So that in those cases we rely upon dissociation for discipline.

11561. Coming to another point, I gather your experience has been that very few persons who come upon the Poor Law are fit for farm work?—But few.

11562. Very few?—Very few.

Chairman.

11563. You say that very few are capable of going on to farm work; is that because of their emaciated condition, or because they are altogether unfit physically?—It is the result of their long town life.

11564. Bad food do you mean?—Bad food, and too frequently drink; they have sunk down to such a level that they do not care to obtain regular employment.

11565. You refer to their moral and physical unfitness?—Yes.

Mr. *Pickersgill.*

11566. Supposing they had three months during which they had good air and were well fed, would their physique be sufficiently good for farm work; or do you regard them as permanently disqualified for farm work. Let us take their physical fitness first, and then we will talk about their moral fitness afterwards?—There is no doubt that if a man were sent to a farm and required to remain there for three months, the effect of his stay there upon him physically would be to vastly improve his condition. Morally it would have the effect of inducing, to some extent at all events, in some men the habit of regular work. If a man has been required to work regularly and conscientiously during a period of three months, it is possible by that time that he would have got to such a condition morally that he might be disposed to turn round and respond to any efforts on his behalf.

11567. But may we take it that in the sifting that took place before these men were sent, you had regard only to their then existing condition; that is, you only sent men who you thought were at that time fit for farming work?—That would be so.

11568. Now with regard to the next point, as to co-operation with the Board of Works, you said you had co-operated with them; would you just develop that a little; how have you co-operated with the Board of Works?—The Board of Works have expressed themselves quite ready to co-operate with us under the limitations which I have already explained. I designate the men "the front rank of resident heads of families, of good character, whose homes are worth preserving, and who have had a *bonâ fide* residence within the district for six months." We regard the Board of Works as not a relieving authority, but we rather take advantage of their existence and of their need in winter time of additional labour, to allow us to make a selection of good men who are worth saving, and who appear to be stranded, and to send them to the Board of Works for employment.

11569. Has your co-operation been limited to the winter?—Our co-operation has been limited to the winter.

11570. That is regarding the winter as a time of special pressure?—Yes, and when additional work is needed.

11571. To what extent have they helped you in that way?—I cannot give the figures, but the number is altogether very small.

11572. Have you sent more to them than to the farm?—Yes.

11573. Considerably more?—Considerably more altogether.

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

11574. I should like to get some idea as to what assistance they have rendered; what assistance last winter, for instance, did you get from the Board of Works?—During last winter 200 extra men were employed by the District Board of Works.

11575. Can you supplement that by the figures of the previous year?—In the previous winter 91 above the usual number were employed.

11576. Have you a casual ward in Whitechapel?—We have.

11577. Do you find that the applicants to the casual ward are increasing or diminishing, taking a broad view over some years?—Increasing.

11578. Have you found many children among them?—No, very few. The total number of children during the last completed three months (to Midsummer 1895), was 42, *i.e.*, 27 under seven years of age and 15 between seven and 15 years.

11579. You have some?—We have occasionally some.

11580. Do you keep those who apply for two days?—Two days.

11581. Invariably?—Not invariably. The superintendent of the ward is expected to exercise a good deal of discretion in regard to cases which come for the first time. A large proportion of the vagrants admitted to the ward are men who are well known to the superintendent; but if a stranger comes and there is special reason for it, the superintendent has authority, and exercises it, to discharge that man the following morning at six o'clock.

11582. When you say they are well known to the superintendent, you do not mean that they are applying a second time within the statutory period, whatever it is; is it three months or one month?—One month.

11583. Then those well-known men would only be able to come once a month?—Yes; they may apply any number of times, but their appearance at the casual ward involves their detention for four days. But the order which was issued by Mr. Ritchie not very long since has practically sapped that four days' detention.

11584. You mean by allowing them to go out at an early hour in the morning?—Yes; they have simply to say they wish to go to seek work and require a discharge, and they are discharged the second morning after admission. But I may say, in practice, we have always discharged them at an early hour. We have for years discharged them at six o'clock in the morning.

11585. Even before Mr. Ritchie's order?—Yes.

11586. Under your discretionary powers?—Yes.

11587. With respect to your suggestion as regards strengthening the criminal law; I did not quite catch what it was. Would you mind repeating what you said about strengthening the criminal law with regard to vagrants or habitual paupers. I think you suggested that those who had been frequently in the workhouse should be brought before a justice?—I am not dealing so much with a class of paupers which exists, beyond units at all events, in our own district, but which exists very largely throughout the country; that is, the class of man who leaves the workhouse this morning and goes to the relieving officer this

Mr. *Pickersgill*—continued.

afternoon; he simply comes out to loaf and hang about till night. When such a man comes to the relieving officer, and the relieving officer begins to talk to him in regard to his running in and out in this way, rebuking him for not making an honest effort to get his own living, he will simply tell the relieving officer "that is not your business: I am destitute, and you are bound to relieve me. I want an order." That is what I mean when I speak of a man openly defying the officers. The man asks for the relief which the law provides for him, and to which he is legally entitled, and he insists upon having it. The man leaves the workhouse this morning, we will say, and goes in to-night. No sooner does he get inside the gates than he gives his notice for discharge. He has been frequently in and out, consequently the utmost notice that can be required of him is 72 hours.

11588. That is the class of person you propose to deal with in this exceptional way?—Yes; and it is the existence of that class which makes the administration of the workhouse harder; because in adapting the arrangements to all classes, we cannot shut out the fact of this class, and so consequently it bears more hardly than it otherwise would upon the others.

11589. I think I understand; you propose that if that sort of thing is repeated a certain number of times, it should constitute a sort of quasi criminal offence?—Yes. I do not suggest that the guardians should be endowed with further powers of detention (for I do not think they should), but that the magistrate should make an order if there has been a certain number of admissions within a given period, or extending over a given period; if, for instance, the number of admissions during 12 months has been such as to show the man to be an habitual pauper, and if the magistrate so adjudicates, he shall be liable to be sent to a workhouse or farm colony in the country, and kept there for three months.

11590. If that suggestion were carried out, it involves the setting up of a new sort of establishment, a sort of penal colony, does it not?—Yes, clearly.

Mr. *Lawrence.*

11591. Do I understand that you would specially favour penal colonies with a view to dealing specially with the vagrant class that is now becoming so extensive?—I would.

11592. We have had certain evidence as to the existence of pauperism in Bethnal Green and Stepney; is the condition of your union so different from that of Bethnal Green and Stepney as to make your experience of the careful and strict administration in your union only partially applicable to the cases of those adjoining unions?—Bethnal Green may compare, perhaps, broadly with the conditions of Whitechapel, except that they have not the large number of Jews resident in the district. I do not know what their migratory population in lodging-houses and shelter is, but probably it is not so large as in Whitechapel; otherwise I should think as a whole the districts are very much alike.

11593. Would you acknowledge that your administration has rather tended to weed that class of people out of your district, so that there is not really so much poverty owing to the operation

Mr. *Lawrence*—continued.

tion of your administration of poor relief?—No; I have never been able to reach the conclusion that the administration is responsible for the migration of the poor into other districts.

11594. That you deny?—That I deny.

Chairman.

11595. Have you noticed any repugnance on the part of the poor of your district to seek aid from you in consequence of being disfranchised by that act and losing their vote?—No, I have not; in my experience I have never had a case brought under my notice.

Chairman—continued.

11596. Do you think it is a just thing that a man should be disfranchised on receiving poor relief, either in the workhouse or as out-relief?—I have formed no strong opinion in regard to the Parliamentary franchise, but I do strongly feel that those who receive relief should not be voters for Poor Law guardians.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

APPENDIX, No. 8. PAGE.

Paper handed in by Mr. F. E. Hilleary, LL.D., 15 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 491

APPENDIX, No. 9.

Papers handed in by Mr. F. E. Hilleary, LL.D., 15 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 493

APPENDIX, No. 10.

Paper handed in by Mr. F. E. Hilleary, LL.D., 15 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 497

APPENDIX, No. 11.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, 26 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 499

APPENDIX, No. 12.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, 26 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 500

APPENDIX, No. 13.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, 26 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 501

APPENDIX, No. 14.

Paper handed in by Mr. A. N. Henderson, 29 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 502

APPENDIX, No. 15.

Paper handed in by the Chairman, 5 April 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - - 503

APPENDIX, No. 16.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, 26 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 505

APPENDIX, No. 17.

Paper handed in by Mr. James Bell, 7 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - - 514

APPENDIX, No. 18.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. G. Willink, 10 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 522

APPENDIX, No. 19.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. G. Willink, 10 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 523

APPENDIX, No. 20.

Paper handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, K.C.B., 14 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 524

APPENDIX, No. 21.

Paper handed in by Mr. J. T. Dodd, 3 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 534

APPENDIX, No. 22. PAGE.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, 22 March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 534

APPENDIX, No. 23.

Paper handed in by Mr. Mather, M.P., 17 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 535

APPENDIX, No. 24.

Paper handed in by Mr. Bramwell Booth, 28 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 543

APPENDIX, No. 25.

Paper handed in by Mr. Bramwell Booth, 28 May 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 544

APPENDIX, No. 26.

Paper handed in by the Chairman, 26 June 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 546

APPENDIX, No. 27.

Paper handed in by the Chairman, 26 June 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 546

APPENDIX, No. 28.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, March 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - 547

APPENDIX, No. 29.

Papers handed in by Mr. Vallance, 25 June 1895 - - - - - - - - - - - - 548

APPENDIX, No. 30.

Papers handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, K.C.B. - - - - - - - - - - - - - 557

APPENDIX, No. 31.

Paper handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, K.C.B. - - - - - - - - - - - - - 563

APPENDIX, No. 32.

Scotland.—Letters received from Local Authorities in reply to a Circular Letter, addressed to them by the Local Government Board at the request of the Chairman of the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 565

APPENDIX, No. 33.

Paper handed in by the Chairman - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 801

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX, No. 8.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *F. E. Hilleary*, LL.D., 15 March 1895.

In reply to the *Chairman*.

I AM unable to ascertain precisely the exact number of individuals receiving relief as distinguished from cases, but taking it that one person receives relief once a week, and also the number 77,628 as the number of cases relieved in December 1893 and January 1894, and dividing that number by 9 (the number of weeks in that period you get roughly) 8,600 cases. If it is desired to get at the number of families relieved, the 8,600 should be again divided by 5, which is believed to be the average number of a family.

Replying to Mr. *Renshaw*.

POPULATION.

PARISH.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
West Ham	37,639	66,969	128,953	204,902
Walthamstow	7,144	11,094	21,715	46,346
Leyton	4,794	10,363	23,016	43,906
Woodford	3,458	4,608	7,154	10,984
East Ham	2,264	3,990	9,713	28,741
Wanstead	2,697	5,143	9,413	26,282
Little Ilford	594	675	993	3,969

Replying to Mr. *Bolton*.

NUMBER of Summonses issued for Rates during the last three years:—

In 1892	1,140	summonses.
„ 1893	1,074	„
„ 1894	1,129	„

Replying to Mr. *Pickersgill*.

THE men selected to be sent to the farm at Hadleigh were able-bodied and single. Five of them have been relieved subsequently.

Replying to Mr. *Burns*.

THE cost of emigration for the last three years has been 36*l*. 10*s*. 11*d*. Nine people only have emigrated, consisting of a family of seven and two others.

Replying to Mr. *Burns*.

NUMBER of Casuals in December 1893	922
Ditto - - January 1894	830
Ditto - - February 1894	787
Ditto - - January 1895	999
Ditto - - February 1895	596

There is accommodation for 79 males and 27 females.

Replying to Mr. *Burns*.

NUMBER of Persons relieved during October and November 1893:—

Week ending 5 October	6,271	
Ditto - 12 October	6,769	
Ditto - 19 October	7,210	
Ditto - 26 October	7,494	
		27,744
Ditto - 2 November	7,753	
Ditto - 9 November	8,188	
Ditto - 16 November	8,593	
Ditto - 23 November	9,032	
Ditto - 30 November	9,103	
		42,669

Replying to Mr. *Burns*.

NUMBER of Persons relieved during March and April 1894 :—

Week ending 1 March	8,608	
Ditto - 8 March	8,538	
Ditto - 15 March	8,574	
Ditto - 22 March	8,587	
Ditto - 29 March	8,202	
		42,509
Ditto - 5 April	7,990	
Ditto - 12 April	7,763	
Ditto - 19 April	7,771	
Ditto - 26 April	7,731	
		31,255

Replying to Mr. *Burns*.

As to what proportion of the persons relieved in the stone yard are permanent paupers, I have taken the week ending 20th February, as follows :—

14 February -	850	19 February -	691
15 February -	899	20 February -	683
16 February -	952		4,736
18 February -	661		

and I find the actual number of persons relieved is 1,195, no man being counted twice, or approximately about one-fourth of the cases relieved.

Replying to Mr. *Burns*.

THE application to the Local Government Board for sanction to a loan for relief works was made on the 4th February 1893. Notice of inquiry to be held was received on the 8th April 1893, but as previously stated the works were not delayed on this account.

The daily average number of bundles of wood made from January 1894 to January 1895, was 1,228.

The circumference of the bundles is 14½ inches and 13½ inches, and they are sold respectively at 3*s*. 3*d*. and 2*s*. 11*d*. per hundred bundles.

APPENDIX, No. 9.

PAPERS handed in by Mr. *F. E. Hilleary*, LL.D., 15 March 1895.

WEST HAM EMPLOYMENT RELIEF WORKS.—WANSTEAD FLATS.

PARTICULARS of Work done and Wages paid from 1st January 1895 to 25th January 1895.
(The First complete Month's Returns.)

1895.—1st January to 5th January.

	Money Earned.	Wages Paid.	Profit.	Loss.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Work done, 215 square rods at 2*s.*	21 10 –			
Wages paid, 50 men	—	29 14 –	—	8 4 –
20 men, levelling, staking, &c.	—	12 – –		
Total Wages	—	41 14 –		
70 men employed :—				
50 men, digging, wheeling, &c.				
20 men, preparing levels, staking, &c.				

1895.—7th January to 12th January.

	Money Earned.	Wages Paid.	Profit.	Loss.
Group I. :	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Work done, 145·78 rods at 7*d.*	4 4 2			
Earth removed, 675 cubic yards at 6*d.*	16 17 6			
	21 1 8			
Wages paid, 54 men	—	24 16 6	—	3 14 10
10 men preparing levels, &c.	—	6 – –		
Total Wages	—	30 16 6		
Men employed :—				
33 for 1 week.				
21 for 2½ days.				
10 for 1 week, preparing levels, &c.				
Group II. :				
Work done, 109 rods at 7*d.*	3 3 –			
Earth removed, 278 cubic yards at 6*d.*	6 19 –			
Earth removed, 370 cubic yards at 3*d.*	4 12 –			
	14 14 –			
Wages paid, 21 men	—	12 12 –	2 2 –	—
10 men, preparing levels, &c.	—	6 – –		
Total Wages	—	18 12 –		
Group III. :				
Work done, 33⅓ square rods at 2*s.*	3 6 8			
Work done, 36·7 rods at 7*d.*	1 1 6			
Earth removed, 370 cubic yards at 3*d.*	4 12 –			
	9 – 2			
Wages paid, 21 men (3½ days)	—	7 17 6	1 2 8	—
10 men preparing levels	—	6 – –		
Total Wages	—	13 17 6		

1895.—14th January to 19th January.

	Money Earned.	Wages Paid.	Profit.	Loss.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Group I.:				
Work done, 192·8 rods at 7*d.*	5 12 –			
Earth removed, 555 cubic yards at 6*d.*	13 17 6			
	19 9 6			
Wages paid, 40 men at 12*s.* per week	—	24 – –	—	4 10 6
20 men levelling, &c.	—	12 – –		
Total Wages	—	36 – –		
Group II.:				
Work done, 115 rods at 7*d.*	3 7 1			
Earth removed, 106 cubic yards at 6*d.*	2 13 –			
	6 – 1			
Wages paid, 13 men at 12*s.* per week	—	7 16 –	—	1 15 11
7 men levelling, staking, &c.	—	4 4 –		
		12 – –		
Group III.:				
Work done, 40·5 rods at 7*d.*	1 3 7			
Earth removed, 409 cubic yards at 6*d.*	10 4 6			
	11 8 1			
Wages paid, 13 men at 12*s.* per week	—	7 16 –	3 12 1	—
7 men preparing levels, &c.	—	4 4 –		
		12 – –		
Group IV.:				
Work done, 82·6 at 7*d.*	2 8 2	—		
Wages paid, 13 men at 12*s.* per week	—	7 16 –	—	5 7 10
7 men pegging, levelling, &c.	—	4 4 –		
		12 – –		
Group V.:				
Work done, 38 rods at 7*d.*	1 2 2	—		
Wages paid, 22 men for 3 days	—	6 12 –	—	5 9 10
2 men pegging, levelling, &c.	—	1 16 –		
		8 8 –		
Group VI:				
Work done, 38 rods at 7*d.*	1 2 2	—		
Wages paid, 22 men for 3 days	—	6 12 –	—	5 9 10

1895.—20th January to 25th January.

	Money Earned.	Wages Paid.	Profit.	Loss.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Group I.:				
Work done, 118 rods at 7*d.*	3 8 10			
Earth removed, 410·6 cubic yards at 6*d.*	10 5 3			
	13 14 1			
Wages paid, 21 men at 12*s.* per week	—	12 12 –	1 2 1	—
Group II.:				
Work done, 41·5 rods at 7*d.*	1 3 4			
Earth removed, 505 cubic yards at 6*d.*	12 12 6			
	13 15 10			
Wages paid 20 men for 6 days and 4 men for 3 days	—	13 4 –	– 11 10	—
Group III.:				
Work done, 36 rods at 7*d.*	1 1 –			
Earth removed, 570 cubic yards at 6*d.*	14 5 –			
	15 6 –			
Wages paid, 20 men for 6 days " 2 " 1 " " 4 " 3 "	—	13 8 –	1 18 –	—
Group IV. and V.:				
Work done, 241 rods at 7*d.*	7 – 7			
Wages paid, 50 men 6 days 1½ hours, 40 men 2 days	—	39 5 –	—	32 4 5
Group VI.[*]:				
Work done, 81·5 rods at 7*d.*	2 7 6	—		
Wages paid, 35 men, some for 3 days, some for 2 days, and some 1 day	—	7 16 –	—	5 8 6

[*] Foreman's remark.—This is a very bad group, and will not work.

WEST HAM RELIEF FUND.

Central Committee.

Hon. Treasurer:
A. F. Hills, Esq., D.L.

Chairman:
David Howard, Esq., J.P.

Hon. Secretary:
R. M. Kindersley, Esq.

Major G. E. Banes, J.P.
C. Boardman, Esq.
Councillor W. Comerford.
Councillor G. H. W. Courtney.
Rev. J. Foster.
Alderman A. Govier.

W. G. Harris, Esq.
Alderman G. Hay, J.P.
S. H. Johnson, Esq.
H. Lester, Esq.
Councillor C. Mansfield.

Rev. R. Arnold Pelly.
Alderman F. Smith, J.P.
Ven. Archdeacon Stevens.
J. Wayland, Esq.
Councillor P. Womersley.

Charitable Relief Committee (North).

W. T. Allen, Esq., Hon. Sec.
Rev. H. Burnside.
Miss Duncan.
Rev. J. W. Eisdell.
Rev. J. W. French.
Alderman Hay, J.P.
Rev. H. Hudson.
Rev. R. A. Pelly.
Rev. J. Quarterman.
J. D. Samson, Esq.
Ven. Archdeacon Stevens.

Charitable Relief Committee (South).

Miss Boyd.
Rev. J. Foster, Hon. Sec.
Rev. T. H. Gilbert, M.A.
Rev. G. H. Gillett, M.A.
Rev. W. Harris.
Sister Katherine.
Rev. W. A. McKee.
Rev. H. Ridley.
Rev. F. H. Taylor.
Rev. R. Partner.
Miss Price.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted at a meeting of the central committee, held at Stratford Town Hall, on Monday, 17th December 1894:—

Resolved—1. "That this committee gladly accepts the suggested co operation of the West Ham Guardians in all that pertains to the administration of the poor law, but deprecates any confusion of function which might result from the conjunction of poor law guardians in the experiment of relief by wage-paid employment."

Resolved—2. "That this committee has learned with deep regret of the rescission by the West Ham Council of their resolution to co-operate with them in the experiment of relief by wage-paid employment, and is of opinion that all the circumstances of the rescission are greatly to be deplored, as tending to the discrediting of the stability and authority of the Council of West Ham."

Resolved—3. "That this committee do proceed with their relief works, and that application be made to the Local Government Board for a grant in aid of their operations."

Resolved—4. "That as far as possible all work carried out under the authority of this committee be pieced and measured up upon prices agreed by them, which shall be not less than the current market prices for a similar class of work."

(*b*) "That no workman shall receive less than 4*d.* per hour; that the men shall be squadded in groups of 10 to 20; that the work done by them every week shall be accurately measured up, and that any difference of profit between the agreed piece-prices and the wages paid shall be distributed among the members of the group in proportion to the wages they have earned."

(*c*) "That not less than two weeks of six days' employment be given to each applicant; that not more than six hours a day be worked."

(*d*) "That every applicant shall be expected to do the best he can, even though the work be unaccustomed, and that continued laziness or misconduct will render any workman liable to discharge."

(*e*) "That every applicant for employment must give proof that he has been resident in the borough not less than six months."

(*f*) "That preference, in taking on, be given to married men with families."

Resolved—5. "That to maintain the district rate of wages, it is expedient to draw a strong clear line of demarcation between the wages paid in ordinary industrial employment and those paid in employment relief, and that an arrangement whereby every unemployed worker may be kept in beneficial employment as 12*s.* per week, or half trade union pay, with the opportunity of earning more by diligent and capable service, is for the common benefit not only of the individual, but of society at large, and is a form of legitimate trade socialism which deserves to be encouraged and extended."

Employment Relief.

Registers were opened on 28th December 1894, at the Conference Hall, West Ham-lane, Stratford, E., for the northern portion of the borough, and at 39, Hallsville-road for the southern portion. The following is a copy of a page in the register, showing the particulars required from applicants before work could be given them:—

Date.	Name (in full).	Address.	Age.	Married or Single.	Children.		Previous Employment.	Trade.	Length of Residence in Borough.	Remarks.
					No.	Age.				

The number of names registered during each week are as follows:—

	North.	South.
Week ending 4th January 1895	263	253
Ditto 11th „ „	111	113
Ditto 18th „ „	64	43
Ditto 25th „ „	63	76
Ditto 1st February „	85	112
Ditto 8th „ „	10	25
Ditto 14th „ „	55	36
	651	658

The total number registered to date (27th February) is 1,400, of which 700 have been given a fortnight's employment on Wanstead Flats.

The following table shows the number of men who, after starting work, have left before completing their fortnight's work:—

(*a*) Dissatisfied with work or wages	9
(*b*) Obtained other employment	6
(*c*) Ill	6
(*d*) Faintness while working	2
(*e*) No reason given—presumably obtained other employment	28

Charitable Relief.

The places and times at which the charitable relief committees meet to receive applications are:—

North Workmen's Hall, Stratford—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays - 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

South Tidal Basin Lecture Hall—Tuesdays and Fridays - 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Books containing recommendation forms similar to the following are sent to all the clergy and ministers in the districts.

Name and address

Character

Length of residence in borough

Number in family

Relief now being received, if any

Personal knowledge of recommender, *re* applicant

No case is attended to unless the applicant brings one of these forms properly filled up and signed.

Up to the present—

429 cases have been relieved in the North, with an expenditure of 65*l*.

1,220 cases have been relieved in the South, with an expenditure of 145*l*.

APPENDIX, No. 10.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *F. E. Hilleary*, LL.D., 15 March 1895.

A BILL to provide for the Economical Administration of Relief.

(A.D. 1895.)

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows :—

Employment relief districts and funds.

1.—(1.) Every borough or that urban district which contained according to the census of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one a population of not less than ten thousand and the residue of every administrative county exclusive of all such boroughs and urban districts in the county shall be an employment relief district for the purposes of this Act.

(2.) There shall be formed for each employment relief district a fund to be called the Employment Relief Fund of the district.

(3.) The local authority (hereinafter defined) of each such district shall contribute to the Employment Relief Fund of the district in each year a sum not exceeding the amount subscribed thereto in the same year by voluntary contributions and not exceeding one pound for every hundred of the population of the district.

Charitable relief districts and funds.

2.—(1.) Every poor law union situate wholly in one administrative county and where a union is situate in two or more counties such part thereof as is situate in each county shall be a charitable relief district for the purposes of this Act.

(2.) There shall be formed for each charitable relief district a fund to be called the Charitable Relief Fund of the district.

(3.) The local authority (hereinafter defined) of each such district shall contribute to the Charitable Relief Fund of the district in each year a sum not exceeding the amount subscribed thereto in the same year by voluntary contribution and not exceeding one pound for every hundred of the population of the district.

Local authorities for purposes of Act.

3.—(1.) The local authority of an employment relief district shall be—

(*a*) In the case of a borough the Council of the borough.
(*b*) In the case of an urban district other than a borough the District Council.
(*c*) In the case of the residue of a county the County Council.

(2.) The local authority of a charitable relief district shall be the board of guardians of the poor law union of which the district forms the whole or part.

(3.) The contributions of a local authority to a relief fund shall be paid—

(*a*) In the case of a borough council out of the borough fund or rate :
(*b*) In the case of a district council out of the rate applicable to their general expenses of the execution of the Public Health Acts :
(*c*) In the case of a county council out of the county fund or rate ;

Provided that parishes in a borough which is a separate relief district shall not be assessed to county contributions in respect of sums contributed by a county council to a relief fund :

(*a*) In the case of a poor law union out of the poor rate or where a union comprises two or more relief districts a rate to be levied as part of the poor rate in parishes in the district.

Contribution from Exchequer to relief funds.

4. There shall be paid in every year to the Employment Relief Fund of each employment relief district and to the Charitable Relief Fund of each charitable relief district out of moneys provided by Parliament a sum equal to whichever is the smaller of the following amounts namely—

(*a*) The agregate amount of the sums contributed to the fund in that year by voluntary contribution and by the local athority :
(*b*) An amount equivalent to one pound for every hundred of the population of the district.

Joint committees or administration of relief.

5.—(1.) For each employment relief district or charitable relief district a joint committee shall be established consisting of fourteen members or such other number as the Local Government Board may prescribe in each case.

(2.) One half of the members of the joint committee shall be appointed by the local authority out of their own number and the other half shall be elected in manner directed by the rules to be framed by the Local Government Board by the voluntary subscribers of amounts not less than one pound to the Employment Relief Fund or Charitable Relief Fund as the case may be in the year last past out of their own number.

Provided as follows :—

(*a*) When a county council appoints members to a joint committee a county councillor elected for an electoral division wholly comprised in a borough which is a separate relief district shall not take part in the appointment or be appointed ;
(*b*) Where a poor law union comprises two or more charitable relief districts the appointed members of each district shall be appointed by the guardians elected for parishes or other areas in the district from their own number.

(3.) The term of office of a member of a joint committee shall be three years and one-third as nearly as may be of the appointed and elected members respectively shall go out of office in each year on a day to be fixed by the Local Government Board for the election of new members.

(4.) A retiring member may be re-appointed or re-elected.

(5.) If any default is made in appointing or electing any of the members of a joint committee the members actually appointed and elected shall act so long as the default continues.

Administration of relief funds.

6.—(1.) Subject to schemes to be approved by and to the control of the central committee established by this Act an Employment Relief Fund shall be administered by the joint committee of the employment relief district for the relief of distress in their district by the employment of labour and a charitable relief fund shall be administered by the joint committee of the charitable relief district for charitable relief of distress in their district.

(2.) The joint committee of a relief district shall for the purposes of this Act from time to time obtain reports from each rural parish in their district and they may employ the council of each such parish as their agents to administer any relief in the parish.

(3.) Subscribers to an employment relief fund or to a charitable relief fund may either subscribe to the fund generally or may appropriate their subscriptions to relief in any rural parish in the employment or the charitable relief district as the case may be and there shall be expended in each year in employment and charitable relief respectively from the employment or charitable relief fund as the case may be of the relief districts in which the parish is situate an amount not less than four times the amount of the subscriptions so appropriated for employment and charitable relief respectively in that parish.

(4.) The necessary expenses of a joint committee in the administration of a relief fund shall be paid out of the fund.

Central relief committee for each county.

7.—(1.) There shall be in each county a central committee for the control of employment and charitable relief in the county consisting of one member from the joint committee of each employment relief district and charitable relief district in the county for every ten thousand of the population of the district or fractional part of ten thousand.

(2.) The central committee shall frame schemes for the administration of employment and charitable relief in their county and shall have the custody and control of the relief funds of all relief districts in the county.

(3.) The necessary expenses of a central committee shall be paid out of the relief funds under their control in proportion to the amount of those funds.

(4.) Every scheme for employment or charitable relief shall provide for confining the relief to persons having resided for at least a year in the relief district.

(5.) Every scheme for employment relief shall provide—

(*a*) That no person shall be employed on relief works for more than six days of six hours each in any week or (subject as hereinafter mentioned) at a rate of wages exceeding two-thirds of the current rate of wages in the district:

(*b*) That the work shall be pieced at market rates and properly measured up and that any balance of profits shall be paid to those who have earned it in proportion to the wages earned by them and in addition to their wages:

(*c*) For the proper supervision and inspection of the work;

(*d*) That the relief works shall be for the benefit of the district or the inhabitants thereof.

Annual reports.

8.—(1.) Every joint committee and central committee under this Act shall send and give to the Local Government Board such reports returns and information as to the administration of this Act in their district as the Board require.

(2.) The Local Government Board shall in each year lay before both Houses of Parliament a return stating the proceedings and receipts and expenditure of committees under this Act.

Audit of accounts.

9.—The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of Committees under this Act and their officers shall be audited by a district auditor and the enactments relating to audit by district auditors of accounts of urban sanitary authorities and their officers and to all matters incidental thereto and consequential thereon shall apply accordingly.

Rules for carrying out Act.

10. The Local Government Board shall frame rules for the following purposes:—

(*a*) The time and manner of election of members of joint committees by the subscribers to the relief fund (including special rules with respect to a first election under this Act and the retirement of the first elected members) and the filling of casual vacancies:

(*b*) The manner of appointing central committees:

(*c*) The manner of keeping subscription lists for voluntary contributions to relief funds and of ascertaining and certifying the amounts received in each year:

(*d*) The proceedings of joint committees and central committees and the manner of recording and publishing their proceedings:

(*e*) The manner of keeping the accounts of relief funds and the dates to which they are to be made up.

Ascertainment of population.

11.—(1.) The population of any district for the purposes of this Act shall unless the contrary is expressed be the population according to the last census for the time being.

(2.) Where by the alteration of boundaries or otherwise the population of any district cannot be ascertained it shall be estimated for the purposes of this Act by the Local Government Board and their estimate shall be conclusive.

Relief not to disqualify.

12.—Where any enactment imposes any disqualification on persons being or having been in receipt of relief the disqualification shall not extend to relief received under this Act.

Application of Act to Scotland and Ireland.

13.—(1.) In the application of this Act to Scotland:—

(*a*) The employment relief districts shall be the counties (including therein burghs represented on the county council) and burghs other than those represented on the county council and the local authority thereof respectively shall be the county council or town council;

(*b*) The charitable relief districts shall be the parishes within the meaning of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1894 and the local authority thereof shall be the parish council.

(2.) In the application of this Act to Ireland—

(*a*) The employment relief districts shall be the counties and municipal boroughs containing a population of not less than six thousand and the local authority thereof respectively shall be the grand jury or town council or town commissioners and the rate out of which contributions to relief funds are payable shall be the grand jury cess or borough rate and in the case of a county the members appointed to a joint committee shall be appointed by the grand jury from the justices of the peace:

(*b*) The charitable relief districts shall be poor law unions and the local authority thereof shall be the board of guardians.

Short title.

14. This Act may be cited as the Administration of Relief Act 1895.

APPENDIX, No. 11.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, 26 March 1895.

I.—TABLE showing the Value of the Imports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise into the Port of London,* and at other Ports of the United Kingdom, in each of the Years 1889 to 1893 inclusive.

Year.	London.	Other Ports.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.
1889	144,711,517	282,926,078	427,637,595
1890	144,515,992	276,176,005	420,691,997
1891	149,473,286	285,967,978	435,441,264
1892	144,273,415	279,520,467	423,793,882
1893	141,560,207	263,127,971	404,688,178

* Including Queenborough.

II.—TABLE of above Imports in which the Figures in each Column for 1889 are represented by 1,000.

Year.	London.	Other Ports.	TOTAL.
1889	1,000	1,000	1,000
1890	999	976	984
1891	1,033	1,011	1,018
1892	997	988	991
1893	978	930	946

[Includes Tilbury and Queenborough.]

APPENDIX, No. 12.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, 26 March 1895.

(*Labour Gazette*, July 1893.)

Paris Labour Exchange.—Sir J. C. Crowe, Her Majesty's Commercial Attaché at Paris, under date of 30th June last, reports that for some time past there has been disagreement between the Government and the syndicates connected with the new Labour Exchange, which has been built and endowed with an annual subsidy of 2,000*l.* by the Municipality of Paris. The syndicates exist and hold a legal status under a statute of 1884, which enacts that persons engaged in a common trade may form themselves into associations for the purpose of developing their business interests, and combine with other syndicates to form a union. The most important of the conditions to which these syndicates are subject are contained in Clause 4 of the law, which is as follows:—

> The founders of every professional syndicate must deposit its bye-laws, together with the names of those who are in any way charged with its administration or direction, at the office of the Mayor of the locality in which the syndicate is established, or, if in Paris, at the Prefecture of the Seine, and this action must be repeated on the occasion of each change in the directorship or in the bye-laws.
>
> The bye-laws are to be forwarded to the Procureur de la Republique by the Mayor or the Prefect of the Seine.
>
> The members charged with the administration or direction of any syndicate must be of French nationality and in the enjoyment of civil rights.

The law, however, does not assign any fixed time for the performance by the syndicates of the acts above enumerated, and there are, in consequence, numbers of associations established in a permanent way at the Bourse du Travail in Paris which have not complied with the statute. It appears that a syndicate is illegal if composed of members of different trades. The bye-laws to which such a syndicate might agree would probably not meet with approval from the legal authorities. Hence the issue of an order in the first days of June under which the Prefect of the Seine proclaimed that syndicates which did not comply with the provisions of the fourth clause of the Act of 1884 should on the 5th of July cease to hold their offices in the Bourse du Travail.

The Bourse has a central hall, which holds 3,000 people, and large rooms in which workers on strike can meet, committee rooms where syndicates deliberate, offices where business is transacted, a library with books of reference and many newspapers. The number of associations privileged to use the building is now about 270. The grant of the municipality in aid of the syndicates varies with the number of associations; at first it amounted to 500 francs; now it is 184 francs per syndicate. The municipality recently passed a resolution increasing the annual grant to 75,000 francs (3,000*l.*). But the Government have not yet sanctioned this resolution, which is subject to their approval, as indeed is the distribution of funds, which they may suspend if they think fit. The right to control the grants is one of those to which the syndicates object. The Government has threatened to stop the distribution of funds to such syndicates as neglect to comply with the rules laid down by the statute of 1884. Great indignation has been displayed in consequence of this intervention. Meetings have been held and proclamations have been placarded by the syndicates, and a general strike is threatened for the 10th July. One of the chief occupations of the syndicates should be to find employment for men out of work, but it appears that in 1891 there were only 70 syndicates attached to the Bourse du Travail which attended to this business; and the number of operatives engaged either permanently or temporarily was only about 32,000. The syndicates occupy themselves with promoting other special objects, such as the formation of a federation of labour exchanges, which claims to include 800 syndicates representing 900,000 workers.

> [*Note.*—The Government has since taken action in the matter, and the Central Labour Exchange, as well as its branch establishment in the Rue Jean Jacques Rousseau, were, on the afternoon of 6th July, occupied, and remain closed for the present.]

(*Labour Gazette*, August 1893.)

Paris Labour Exchange.—"The Journal des Debats" states that, in consequence of the closing of the Paris Labour Exchange, the *Allemanist* section of the Socialists issued a manifesto on 23rd July advocating a general strike. The unions, however, have declared themselves averse to such a step. The trial of the members of the Labour Exchange, charged with non-compliance with the law of 1884, began early in August, and resulted in each of the defendants being condemned to pay a fine of 50 francs and costs. The court also ordered the dissolution of all the syndicates involved, including the Council General of the Executive Commission of the Bourse du Travail.

(*Labour Gazette*, September 1893.)

Closing of the Paris Labour Exchange.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Labour Exchange and the managers of the irregularly constituted trades unions, held on 14th August, it was decided to appeal against the sentence pronounced against them.

"The Bulletin de l'office du Travail," October 1894, states that in 1892 the Paris Labour Exchange registered 53,691 applications for work, and 36,611 offers of work. It found permanent work for 38,611 persons, and temporary work for 10,281. A labour exchange has meanwhile been established in the Rue de Boudy, but it receives no municipal aid. No information is given as to its operations or constitution.

APPENDIX, No. 13.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, 26 March 1895.

X.—Loan Societies.

Twelve new societies were certified during 1892, under the Loan Societies Act (3 & 4 Vict. c. 110).

The following is a summary of the return relating to Loan Societies for the year ending 31st December 1892, presented to both Houses of Parliament in compliance with the requirements of the Loan Societies Act (3 & 4 Vict. c. 110), but not ordered by either House to be printed; together with a comparison of its results with those of the previous year :—

Table XXIII.

	Total.	Increase in 1892.
Number of loan societies to which forms of return were sent	721	
Number of societies making returns	358	60
Number of members	40,492	5,916
Amount actually advanced and paid by depositors and shareholders in the year	£. 92,935	£. 9,440
Total amount due to depositors and shareholders	£. 290,582	£. 31,868
Sums in borrowers' hands	£. 269,880	£. 28,173
Amount circulated in the year	£. 381,454	£. 38,384
Number of applications for loans	78,570	13,538
Number of borrowers to whom loans are granted	68,823	10,706
Amount paid for interest by borrowers or sureties	£. 20,827	£. 1,963
Expenses of management	£. 11,276	£. 1,462
Net profits, after paying expenses	£. 15,115	£. 2,324
Loss (if any) during the year	£. 4,734	£. 3,055
Number of summonses issued	3,204	659
Number of distress warrants issued	454	95
Amount for recovery of which summonses were issued	£. 7,372	£. 1,348
Amount recovered	£. 5,541	£. 648
Amount of costs incurred by society in recovering loans	£. 825	£. 136
Amount of costs paid by borrowers or sureties	£. 567	£. 80

Note.—Labour Loan Societies are not separated from other Loan Societies.

In addition to the Loan Societies included in the above Table, there were in 1892, 27 Loan Societies and Trading Banks, which were registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act of 1876. The following particulars as to these were published in the Annual Report for 1892, Part B., p. 127.

Number of societies making returns	27
Total number of members	3,089
Total receipts during 1892	£. 1,367,670
Total expenditure	£. 1,370,303

APPENDIX, No. 14.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *A. N. Henderson*, 29 March 1895.

WANDSWORTH UNION.—Comparison of Numbers in Stoneyard in 1893–94 and 1894–95.

Date.	This Year.	Last Year.
1894:		
December 12	18	174
„ 13	50	186
„ 14	64	187
„ 15	55	183
„ 16	—	—
„ 17	57	179
„ 18	42	190
„ 19	25	197
„ 20	65	197
„ 21	74	201
„ 22	71	205
„ 23	7	—
„ 24	75	—
„ 25	—	55
„ 26	6	108
„ 27	35	126
„ 28	61	153
„ 29	75	172
„ 30	—	—
„ 31	57	165
1895:		
January 1	69	171
„ 2	48	143
„ 3	84	105
„ 4	95	86
„ 5	90	79
„ 6	—	—
„ 7	52	102
„ 8	73	100
„ 9	66	144
„ 10	114	169
„ 11	128	189
„ 12	111	187
„ 13	—	—
„ 14	73	150
„ 15	93	157
„ 16	71	173
„ 17	129	188
„ 18	145	191
„ 19	135	195
„ 20	—	—
1895—*continued.*		
January 21	79	153
„ 22	91	151
„ 23	85	169
„ 24	136	159
„ 25	175	179
„ 26	177	171
„ 27	—	—
„ 28	56	89
„ 29	120	119
„ 30	139	127
„ 31	165	141
February 1	37	166
„ 2	119	164
„ 3	—	—
„ 4	125	93
„ 5	151	101
„ 6	153	105
„ 7	177	125
„ 8	195	139
„ 9	213	135
„ 10	—	—
„ 11	176	71
„ 12	213	69
„ 13	225	101
„ 14	238	111
„ 15	263	135
„ 16	266	134
„ 17	—	—
„ 18	189	56
„ 19	209	84
„ 20	233	82
„ 21	231	121
„ 22	239	139
„ 23	250	127
„ 24	—	—
„ 25	105	51
„ 26	154	80
„ 27	173	66
„ 28	164	—
March 1	176	—
„ 2	172	—

APPENDIX, No. 15.

PAPER handed in by the *Chairman*, 5 April 1895.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

Analysis of the Burgh Returns.

Returns have been received from 204 burghs, from which it appears (1) that there was no exceptional distress in 140 burghs; (2) that there was exceptional distress in 64 burghs, due in 53 cases to severe weather alone, in two cases to dulness of trade, and in nine cases to both causes.

Of the 64 burghs in which there existed exceptional distress, relief measures were taken in 62 cases. In the remaining two cases, both of them small burghs, where no measures were taken, the distress was as much due to dulness of trade as to the severity of the weather.

It should be noted, however, that out of the 140 burghs where there was no exceptional distress, in a certain number of the cases (82 in all) the town clerk reports that distress to some extent prevailed during the severe weather, but even in those cases measures were taken by 78 local authorities out of 82.

Altogether the number of cases in which relief was given either by local authorities or by voluntary agencies, whether the distress was exceptional or not, is most remarkable. Out of the 204 burghs measures were taken in 151 cases.

Tabular Statement of Burgh Returns.

1. No exceptional distress in		140 burghs.
2. Exceptional distress due to—		
(*a*) Severe weather	53	
(*b*) Other causes	2	
(*c*) Both severity of weather and local causes	9—64	
Total	204	„
3. Measures taken by	151	„
4. No measures taken by	53	„
Total	204	„

Note.—In regard to the applications for parochial relief, some nine parishes state they had one application, four or five state they had two or three or four applications. The parish of Glasgow, however, never had so many applicants for relief in the present inspector's experience, and in the parish of Govan the applications are also stated to be materially increased. A few of the other inspectors use such phrases as "some of the old men became paupers on account of the severe weather;" "the Parochial Board authorised the inspector to relieve female outworkers;" "not much increased during the severe weather;" Parochial Board have been liberal in their dealings;" "some tramps;" "not much in excess;" "slightly increased demands;" "a few pounds of casual relief given." The inspector of Edinburgh states that there have been "only six applications to me in excess of those for last year, although there are 21 more in the poorhouse at 16th instant than last year at the same time. This arises from men remaining longer in the house in consequence of the severe weather." The inspector of Elgin states, "of 103 applications for relief made to the Parochial Board from 28th December to 16th February, only 28 (11 males; 17 females) able-bodied persons sought relief, ... but very few of them were what could be held to be *bonâ fide* unemployed."

SUMMARY of Returns made by Inspectors of Poor in *Scotland* as to Distress, &c., among the Unemployed.

Counties.	Number of Parishes.	No Exceptional Distress.	Some Distress, due, 1. To Severe Weather, 2. To Other Causes.		Exceptional Distress, due, 1. To Severe Weather, 2. To Other Causes.		Measures taken to meet Distress.	No Measures taken.
	1.	2.	3.		4.		5.	6.
			1	2	1	2		
1. Aberdeen	83	47	19	2	16	—	27	9
2. Argyll	38	31	—	3	5	1	6	2
3. Ayr	46	21	7	—	17	5	19	6
4. Banff	22	13	4	—	6	1	10	—
5. Berwick	32	26	3	—	3	—	5	1
6. Bute	6	5	—	—	1	—	1	—
7. Caithness	10	6	3	—	1	1	2	2
8. Clackmannan	5	3	1	—	1	—	2	—
9. Dumbarton	12	5	1	1	6	1	5	2
10. Dumfries	43	26	10	—	7	1	16	1
11. Edinburgh	30	14	8	—	8	—	12	4
12. Elgin	19	11	5	—	3	—	7	1
13. Fife	63	43	4	1	15	4	17	3
14. Forfar	53	42	3	—	8	—	10	1
15. Haddington	24	20	—	—	4	—	4	—
16. Inverness	32	25	1	—	6	—	5	2
17. Kincardine	19	15	1	—	3	—	4	—
18. Kinross	5	4	1	—	—	—	1	—
19. Kirkcudbright	28	18	3	—	7	—	10	—
20. Lanark	40	22	6	—	12	4	18	—
21. Linlithgow	13	8	2	—	3	—	4	1
22. Nairn	4	1	1	—	2	—	2	1
23. Orkney	21	20	4	1	—	—	4	—
24. Peebles	14	12	—	—	2	1	2	—
25. Perth	71	52	9	2	9	—	16	3
26. Renfrew	17	5	1	—	11	3	13	—
27. Ross and Cromarty	33	22	3	—	7	3	10	1
28. Roxburgh	31	24	—	—	7	2	6	1
29. Selkirk	6	5	—	—	2	1	2	—
30. Stirling	23	16	4	—	3	1	7	—
31. Sutherland	13	12	—	—	1	—	—	1
32. Wigtown	17	8	4	—	5	—	9	—
33. Zetland	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	*885	596	108	10	181	29	256	42

* And nine districts of parishes with separate inspectors = 894 Returns received.

Col. 2.—The Returns here would appear to indicate that there is no distress at all. Cols. 3 and 4.—The total number of parishes in which distress appears to exist (in many cases very slightly) as shown by these columns is 298. (Note in 30 cases the distress is stated to be due not solely to the severe weather, and in nine cases it would appear to be ascribed to "other causes.") Col. 6.—By "no measures taken," is meant no measures by "public authorities" or "voluntary agencies," *i.e.*, no providing of stonebreaking, or soup kitchens, &c In the majority of the 42 cases mentioned in this column the inspectors used some such phrase as "private parties," or "private benevolence," assisting.

APPENDIX, No. 16.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, 26 March 1895.

[*See* Questions 4845, 4846].

MEMORANDUM on the Employment of WOMEN and GIRLS in Occupations in which they compete with MEN and BOYS (based on the Census Returns).

The following Memorandum has been prepared by Miss *Collet*, one of the Labour Correspondents of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade :—

IN the following comparison between the changes in employment of men and boys, and the changes in employment of women and girls between 1881 and 1891, in trades in which men and women compete, the increase in population has been taken into account. Thus, in comparing the rate of increase in the employment of women and girls with the rate of increase in the employment of men and boys, the ratio of the number of women and girls occupied in any trade to the number of female population living above 10 years of age, is compared with the ratio of the number of men and boys occupied in that trade to the number of the male population living above 10 years of age.

In England and Wales, notwithstanding the large number of "details" or headings in the Census Report (349 in all), more than four-fifths of the females returned as occupied in 1891 are included under 18 headings. Each of the remaining groups of trades placed under one heading employed less than one per cent. of the females returned as occupied; and the total returned as occupied under these 331 headings was less than seven per cent. of the number of females living above 10 years of age.

Of the 18 occupations employing any considerable number of women and girls, competition in one form or another between men and women is found to exist in the following :—the cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk trades, the tailoring, and boot and shoe trades, shop assistance, inn and hotel service, and the teaching profession.

Cotton, Cotton Goods Manufacture.

The number of females employed in the cotton trade diminished from 303 per 10,000 females above 10 in 1881, to 290 per 10,000 in 1891. The number of males employed increased from 199 per 10,000 males above 10 in 1881, to 201 per 10,000 in 1891.

The decline in the employment of women (relatively to population), shows itself at each age period above 15 years. The increase in the employment of men showed itself between the ages of 25 and 45.

The proportion of children employed increased both amongst girls and boys.

Woollen Cloth Manufacture.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 59 in 1881, to 54 in 1891.

The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 62 in 1881 to 58 in 1891, a smaller decline than that amongst females.

Worsted Stuff Manufacture.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 64 in 1881 to 61 in 1891.

The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 was 38 in 1881 and also in 1891, the actual numbers increasing at the same rate as the population.

Silk, Satin, Velvet, Ribbon Manufacture.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 41 in 1881 to 28 in 1891.

The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 20 in 1881 to 15 in 1891, a smaller decline than that amongst females.

In both cases there was an actual decrease in the number employed, not merely a decline relative to population.

Tailoring Trade.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 53 in 1881 to 78 in 1891.

The number of males per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 116 to 113.

The increase among women and girls showed itself at every age period.

The decrease amongst men (relatively to population) was very slight between the ages of 25 and 45, being 1 per 10,000. There was an increase amongst young men and boys under 25.

Boot and Shoe-making.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 36 in 1881 to 40 in 1891.

The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 202 in 1881 to 191 in 1891.

The increase among females was entirely among young women and girls under 25 years of age.

The decrease among males was entirely amongst men above 25 years of age. The increase amongst young men and boys under 25 was greater than that amongst young women and girls.

Draper, Linendraper, and Mercer.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 29 in 1881 to 40 in 1891.
The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 58 in 1881 to 57 in 1891.
The increase among women and girls showed itself at every age period.
The slight decrease amongst men was entirely amongst men between 25 and 45 years of age.

Inn and Hotel Service.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 26 in 1881 to 39 in 1891.
The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 also increased from 38 in 1881 to 44 in 1891.

Teaching.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 123 in 1881 to 126 in 1891.
The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 49 in 1881 to 48 in 1891.
The increase amongst women was entirely between the ages of 25 and 45.
The decrease amongst males was amongst young men and boys under 25 and amongst old men over 65.

TABLE showing for the whole of *England* and *Wales* the number of MALES and FEMALES per 10,000 of each Sex respectively above 10 years of age engaged in certain occupations, according to the Census of 1891, with the Increases or Decreases on the previous Census.

OCCUPATION.	Per 10,000 Females of and above 10 years.				Per 10,000 Males of and above 10 years.			
	1891.	1881.	Increase.	Decrease.	1891.	1881.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton, Cotton Goods Manufacture	290	303	–	13	201	199	2	–
Worsted Stuff Manufacture	61	64	–	3	38	38	–	–
Woollen Cloth Manufacture	54	59	–	5	58	62	–	4
Silk, Satin, Velvet, Ribbon Manufacture	28	41	–	13	15	20	–	5
Tailor	78	53	25	–	113	116	–	3
Shoe, Boot, Patten, Clog Maker	40	36	4	–	191	202	–	11
Draper, Linendraper, Mercer	40	29	11	–	57	58	–	1
Inn, Hotel Servant	39	26	13	–	44	38	6	–
Schoolmaster, Teacher, Professor, Lecturer	126	123	3	–	48	49	–	1
TOTAL for above Occupations	756	734	22	–	765	782	–	17

In the four textile groups it will be noticed that the total decrease was 34 per 10,000 females, and only 7 per 10,000 males.

The tailoring and boot and shoe trades are the only ones in this table which might seem to indicate an increase in the employment of women and girls at the expense of men engaged in the trades. The increase or decrease at each age period is therefore given here for these two trades.

NUMBER of MALES and FEMALES occupied in 1891, per 10,000 of each Sex respectively, at each Age Period, with the Decrease and Increase on the previous Census.

	Of 10 and under 15 years.			Of 15 and under 25 years.			Of 25 and under 45 years.			Of 45 and under 65 years.			Of 65 years and upwards.		
	1891.	Comparison with 1881.		1891.	Comparison with 1881.		1891.	Comparison with 1881.		1891.	Comparison with 1881.		1891.	Comparison with 1881.	
		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.
Tailor:															
Males	20	7	–	120	18	–	128	–	1	141	–	35	143	–	21
Females	32	20	–	148	64	–	66	11	–	58	8	–	30	4	–
Shoe, Boot, Patten, Clog-maker:															
Males	58	21	–	201	21	–	199	–	23	256	–	43	245	–	47
Females	28	11	–	83	16	–	33	–	–	17	–	5	9	–	3

The growth of the factory system is the cause of the changes in both trades. In neither case has there been a decline in the actual number of males employed, but the increase in numbers has not been so rapid as the increase in population; but the change from the domestic system to the factory system has not been favourable for the time being to the older men. The actual number employed are as follows:—

NUMBERS employed at each Age Period—

	Of 10 and under 15.	Of 15 and under 25.	Of 25 and under 45.	Of 45 and under 65.	Of 65 and upwards.	Total of 10 Years and upwards.
Tailor:						
Males - 1881 - - -	1,813	24,275	41,824	30,976	8,780	107,668
Males - 1891 - - -	3,218	32,564	47,272	27,741	8,701	119,496
Females - 1881 - - -	1,620	20,852	19,173	9,663	1,672	52,980
Females - 1891 - - -	5,133	42,582	26,446	12,732	2,331	89,224
Boot, Shoe, Patten, Clog Maker:						
Males - 1881 - - -	5,244	42,899	71,974	52,532	15,664	188,313
Males - 1891 - - -	9,340	54,571	73,727	50,147	14,863	202,648
Females - 1881 - - -	2,357	16,839	11,500	4,245	805	35,746
Females - 1891 - - -	4,577	23,964	13,131	3,806	663	46,141

Clearly, there has been a displacement of the old by the young. In the tailoring trade this has not shown itself among women, as the factory system, while withdrawing work from the tailor who made the garment throughout, increased the quantity of work requiring to be "finished" after machining, a process that could be performed by married women at their own homes.

In the boot and shoe trade the possibilities for home work among women are much less, and have been diminished by the factory system; the decline among elderly women is therefore only less noticeable than that among elderly men, because so few women were engaged in the industry.

Besides these large industries, there are two industries which, although employing but a small proportion of the population of England and Wales, are so concentrated as to be of considerable importance locally, viz., the hosiery and the earthenware trades.

Hosiery Trade.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 21 in 1881 to 27 in 1891.

The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 decreased from 20 in 1881 to 17 in 1891.

The increase amongst females was entirely amongst young women and girls under 25; there was a decrease amongst women over 45.

The decrease amongst males was at every age period above 15, and the decrease was an actual one, not merely relatively to population. But, as in the tailoring and boot and shoe trades, an actual diminution in numbers is only apparent after the age of 45.

Earthenware, China, and Porcelain Manufacture.

The number of females employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 18 in 1881 to 19 in 1891.

The number of males employed per 10,000 above 10 increased from 31 in 1881 to 33 in 1891, a somewhat larger increase than was shown amongst females.

In addition to these occupations there are certain occupations employing a very insignificant number of women and girls, in which, relatively to the actual numbers employed in 1881, the increase in their employment was very great in the subsequent 10 years.

Relatively to population, however, the increase has been very small, and the increase which has in each case shown itself amongst males is much more remarkable. The number of women employed is so small that in the following table the numbers are given in terms of 100,000 above 10 years:—

TABLE showing, for the whole of *England* and *Wales*, the number of FEMALES and MALES per 100,000 of each Sex respectively, above 10 years of age, engaged in certain Occupations, according to the Census of 1891, with the increase on the previous Census.

OCCUPATION.	Per 100,000 Females of and above 10 Years.			Per 100,000 Males of and above 10 Years.		
	1891.	1881.	Increase.	1891.	1881.	Increase.
Commercial Clerk - - - - -	156	60	96	2,166	1,884	282
Paper-box, Bag Maker - - - -	150	87	63	20	13	7
Tobacco Manufacturer, Tobacconist -	139	86	53	124	120	4
Civil Service (Officers and Clerks) -	75	32	43	298	240	58
Printing Trades - - - - -	39	22	17	774	639	140
Telegraph and Telephone Service -	38	22	16	100	77	23
TOTAL for above Occupations - -	597	309	288	3,482	2,968	514

In these occupations, therefore, the employment of males relatively to male population has increased nearly twice as much as the employment of females relatively to female population.

(*See* Question 4847.)

NUMBERS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

I.—FRANCE.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN FRANCE IN 1886 AND 1891 RESPECTIVELY.

[*Compiled from "Résultats Statistiques du Dénombrement," 1886 and 1891.*]

INDUSTRIES.	1886.	1891.
Mining, including Quarries and Salt Works	220,562	207,214
Metallurgical	104,718	95,373
Engineering, Tools, Cutlery, &c.	243,862	303,298
Textiles	640,369	722,210
Clothing, &c.	564,649	700,801
Leather	119,891	124,528
Glass, Pottery, Brick and Tile Making, &c.	106,812	104,011
Chemical	34,349	36,590

II.—GERMANY.*

A.—STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER† OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES IN GERMANY IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from "Statistisches Jahrbuch für das deutsche Reich."*]

INDUSTRIES.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Mines:										
Coal	207,577	214,728	218,725	217,581	217,357	225,452	239,954	262,475	283,227	289,415
Iron	39,658	38,914	36,072	32,137	32,969	36,009	37,762	38,837	35,390	36,032
Other	86,902	87,117	87,597	87,475	87,308	88,537	91,180	94,027	97,368	97,456
TOTAL Mines	334,137	340,759	342,394	337,193	337,634	349,998	368,896	395,339	415,985	422,903
Metals:										
Pig Iron	23,515	23,114	22,768	21,470	21,432	23,046	23,985	24,846	24,773	24,325
Cast Iron	43,012	45,726	46,161	45,813	48,668	53,326	59,437	63,960	62,743	61,293
Wrought Iron and Steel	86,440	86,468	84,594	85,045	89,526	94,035	101,907	106,793	107,525	107,081

* Including the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg.

† The figures in each case represent the numbers of workpeople engaged in operations *primarily* connected with the industry to which they are said to belong. (*Hauptbetriebe*).

B.—STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES IN GERMANY IN 1892.

[*Compiled from the German Industrial Census of 1882.*]

BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY.	Number of Workpeople.
Cotton	210,686
Wool	196,812
Flax, Hemp, and Jute	136,157
Silk	91,100
Hosiery	82,333
Trimmings, &c.	31,275
Crochet, Lace, Embroidery, &c.	36,760
Weaving of Rubber, Hair, and mixed goods	78,111
Net, Sail and Sack Making	18,912
Weaving (materials not specified)	4,134
Bleaching and Dyeing (materials not specified)	26,924
TOTAL TEXTILES	913,204

III.—SWITZERLAND.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE UNDERMENTIONED INDUSTRIES IN SWITZERLAND IN EACH OF THE YEARS 1880 AND 1888.

[*Compiled from Les Résultats du Recensement Fédéral du 1er Décembre* 1888.]

INDUSTRIES.	1880.	1888.
Metals and Engineering:		
Watchmaking	43,905	44,147
Machinery, tools, and iron vehicles	13,469	15,301
Textiles:		
Silk, spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing, and finishing	64,866	60,704
Cotton, spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing, and finishing	50,104	43,868
Embroidery	36,724	45,120
Clothing, &c.:		
Garments and underwear	62,224	52,420
Boots and shoes	30,540	27,393
Agriculture, cattle rearing, and gardening	540,430	481,033
Foods, drinks, and tobacco	45,972	44,115

IV.—BELGIUM.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN BELGIUM IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from Annuaire Statistique de la Belgique*, 1893.]

INDUSTRIES.	1880.	1885.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Mining:								
Metals	4,910	3,810	1,788	1,682	1,601	1,427	1,527	1,447
Coal	102,930	103,095	—	103,477	108,382	116,779	118,983	118,578
Metal Trades:								
Pig iron	3,153	2,798	—	2,783	3,151	2,784	2,827	2,726
Wrought iron, &c.	16,124	14,901	—	16,308	17,416	17,142	16,227	15,453
Steel	1,900	2,238	—	2,560	3,047	3,144	3,124	3,130
Zinc foundries	2,869	3,588	—	3,696	3,623	3,856	4,103	4,088
Engineering and tools	14,548	—	—	—	—	20,201	—	—
Textiles (except wool and silk)	79,548	—	—	—	—	82,627	—	—
Wool and silk	46,732	—	—	—	—	32,629	—	—
Clothing trades, &c.	169,148	—	—	—	—	197,227	—	—
Glassworks	10,124	14,656	—	17,240	20,262	20,664	20,257	20,711

V.—AUSTRIA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN AUSTRIA IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from Oesterreichisches Statistisches Handbuch*, 1888 *and* 1892.]

INDUSTRIES.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Mining:									
Coal	39,694	40,707	40,994	41,981	42,643	43,630	45,816	48,748	51,241
Lignite	30,045	30,920	31,540	31,826	32,459	33,296	35,254	39,508	42,924
Iron	5,322	5,549	5,242	4,490	4,106	4,404	4,961	5,751	5,506
Other	16,589	16,516	16,671	26,384	25,446	25,142	25,495	26,948	26,021
TOTAL Mines	91,650	93,692	94,447	104,681*	104,654	106,472	111,526	120,955	125,692
Metals, &c., production of:									
Pig iron	10,367	10,503	10,180	9,771	9,408	10,909	11,387	10,841	10,678
Other metals	9,620	9,302	9,719	12,197	10,459	10,310	10,245	10,660	10,312
TOTAL Smelting Works	19,987	19,805	19,899	21,968	19,867	21,219	21,632	21,501	20,990

*Naphtha and ozokerit do not appear to have been worked to any appreciable extent prior to this year, hence increase as compared with 1885 and previous years.

VI.—HUNGARY.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN MINING, SMELTING, AND SALT WORKS IN HUNGARY IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from Ungarisches Statistisches Jahrbuch, Neue Folge, I*, 1893.]

INDUSTRIES.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Mining, smelting, and salt works - -	47,858	48,633	47,787	49,823	48,846	46,134	46,701	50,437	53,769	55,471	56,984

VII.—ITALY.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY IN ITALY IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

A.—MINES AND METALS.

[*Compiled from Annuario Statistico Italiano*, 1892.]

INDUSTRIES.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Mining :											
Sulphur - -	26,078	34,431	31,851	33,030	32,927	29,875	26,851	28,888	29,028	30,503	35,813
Zinc and lead -	8,887	9,592	10,026	8,947	9,054	8,615	9,010	9,364	9,256	9,305	10,552
Other minerals -	10,455	10,303	10,531	10,523	9,810	11,747	11,202	10,859	10,697	12,296	12,088
TOTAL Mines -	45,420	52,326	52,408	52,500	51,791	49,237	47,063	49,111	48,981	52,104	58,453
Metals :											
Iron and steel -	5,732	5,757	7,103	6,871	8,560	10,567	11,714	12,749	14,518	13,799	11,395

B.—SILK.

[*Compiled from Notizie sulle Condizioni Industriali della Provincia di Como. Roma*, 1894.]

SILK INDUSTRY.	1876.*	1893.*
Throwing - - - - - - - - - - - -	11,605	16,131
Twisting - - - - - - - - - - - -	24,316	15,912
Weaving - - - - - - - - - - - -	10,713	13,818

* These figures relate to the province of Como only.

C.—COTTON.

In the province of Genoa there were 7,703 workpeople employed in the cotton industry in 1890, compared with 3,593 in 1876.

(*Notizie Sulle Condizioni Industriali della Provincia di Genoa. Roma*, 1892.)

VIII.—NORWAY.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN NORWAY IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from Statistisk, Aarbog, for Kongeriget, Norge,* 1889 *and* 1892.]

INDUSTRIES.	1875.	1879.	1885.*	1890.*
Metals	1,906	1,789	2,881	3,547
Engineering, &c.	9,021	6,140	6,689	10,412
Textiles	5,128	4,901	6,037	8,134
Pottery, &c.	4,575	5,715	3,675	4,718
Chemicals, &c.	2,521	2,189	3,002	2,837
Foods, &c.	6,010	6,049	6,478	7,827
Wood Industry	12,743	11,314	11,072	13,723

* In these years, only those establishments are included which worked at least 300 days in the year.

IX.—SWEDEN.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN SWEDEN IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from Statistisk Tivskrift,* 1890, *and Sveriges. Officiela Statistisk, I Sammendrag,* 1893.]

INDUSTRIES.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Iron Mines	6,281	6,470	6,332	6,337	6,041	6,238	6,335	6,223
Iron Works	19,516	18,171	19,132	18,814	21,402	23,051	23,615	23,753
Other Mines and Metal Works	4,325	4,205	3,883	4,197	4,351	4,690	5,277	5,364

X.—RUSSIA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN RUSSIA IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

[*Compiled from Industries of Russia, Vols. I., II., IV., prepared for the World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago, by the Russian Ministry of Finance.*]

INDUSTRIES.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Mining and Metallurgy:											
Iron	*	*	*	*	*	*	197,488	224,737	230,850	216,637	233,654
Coal	*	*	*	*	*	*	33,158	32,781	37,957	43,275	40,571
Gold and Platinum	*	*	*	*	*	*	74,950	85,643	89,215	90,023	87,961
Copper	*	*	*	*	*	*	16,194	19,027	14,385	19,607	19,102
Salt	*	*	*	*	*	*	7,487	9,016	9,112	10,239	11,458
Other Branches	*	*	*	*	*	*	27,023	26,996	36,881	37,119	42,954
TOTAL	283,400	280,400	314,000	323,000	330,750	349,300	356,300	398,200	419,100	416,900	435,700
Machinery and Tool-making.	*	*	*	*	*	42,772	46,818	*	*	50,418	49,082
Textiles:											
Wool	111,600	104,100	111,400	98,900	93,800	98,200	90,200	75,600	107,200	99,900	*
Cotton	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	211,000	*
Leather Tanning	20,689	20,085	19,656	19,572	19,685	19,032	*	*	*	21,511	*
Wood-working:											
Saw Mills	*	11,319	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	17,986

* Cannot be stated.

XI.—UNITED STATES.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE UNDERMENTIONED INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES AS ASCERTAINED BY THE ELEVENTH CENSUS (1890), COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES AS ASCERTAINED BY THE TENTH CENSUS (1880).

[*The figures for Mines have been taken from "Report on Mineral Industries in the United States at the 11th Census, 1890"; the remaining particulars from Census Bulletin, No. 380, of 6th April 1894.*]

INDUSTRIES.	1880.	1890.
Mining:		
Coal	170,867	299,599
Iron	31,688	38,227
Metal Trades:		
Iron and steel *	140,978	152,535
Blacksmithing and wheelwrighting	50,634	50,867
Agricultural implements	39,580	42,544
Tin and coppersmithing, and sheet iron working	27,116	38,442
Iron work, architectural and ornamental	1,934	18,672
Iron and steel pipe, wrought	5,210	12,064
Foundry and machine shop products	145,351	247,754
Textile Trades:		
Cotton goods	185,472	221,585
Woollen goods	86,504	79,351
Worsted goods	18,803	43,593
Silk, and silk goods	31,337	50,913
Clothing Trades:		
Boots and shoes (factory product)	111,152	139,333
Clothing, men's	160,813	243,857
Clothing, women's (factory product)	25,192	42,008
Hats and caps (except wool)	17,240	27,193
Hosiery and knit goods	28,885	61,209
Shirts	25,687	32,750
Printing and publishing	58,478	164,935
Lumber and other mill products	147,956	286,197

* Does not include in 1890 establishments that continue the manufacture of the metal into a more finished product, *e.g.*, wire, nails, and spikes.

[Questions 4896—4898.]

EMPLOYMENT OF ENGINEMEN AND THATCHERS IN 1894-95.

THE following Memorandum has been prepared by Mr. *Wilson Fox*, the Agricultural Correspondent of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade:

There is no doubt that the winter of 1894–95 was much better than the winter of 1893–94 as regards employment, both for men in charge of, and those working with, engines, and also for thatchers, on account of the more prolific harvest in the latter year as compared with the former.

My information up to the period of the frost in January 1895, showed that work was more constant than during the corresponding period of 1894, partly owing to there being more threshing. And my information received during the period of the frost showed that, if it had not been for the threshing work, the labourers in a number of the arable districts would have been much worse off.

The harvest of 1894 yielded something like three stacks for every one produced in the 1893 harvest, and it is apparent that this must have involved the employment of more labour both for thatching and threshing. From the farmer's point of view the harvest of 1894 was a disastrous one, because it was prolific in quantity, but very disappointing in quality, and, in addition to this the prices are lower than they ever have been. Notwithstanding this, the crops were very costly to harvest, partly owing to the bulk, and partly to the fact that they were much beaten down by the storms preventing the use of the "self binder."

I may observe that, since the depression, employment for enginemen has, in some districts, been of an unsatisfactory nature, owing to the decrease in the area of corn crops and to the growing practice of farmers to leave their seeds down for two or three years before ploughing them up, with the object of saving labour.

Consequently

Consequently there has been less corn to thresh, and this has no doubt affected both the enginemen and, to some extent, the thatchers. But work for thatchers has also decreased considerably of late years, owing to the substitution of tiles and slates for thatch for the roofs of cottages and farm buildings and sheds. Also the thatching of stacks of hay done in the plainest and cheapest way, and "fancy" thatching is seldom seen.

With reference to wages of enginemen I am not in a position to say whether the skilled man who drives the engine, and is usually in the employment of a firm of engine proprietors, have been reduced owing to agricultural depression, they are skilled mechanics, and are not always easy to find, and it is I think probable that their wages have been maintained. On large farms where an engineman is kept their wages would usually fall in proportion to those of the other skilled men and ordinary labourers. The labourers who go about with engines, or who are taken on to help at threshing in the district where an engine is employed, usually receive the current day wages.

Thatchimg is generally done by piecework at about 10*d.* a yard for stacks in the Eastern Counties, if undertaken by a man not on the staff of the farm, which is usually the case. As a rule thatchers are scarce, and, as every one wants them at the same time, I understand that in the Eastern Counties prices of piecework are no less than they were.

(Questions 4913—4916.)

LABOUR COLONIES IN VICTORIA.

By the Settlement of Lands Act of 1893 provision is made for the establishment of Labour Colonies. These Colonies are established for the purpose of affording assistance to persons who are absolutely without means, and are in the nature of relief works. They are placed on blocks of Crown land not exceeding 1,500 acres in extent, and are supported partly by the Government and partly by voluntary contributions, the Government granting 2*l.* to every 1*l.* contributed privately. To each Labour Colony five trustees are appointed, who manage it and dispense its funds, and the subscribers may, if they see fit, elect a committee of four persons to assist the trustees. The trustees and committee may admit any person of good character and repute into the Labour Colony, and may establish any trade or industry in connection therewith. The moneys received are paid into the trust account, and may be expended in payment for work done in the erection of buildings, or in purchasing provisions, clothing, building materials, agricultural implements, tools, &c.

Reports in October and November 1893 by Mr. Hayter, the Government statist of the Colony, states that the only Labour Colony in active operation is that of Leongatha, situated in the Gipps Land District, about 80 miles from Melbourne. On joining this Colony each man has to work a week on probation, and then on a small wage fixed by the manager, according to his ideas of the man's worth, After deducting the cost of food and of the clothes and other necessaries supplied him from the store, the balance of the man's wages is placed to his credit and paid him in cash when he leaves the Colony, or the money is paid as earned to his family in town. A labour office has been established on this Colony, and employers are at once supplied, without fee, with pick and shovel men, splitters, bush hands, farm labourers, ploughmen. rough carpenters, cooks, bakers, or skilled tradesmen. It must be borne in mind that the Labour Colonies are not intended to afford permanent homes to the men, but to supply their immediate wants, and to fit them for a rural life. The industries pursued at Leongatha are draining, clearing and cultivating the land, sawing timber, and splitting posts, rails and palings, and at the end of November about 300 persons are employed, and 1,450*l.* had been advanced by the State in aid of its objects.

A later report received through the Emigrants' Information Office in April 1894, stated that the Leongatha Labour Colony had, through want of public support, become involved in financial difficulties, and that the Government would in future administer its affairs.

APPENDIX, No. 17.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *James Bell*, 7 May 1895.

STATEMENT by the Lord Provost of Glasgow regarding Relief Works. 1895.

To the Right Honourable *H. Campbell-Bannerman*, M.P., and Members of the Select Committee on Distress and Want of Employment, London.

Gentlemen, City Chambers, Glasgow, 2 May 1895.

IN response to the letter from Mr. Reginald Dickinson, Secretary to the Select Committee on Distress, requesting a witness from the Corporation to give evidence with respect to our methods of relief for the unemployed, I beg to submit the following statement ; and I shall attend the Committee on Tuesday, 7th May, at 12 o'clock, on behalf of the Corporation of Glasgow.

May I be allowed very shortly to advert to the periods of distress which have been dealt with in Glasgow from 1848 until the present day.

The first occurred in 1848, through a depression in the weaving trade ; and at that time 5,237 individuals, with families numbering 5,264, were relieved.

In 1857, by the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland, a terrible monetary and commercial crisis existed in Glasgow. Relief works were opened, funds collected, and 10,051 heads of families were assisted. Probably not less than forty or fifty thousand persons altogether participated in the benefits of the fund then collected.

In 1862, owing to the suspension of the supply of cotton from the United States, and the war between the Confederate States and the States of the Union, the spinning mills and weaving factories in the city were nearly all closed, and great distress in consequence existed. A large sum of money, over 36,000*l.*, was in two years collected and distributed for the alleviation of this distress, in addition to clothing, blankets, coals, &c. I give a statement of the amount received and expended :—

Received - - - - - - - - - - - - - - £. 36,320. 0. 8.

	£.	s.	d.
Expended on relief in the city - - - - - -	26,232	17	11
Outlying districts for relief - - - - - - -	1,295	–	–
Assisting emigration to Canada - - - - - -	1,987	–	10
Assisting emigration to Queensland - - - - -	130	–	–

Assistance was given to 18,797 persons. Work was found for 1,000 girls in a hall in the East-end, and for 300 in a hall in one of the central districts of the city. Nearly 2,000*l.* was expended on emigration, and the balance, after paying working expenses, was carried forward for general relief. A balance of 776*l.* was ultimately handed over to the Corporation Relief Fund in 1884.

The relief operations above referred to were all carried out by a committee of citizens and members of the Town Council combined ; but in 1878 the Corporation took charge of the disbursing of moneys collected, and in opening of relief works, and have continued to do so since that date.

Great distress and commercial depression prevailed after the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank in 1878 ; and relief works were carried on by the Corporation from 25th November 1878 till 29th March 1879, and again from 17th September 1879 till 31st January 1880. Relief works were opened during the winters 1884–85 and 1885–86, and 1886–87. These were all occasioned by general commercial depression. The commercial activity which succeeded these periods obviated the necessity of providing special employment until 1892–93, when we again opened works on 8th December, closing them on 4th March. The following statements refer to operations prior to this year ; but in the first table statistics for 1895 are added for comparison.

TABLE showing Glasgow Relief Funds, 1878—1895.

	1878–80.		1884–85.	1885–86.	1886–87.	1892–93.	1895.
Cause of distress	£. s. d. Depression after Bank failure.	£. s. d. City of Glasgow	£. s. d. Commercial depression.	£. s. d. Commercial depression.	£. s. d. Commercial depression.	£. s. d. Depression in iron and shipbuilding.	£. s. d. Weather.
Relief works opened	25 Nov. - 1878	17 Sept. - 1879	—	1 Dec. - 1885	16 Dec. - 1886	8 Dec. - 1892	4 Feb. - 1895
Relief works closed	29 Mar. - 1879	31 Jan. - 1880	—	1 May - 1886	16 April - 1887	4 Mar. - 1893	16 Mar. - 1895
Kind of work provided	Digger work - Stone-breaking Scavenging - Oakum - -	Stone-breaking	Stone-breaking	—	Digger work and stone-breaking.	Digger work -	Stone-breaking.
Public subscriptions received	17,463 10 6	288 7 9	7,205 7 7	675 7 7	24 9 8	None	9,586 1 1
Total amount spent on relief and wages	27,238 9 6	6,095 3 11	†9,171 9 7	‡12,860 - 7	6,202 5 -	3,103 7 -	9,386 13 3
Value of work done*	7,755 7 -	5,834 12 1	1,479 18 4	11,282 19 7	5,408 1 4	996 7 2	1,894 14 11
Applications for work	—	2,213	—	4,576	2,202	2,801	3,643
Orders for work given to	—	1,900	—	4,000	1,580	2,328	3,643
Orders for work refused to	—	313	—	576	622	473	None.
Highest number working on one day	3,982	526	1,229	1,494	918	870	2,543
Average number working during whole period	—	303	—	—	—	466	1,036
Different occupations of men employed	101	120	—	—	117	110	231

* The value of digger work and scavenging is assumed at actual cost; the value of stone-breaking is estimated by measurement at current rates.
† Including donations of 500*l.* to Govan and Partick relief funds.
‡ Including donations of 6*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* to Govan and Kinning Park relief funds.

TRADES and OCCUPATIONS of Unemployed Men who have passed the Books of the Charity Organisation Society, from 6th December 1892 till 4th March 1894.*

Bakers	14	Firemen	20	Paper-makers	2
Barbers	1	French polishers	3	Pattern-makers	2
Beltmakers	4	Gardeners	3	Platers	3
Bellows-makers	1	Gilders	2	Plasterers	1
Blacksmiths	24	Glass-blowers	11	Plumbers	4
Boltmakers	8	Glaziers	1	Porters	7
Bottlers	6	Hammermen	123	Press-printers	1
Bobbin-turners	2	Holders on	22	Puddlers	22
Boiler makers	26	Hole-borers	7	Range-fitters	2
Boiler-coverers	3	Iron-workers	33	Rivetters	34
Brick-workers	2	Iron-drillers	26	Ropemakers	5
Bricklayers	2	Iron-dressers	45	Sawyers	9
Brass-moulders	4	Iron-fitters	2	Seamen	2
Brass-finishers	15	Iron-moulders	81	Ship-compass makers	2
Brass-dressers	1	Iron-planers	11	Ship-riggers	3
Brushmakers	1	Iron-roofers	4	Shoemakers	19
Calenderers	8	Iron-turners	23	Shopkeepers	4
Causewayers	2	Joiners	13	Slaters	10
Carters	30	Labourers	1,588	Steelworkers	10
Carpenters	4	Labourers, builders'	17	Stone-cutters	1
Cabinet-makers	5	Labourers, contractors'	39	Stone-breakers	1
Cartwrights	3	Labourers, foundry	34	Strappers	3
Caulkers	3	Labourers, quay	12	Tailors	18
Calico-printers	3	Labourers, shipbuilders'	10	Tenters	3
Clerks	9	Lath-splitters	1	Tinsmiths	6
Clothlappers	7	Leather-dressers	6	Tobacco-spinners	2
Corkcutters	2	Lithographers	3	Tobacco pipe-makers	3
Coachsmiths	1	Life-buoy makers	1	Trimmers	2
Coopers	3	Locomotive drivers	4	Twisters	1
Coppersmiths	2	Machinemen	36	Vanmen	8
Drum-makers	1	Masons	7	Warpers	1
Drysalters	1	Marble-cutters	3	Watchmen	1
Dyers	10	Millers	2	Weavers	63
Engineers	17	Miners	7	Weighers	1
Engine-fitters	29	Packers	4		
Engine-keepers	10	Packing-box makers	4		
Fishcurers	1	Painters	63	TOTAL	2,801
Fishing-hook makers	1	Paper-rulers	3		

TOTAL Trades and Occupations - - 110

* On this occasion employment was given both to married and single men.

DAILY Number of Men working at Stations, from 8th December 1892 till 4th March 1893.

8 December 1892	87	7 January 1893	544	6 February 1893	575
9 " "	358	9 " "	520	7 " "	564
10 " "	420	10 " "	520	8 " "	552
12 " "	838	11 " "	539	9 " "	556
13 " "	831	12 " "	562	10 " "	551
14 " "	836	13 " "	605	11 " "	561
15 " "	862	14 " "	622	13 " "	311
16 " "	855	16 " "	536	14 " "	110
17 " "	870	17 " "	559	15 " "	187
19 " "	690	18 " "	560	16 " "	207
20 " "	654	19 " "	585	17 " "	125
21 " "	630	20 " "	602	18 " "	125
22 " "	599	21 " "	626	20 " "	120
23 " "	526	23 " "	592	21 " "	130
24 " "	465	24 " "	608	22 " "	130
26 " "	460	25 " "	617	23 " "	125
27 " "	475	26 " "	605	24 " "	116
28 " "	496	27 " "	619	25 " "	65
29 " "	505	28 " "	620	27 " "	50
30 " "	645	30 " "	587	28 " "	82
31 " "	566	31 " "	562		
3 January 1893	533	1 February 1893	595	1 March 1893	82
4 " "	405	2 " "	576	2 " "	82
5 " "	460	3 " "	582	3 " "	82
6 " "	515	4 " "	600	4 " "	72

Highest Number working, 17th December 1893 - - - - - 870

TOTAL Number of Breakfasts up till 25th February 1883 - - - - - 35,301

TOTAL Number of Dinners up till 25th February 1893 - - - - - 34,131

GLASGOW UNEMPLOYED RELIEF WORKS, 1895.

Undue distress had to be dealt with in the past winter, the distress being occasioned in Glasgow solely by the extraordinary severity of the weather, and no relief works would have been opened or required had the winter been a normal one. We did not open the relief works until 4th February, and we were enabled to close them on 16th March. The following statement shows the amount of money expended during this period :—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Wages	2,184	14	4			
Whin Metal	1,468	13	3			
Erection of Shelters, &c.	276	5	4			
Barrows, Hammers, Hammer Shafts, Planking, &c.	339	8	6			
Rations (consisting of Breakfast and Dinner)	523	9	11			
Cartages, &c.	51	3	1			
Utensils	11	1	2			
				4,854	15	7
Value of Whin Metal when broken				1,894	14	11
Leaving a deficiency of £				2,960	–	8

At the close of 1894 I was waited on by a few men, representing that they were out of employment, and that they represented a condition largely existing in the city. I asked them to address me formally by letter, and I promised that I would have inquiry made. They did not do so, and I afterwards ascertained that several of the deputation had got work, while others had only been a week or so out of employment. On 10th January we were approached by a few men, representing that they were unable to find employment, and the magistrates caused inquiry to be made through the chief constable and his lieutenants, the Charity Organisation Society, the parochial boards, the Association for Improving the Condition of the People, the superintendents of the model lodging houses, the secretaries of various organised trades, and the large employers of labour in the city. The information received prior to 28th January did not disclose any unusual distress, or exceptional difficulty in obtaining employment. At this date the frost had lasted for a month almost without a break, and outdoor labour was being greatly curtailed. The magistrates thereon resolved to open stone-breaking works, and a committee was appointed to carry out the details. It was decided that applications from men with families whose combined earnings amounted to 15*s.* per week ought not to be entertained, and at this stage work was given only to those who had resided in Glasgow for the three immediately preceding months. The rate of pay was similar to that adopted on former occasions, viz., 1*s.* per day, and 1*s.* extra on Saturday to those who had worked the whole week; and, in addition, the workers got a breakfast of tea and bread and butter, and a dinner of soup and bread. Each applicant had to furnish information, which is duly scheduled, giving his age, domestic circumstances, length of residence in the city, former employment, wages, and other matters. The schedules were handed to the Charity Organisation Society for investigation, who reported on them to the committee appointed by the magistrates. On 4th February two stone-breaking yards were opened, on 16th February a third, and on 22nd February a fourth.

The following table shows the number of men employed on each of the 36 working days during which these yards were open; and, for comparison, a similar table for 1892-93 is given above.

NUMBER of MEN working in Stone-breaking Yards from 4th February till 16th March 1895.

1895:		1895:		1895:	
4 February, Monday	86	18 February, Monday	1,910	4 March, Monday	†621
5 „ Tuesday	210	19 „ Tuesday	2,040	5 „ Tuesday	605
6 „ Wednesday	267	20 „ Wednesday	2,100	6 „ Wednesday	518
7 „ Thursday	314	21 „ Thursday	2,235	7 „ Thursday	464
8 „ Friday	380	22 „ Friday	2,385	8 „ Friday	335
9 „ Saturday	960	23 „ Saturday	2,513	9 „ Saturday	305
11 „ Monday	673	25 „ Monday	2,164	11 „ Monday	135
12 „ Tuesday	805	26 „ Tuesday	2,102	12 „ Tuesday	102
13 „ Wednesday	950	27 „ Wednesday	2,017	13 „ Wednesday	90
14 „ Thursday	1,180	28 „ Thursday	1,846	14 „ Thursday	50
15 „ Friday	1,270	1 March, Friday	1,695	15 „ Friday	32
16 „ Saturday	1,790	2 „ Saturday	*1,465	16 „ Saturday	32

Highest Number working 23rd February 1895 – 2,543

TOTAL Number of Breakfasts up till 16th March 1895 – 38,264

TOTAL Number of Dinners up till 16th March 1895 – 36,308

TOTAL Rations – 74,572

The unprecedented severity of the weather continuing, it was found impossible, owing to the rush of applicants, to get the investigation overtaken within a satisfactory time; and, ultimately, all who applied were allowed to begin work, the circumstances of each worker only being noted. The total number who from first to last sought employment, and who had their cases investigated, was 3,643, following 231 different occupations. The following list shows the various trades of the applicants :—

* Last day of daily wage. † First day of piece-work.

TRADES and OCCUPATIONS of Men engaged in Stone-breaking Yards, from 4th February till 16th March 1895.

Asphalters	16
Bakers	16
Bath enamellers	1
Bed workers	1
Bedstead makers	1
Bellows makers	2
Benchmen	1
Bill deliverers	1
Bill posters	1
Bicycle makers	1
Blacksmiths	27
Block makers	1
Bleachers	1
Boot finishers	5
Boot top cutters	3
Boot closers	4
Bolt makers	3
Bottle blowers	3
Boiler cleaners	2
Boiler makers	17
Bottlers	9
Box makers	4
Bobbin turners	1
Bootlasters	1
Brass finishers	12
Brass moulders	1
Brass dressers	2
Bricklayers	12
Brushmakers	4
Butchers	1
Cab drivers	3
Cab washers	1
Causewayers	20
Cabinet makers	3
Cabinet polishers	1
Calenderers	1
Calico block-cutters	1
Card grinders	3
Carters	46
Car conductors	1
Carpet weavers	10
Cartwrights	2
Cattle dealers	1
Canal bargemen	15
Cement workers	1
Clay pipe-makers	1
Cloth lappers	6
Cloth stenters	1
Cloggers	1
Clerks	3
Chairmakers	1
Chainmakers	1
Coachmakers	1
Cooks	1
Coopers	14
Coppersmiths	4
Compositors	1
Cork cutters	2
Cranemen	1
Cutlers	1
Curriers	2
Dealers	1
Dippers	2
Drapers' assistants	1
Dyers	14
Engineers	18
Enginemen	3
Engine-drivers	1
Engine fitters	34
Engine keepers	8
Engravers	1
Engravers' polishers	1
Firemen	11
Fishcurers	4
Fishermen	1
Flint-glass cutters	1
Frame-work knitters	2
French polishers	2
Furniture packer	1
Galvanizers	2
Gardeners	9
Gas burner makers	1
Gasfitters	1
Gas-stove fitters	1
Glassblowers	2
Glass packers	1
Glaziers	3
Gold-beaters	3
Goods checker, Railway	1
Granite hewers	1
Granite polishers	2
Granite cutters	1
Grate-fitters	2
Grooms	2
Gunmakers	1
Hammermen	88
Hammer-strikers	1
Hairdressers	3
Hawkers	2
Hole-borers	14
Holders-on	13
Holders-up	2
Hoop-banders	1
Iron-buffers	3
Iron chairmakers	1
Iron dressers	36
Iron drillers	11
Iron moulders	74
Iron planers	6
Iron-pipe moulders	2
Iron roofers	1
Iron turners	20
Iron workers	12
Japanners	1
Joiners	20
Kilnmen	2
Labourers	1,242
Labourers, builders'	147
Labourers, brickwork	28
Labourers, brewers'	4
Labourers, contractors'	509
Labourers' foundry	513
Labourers, gardeners'	1
Labourers, plasterers'	18
Labourers, plumbers'	1
Labourers, quay	100
Labourers, shipbuilders'	76
Labourers, slaters'	26
Leather-cutters	2
Linseed-cake pressers	1
Lithographic-stone polisher	1
Locomotive caulkers	2
Machinemen	7
Machine makers	2
Machine tenters	1
Machine leather belting makers	3
Machinists	3
Marble cutters	1
Marble polishers	3
Masons	57
Masons' toolsharpers	1
Mechanics	1
Mattress makers	1
Millwrights	1
Millers	1
Miners	8
Muslin clippers	1
Nailmakers	1
Navvies	6
Packers	4
Packing-box makers	2
Painters	60
Pattern-filer	1
Paviors	12
Photographers	1
Picture-frame makers	1
Platers	2
Platelayers	1
Plasterers	9
Plate glass bevellers	1
Plate-rollers	1
Plumbers	1
Porters	15
Potters	8
Power-loom tenters	2
Pressers	2
Printers	2
Printfield workers	1
Provision merchant	1
Puddlers	1
Quarrymen	6
Redleaders	1
Rivetters	22
Rivet-heaters	3
Rivet makers	1
Ropesman	1
Ropespinners	4
Sailmakers	4
Sawyers	13
Seamen	5
Sewing machine makers	1
Ship's Cook	1
Ship-chandler	1
Ship-block makers	1
Shipwrights	1
Sheet iron workers	1
Shoemakers	27
Shopkeepers	1
Silversmiths	1
Skin dressers	1
Skin sorters	1
Slipper makers	6
Slaters	16
Spirit salesmen	1
Spriggers	1
Stablemen	8
Stewards	1
Steam-crane builders	1
Steam-crane drivers	4
Stokers	1
Stocking makers	1
Stone breakers	6
Stone dressers	1
Stone sizers	2
Steel workers	4

Table

TRADES and Occupations of Men engaged in Stone-breaking Yards, from 4th February till 16th March 1895—*continued.*

Table makers	1	Umbrella-frame makers	1	Weavers, handloom	8
Tailors	16	Upholsterers	3	Window cleaners	5
Tinsmiths	5			Wood moulders	1
Tobacco-pipe makers	2			Wood machinists	1
Tobacco spinners	1	Vanmen	9	Wood turners	5
Tramway drivers	1				
Trunk makers	1				
Tube workers	1	Waiters	1	Yarn dyer	1
Twisters	9	Warehousemen	1		
		Watchmakers	1		
		Watchmen	3	TOTAL	3,643
Umbrella makers	1	Weavers	47		

The average age of the applicants was about 40 ; and they consisted of—

1,213	single men, without dependents.
477	married men, with no children under 16 years of age.
106	widowers, with families.
149	single men, supporting relatives.
1,698	married men, with families under 16 years of age.
3,643	

The working hours were from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. on five days of the week, and from 8 till 1 on Saturdays. When the weather became a little milder, the men who were not eligible under three months' residence, and from other causes, were discharged ; and in many cases they were supplied with boots, stockings, shirts, and trousers on leaving. In all cases men with dependents received orders on the soup kitchens for daily rations of soup and bread, according to the number of their families, and in the most needy cases supplies of provisions, fuel, and clothing were also given. By 4th March, when the weather became more genial, numbers of the men were finding employment at their usual occupations, and the committee introduced to the various yards, payment by piece-work—the rates paid being the ordinary rates paid for stone-breaking and stone-wheeling—and no man was allowed to earn more than 7*s.* per week. The rates paid were 1*s.* 10*d.* per cubic yard for stone-breaking, and 2*d.* per cubic yard for stone-wheeling ; 9*d.* per day was paid in advance, and the balance on the Saturday, or on the day of leaving. From the experience of former relief works, we were satisfied that 7*s.* could easily be earned by most of the men in three or four days. Intimation of piece-work greatly reduced the number of men in the yards. On the last day that the daily wage was paid without piece work, 1,465 were at work, but on the morning when piece-work was introduced only 621 put in an appearance. A number of those employed were dissatisfied with the new arrangement, and they induced all the willing workers at the two yards then remaining open to strike work. An indignation meeting was held in George Square, opposite to the Municipal Buildings, and a deputation of eight of their number was sent to interview the committee in charge of the relief stations. After the interview, all the men returned to their work, but the numbers diminished so rapidly, that on 16th March there were only 32 men left. The works were then closed, the men remaining being provided with suitable clothing to enable them more easily to get employment.

Were I again on a relief committee, I should strongly urge, that after the first week all the men engaged should be put on piece-work, even if the ordinary trade rate paid to stonebreakers was exceeded, and the men's earnings limited to whatever sum might be fixed as the maximum by the committee. This would compel a certain amount of diligence, and would give the willing workers an opportunity, as soon as they had earned the maximum, to find employment at their normal occupations.

CITIZENS' RELIEF FUND, 1895.

The preceding information applies entirely to work carried out by the Corporation, and at the expense of the Corporation ; but, in addition to the relief thus given, a citizens' fund was subscribed, and I now give particulars of the way in which it was administered.

On 11th February last, after several days of intense cold, the temperature ranging from four to seven degrees below zero, the magistrates met, and associated with themselves, representatives of the Charity Organization Society, the inspectors of the city, barony, and Govan Parochial Boards, and a gentleman who has laboured long in religious and benevolent work amongst the poor, and whose experience was felt to be of great value. At my suggestion the police were asked to give their assistance, as it was perfectly evident that no other organization existed which could overtake the distress caused by the sudden severity of the weather. Captain Boyd, and his officers and men, took up their new duties with the greatest enthusiasm, and discharged their mission of mercy in a way which evoked the blessings of those who were in distress, and won for them the approval and gratitude of the whole community.

Soup kitchens were at once opened at the Eastern, Southern, Western, Polmadie, and Maryhill police stations, the Charity Organization Society's Shelter at 60, Kyle-street, the Barnhill Poorhouse, the Night Asylum, the Gospel Hall, Saltmarket, and Possil Park—in all, 10 soup kitchens. The well-heated muster-halls and cells of the police offices were thrown open as shelters for the houseless, and arrangements were made for affording medical relief gratuitously to all necessitous cases. On 12th February I addressed a letter to the newspapers asking the citizens for pecuniary aid to enable us to overtake the clamant distress then existing. By the following day fully 2,000*l.* had been sent in, and within a week I had to close the fund, having then received 9,586*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* ; and it was evident that a much larger sum could have been got. The following table gives particulars of receipt and expenditure of moneys received, and it shows the sum of over 5,000*l.* still unexpended :—

GLASGOW DISTRESS RELIEF FUND, 1895.

STATEMENT of Treasurer's Intromissions, as at 29th April, 1895.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Charge.			
Subscriptions			9,586 1 1½
Discharge.			
Soup Kitchen:	£. s. d.		
Materials for soup and bread	968 3 11		
Wages	77 15 5		
Cooking apparatus, boilers, utensils, &c.	34 17 11		
Sundries	2 11 2		
		1,083 8 5	
Food and Clothing Distributed:			
Provisions, coal, and rents	2,275 16 3		
Boots and clothing, &c., for adults	133 19 4		
Medical attendance and medicines	3 3 –		
Clothing, &c., of children	485 18 10		
Extra clerks and investigators	50 17 6		
Stamps for cheques	1 5 –		
		2,950 19 11	
Relief granted by the hands of the Lord Provost and Members of Committee		33 – –	
Miscellaneous Expenses:	£. s. d.		
Wages of staff in relief office	64 14 2		
Fitting up and furnishing office	18 8 9		
Printing and stationery	25 1 1		
Cartages of supplies of coal gifted	98 8 –		
Medical attendance	– 10 –		
Sundries	28 5 11		
		235 7 11	
Expenses incurred by City Chamberlain:			
Advertising subscription lists (of which 95*l.* 10*s.* refunded as subscriptions)	162 4 5		
Postages, printing, stationery, clerical assistance, &c.	66 17 –		
		229 1 5	
			4,531 17 8
Leaving a surplus of		£.	5,054 3 5½

In addition to money, we received contributions of coals, clothing, and groceries of all kinds, to the value of 1,361*l.* 17*s.*, which were distributed by the committee. The work of relieving all necessitous cases, except those dependent on the men employed at stone-breaking, was assigned to the police. Every one in need of coals or food was invited to apply either to the police or to the superintendents at the various offices; particulars were taken down, inquiries were at once made by the policeman on the beat at the address given, and every necessitous case relieved without delay. To prevent imposture, the officers of the Parochial Boards and of the Charity Organisation Society regularly visited the police offices and soup kitchens. As long as the kitchens remained open, soup and bread were given to all who applied. Applicants had simply to state that they were in need of food; and we estimate that over 330,000 meals were so given. 4,160 men and 679 women and children availed themselves of the shelter of the police offices during the 29 nights the muster halls were kept open. Over 1,000 tons of coals, about one-half of which consisted of donations, were delivered to 13,151 householders. Groceries to the value of 1,834*l.* 4*s.*, in addition to the quantities sent in to the committee in the form of contributions, were supplied to 22,669 applicants. This form of relief was distributed by ticket, which enabled the holder to get provisions equal to its face value from any grocer in the city. Of these tickets there were issued:

		s. d.
12,428	at	1 –
351	„	1 6
7,038	„	2 –
15	„	2 6
1,732	„	3 –
1,105	„	4 –
22,669		

Almost no relief was given by the committee in the form of cash; but where careful investigation showed that persons who earned their living by hawking fish, crockery, or smallwares, had parted with their means before asking assistance, arrangements were made to enable them to begin business again, in a small way, with a new stock-in-trade. In a good number of cases rents were paid to save necessitous and deserving tenants from ejection; and, in others, arrangements were made with the police authorities to afford some delay in the payment of rates. Through the great kindness of the Charity Organisation Society and the Glasgow Needlework Guild, provision was made for the distribution of large quantities of both new and cast-off garments to those insufficiently clad, more especially amongst children.

While giving these particulars of the assistance afforded through means of the Citizens' Fund, it must be kept in mind that very many other channels of relief were open to those in want. At this time of distress, congregations and philanthropic societies greatly enlarged their ordinary helpful work. New organisations were called into existence, and rations of bread and soup, equivalent to very many thousands of meals, must have been provided through these other agencies.

No

No undue distress existed in Glasgow up till the beginning of the year, and its acuteness was occasioned solely by the extreme severity of the weather. At present we have no rating powers enabling us to open any relief works; and what we have done has been paid, as far as the value of the work was concerned, by a rating body, say, Parks or Roads Trustees, and the balance, viz., the difference between what we paid, and what we could have got the work done for by contract, fell to be defrayed either by private contributions or from the Common Good. It has never happened in Glasgow that when exceptional distress occurred some means have not been found to relieve it. Any national system of relief which could be devised, while not altering the character of the well-doing, would certainly deteriorate weak natures, make the indolent more idle, the careless more indifferent, and the bad-tempered almost unmanageable. The question ought to be left to municipalities and local authorities, to be dealt with by them in times of exceptional distress, and exceptional distress only. Each locality has its special trade or trades, and each would require special forms of relief, which could be adequately judged of only by persons living in the locality, and cognisant of all details. Imperial assistance or control would, in my opinion, weaken municipal responsibility, which is a responsibility more of a social than of an official character, to be called into operation only to avert a calamity.

The problem is totally different in large cities from what it is in small towns or villages, where everyone is or can be known. Into a large city many men and women flock to hide their sins or their sorrows; some even come to hide their poverty in a way they cannot do in a country town; and for these cases it is impossible to provide any general scheme of relief. In a city like Glasgow there will always be a normal percentage of unemployed in all trades. This in the aggregate may be considerable; but spread over 200 or 300 different occupations it does not fall heavily on any individual trade. It is one of the ordinary conditions of a large city which we cannot touch.

In my opiniont, he solution of this unemployed question is to make it perfectly clear that no Government and no local authority have incumbent on them, in the slightest degree, a responsibility either to procure or to provide employment, or to maintain persons while out of employment. The solution of the question rests with the people themselves, and not with any authority. It must be found in prudence, thrift, industry, and sobriety, and the avoidance of early and improvident marriages. This last I see constantly is a very fruitful source of misery. Until these duties are recognised by those who are often out of work in winter time, and provision made by themselves against the days of idleness, we shall have this question annually before us in a more or less acute form.

Those who have had the most intimate acquaintance with this question are aware that respectable men, by the varying conditions of trade, are frequently thrown out of employment; yet these are not the men who, at the beginning of almost every winter, call for relief and assistance. There is a certain proportion of workers who, from infirmity of person or of temper, are always first to be dismissed. Their infirmities do not amount to a disability to work, yet they cause these men to be more often out of employment than the normal condition of their trade warrants, and, having no savings to fall back on, they at once come into evidence when trade becomes dull. We have also the working man who has got beyond his best working days; others who have never learnt to work steadily, and who are nomadic and constantly shifting; and we have still another class, who are constantly being thrown out of employment through being a day off drunk, and finding their positions filled up when they return.

It has been advanced by some that local authorities in times of undue distress ought to carry out public works. These suggestions can be advanced only by those who are not cognisant of the working of municipal institutions. We are constantly carrying out all the work which we think is necessary for the Corporation, and that as speedily as possible, without increasing our rates; but no work, beyond stone-breaking or digging, which the Corporation can originate or carry out, would be of the slightest use to relieve undue distress such as we had last winter. Take the building of a bridge, for example. We, first of all, require to get an Act of Parliament; and the same preliminary applies to any large work or expenditure of money which the Corporation can undertake; and this would require nearly a year. In the case of a bridge, the granite would likely come from Aberdeen or Cornwall, where there might be no undue distress; the iron or steel work from a district probably well employed; and, when we had the materials here, we would find the building work possibly interrupted by frost at the very time when we wished to utilise them, for the purposes of giving employment. It is the same with other work; and similar objections can be advanced against any work in which a local authority can engage.

Our experience here shows that stone-breaking or digging best solves the problem, and stone-breaking for preference, as we get a better return for the money expended; yet you will see that while we spent 4,854*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, the value of the stones broken amounted only to 1,894*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* During the winter of 1892–93 digger work gave a worse return. In my opinion, relief ought to be given only after a labour test, and payment ought to be partly in money and partly in food. I would strongly deprecate any alteration from the present position so far as Glasgow is concerned. We shall always be able, with the assistance of private benevolence and the means at our corporate disposal, to deal with periods of undue distress; but as smaller cities and local authorities may not be in this position, it seems to me the remedy is to enable local authorities to impose a small rate for the establishment of temporary relief works to overtake any season of exceptional distress, but clearly for no other purpose, the rate being well defined, and, while collected along with the usual burgh rates, shown separately, so that the ratepayers may see what the rate is, and be able emphatically to express their opinion and wishes in regard to its imposition and expenditure.

With the assistance of the official staff, police, and others, there would be no difficulty in getting at the character of each applicant for work were it so desired; but this difficulty at once arises: is work to be given to the honest, sober, and well-conducted workman who is out of employment through no fault of his own, on the same terms as to the improvident, drunken, or careless, who may be out of work very distinctly through his own fault, and who, perhaps, works simply to earn a shilling or two to spend in drink? My feeling is, that no relief works ought to be opened until it is clearly demonstated that they have become so necessary, that we must take all who apply and who have not family earnings of, say, 15*s.* a week, subject, of course, to the provision of three months' residence immediately prior to the application, and at least a month's lack of employment. Where such works are opened, the distress will likely be acute, and, alongside of them, some system of relief from private sources of benevolence will have to be carried out. In distributing this winter's fund we invited all who knew of any case of want or distress to send particulars, and in this way we were enabled to relieve many.

I would refer again to the great and good work performed by the police force of Glasgow in relieving distress during the past winter. Every part of the city has a constable day and night on a defined beat, and hence we were able to overtake cases brought before us without loss of time. As the cases to be investigated belonged to an individual beat, there was no chance of overlapping, and the fact that the relief was being given through the medium of the police deterred the criminal class, who otherwise might have attempted imposition.

No fault was found with, or adverse criticism made on the action of, the authorities or on the method devised for the relief of last winter's distress. On the contrary, the combination of private benevolence with the action of the public authorities, and the co-operation of the police, seems to have solved the problem of administering relief in a manner more satisfactory than anything which has hitherto been experienced.

I am, &c.
(signed) *James Bell*, Lord Provost.

APPENDIX, No. 18.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. G. Willink*, 10 May 1895.

APPENDIX C.

TABLE showing the Number of TRAMPS (Men, Women, and Children) admitted to the Tramp Wards during the First Week of each Month in the following years, viz.:—

Years	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1883 - -	20	14	15	19	16	2	3	8	3	19	41	22
1884 - -	12	11	8	23	14	12	4	4	3	17	11	24
1885 - -	8	8	17	6	11	12	6	12	8	6	19	19
1886 - -	9	24	30	29	19	34	14	15	5	16	43	25
1887 - -	23	14	39	28	33	43	6	27	23	37	40	18
1888 - -	18	30	56	38	69	46	16	24	15	14	22	60
1889 - -	11	38	44	48	45	30	10	15	18	23	28	36
1890 - -	31*	45	23	9	29	18	13	4	4	12	11	15
1891 - -	5	11	4	14	15	14	6	2	6	14	15	10
1892 - -	7	9	8	3	2	2	3	1	5	8	1	8
1893 - -	2	5	1	1	4	0	1	6	3	8	3	11
1894 - -	3	5	3	4	4	7	0	3	4	9	10	1
1895 - -	3	2	4	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Totals for the Year ending Michaelmas, 1890 - - - - - - - 1,233
Ditto - - ditto - - 1891 - - - - - - - 470
Ditto - - ditto - - 1892 - - - - - - - 308
Ditto - - ditto - - 1893 (January—December) - - 221
Ditto - - ditto - - 1894 - - - - - - - 184

* In January 1890 stone-pounding was substituted for oakum-picking as the task for men.

APPENDIX, No. 19.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. G. Willink*, 10 May 1895.

APPENDIX A.

WAGES.

Agricultural :	
Carters, 13*s.* to 15*s.* + harvest and extras, or Michaelmas money, and perhaps cheap cottage or free	15*s.* to 18*s.* per week, or more.
Undercarters, 9*s.* to 13*s.* + harvest and extras	11*s.* to 15*s.* per week.
Stockmen, 12*s.* to 14*s.* + harvest and extras, or Michaelmas money, and perhaps a cheap cottage or rent free	17*s.* to 19*s.* „ „
Mill men, and machine men	16*s.* to 22*s.* „ „
Farm labourers (first class), 15*s.* + harvest and extras, or Michaelmas money (sometimes cottage)	16*s.* to 18*s.* „ „
Field hands, 12*s.* to 13*s.* + harvest and extras, or Michaelmas money	14*s.* to 16*s.* „ „
Rickbuilders and thatchers	16*s.* to 17*s.* „ „
Woods and forestry, and coppice work (say)	14*s.* to 16*s.* „ „
Building :	
Bricklayers - 7*d.* per hour (say)	32*s.* per week.
Stonemasons - 8*d.* „	36*s.* 8*d.* per week.
Plasterers - 8*d.* „	36*s.* 8*d.* per week.
Carpenters - 7*d.* „	32*s.* per week.
Plumbers - 7½*d.* „	34*s.* 3*d.* per week.
Painters - 6½*d.* „	29*s.* 9*d.* per week.
Plumber's mates, 4½*d.* „	20*s.* 6*d.* per week.
Labourers - 4*d.* „	18*s.* 4*d.* per week.
Railway labourers (say)	18*s.* per week.
Brewing :	
Tunmen, enginemen, coopers, head maltsters	20*s.* to 25*s.* per week.
Ordinary labourers	15*s.* to 18*s.* „ „
Cornmills :	
Various grades	from 18*s.* to 32*s.* 6*d.* per week.
Brick kilns	18*s.* to 25*s.* „ „

APPENDIX, No. 20.

PAPER handed in by Sir *Hugh Owen*, K.C.B., 14 May 1895.

(*See* Replies to Questions 667 *et seq.*)

LONDON.—IN-MAINTENANCE AND OUT-RELIEF, 1884–85 to 1893–94.

YEAR 1884–85.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	Total.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	2,005	301	2,306	25,420	– 3·4	1,697	– 0·2
Paddington	969	288	1,257	12,494	– 2·4	1,966	– 0·4
Fulham	1,065	825	1,890	17,579	– 6·1	4,233	– 1·5
Chelsea	1,604	455	2,059	18,190	– 8·3	2,870	– 1·3
St. George's	2,181	577	2,758	31,175	– 3·2	3,331	– 0·3
Westminster	814	268	1,082	9,912	– 3·0	1,168	– 0·4
West District	**8,638**	**2,714**	**11,352**	**114,770**	**– 3·8**	**15,255**	**– 0·5**
St. Marylebone	3,210	879	4,089	44,283	– 7·6	5,981	– 1·0
Hampstead	319	105	424	5,238	– 2·6	736	– 0·4
St. Pancras	3,765	2,098	5,863	50,286	– 8·1	12,071	– 1·9
Islington	2,044	2,576	4,620	26,024	– 4·0	11,371	– 1·7
Hackney	1,945	2,287	4,232	34,963	– 8·3	11,125	– 2·6
North District	**11,283**	**7,945**	**19,228**	**160,794**	**– 6·5**	**41,284**	**– 1·7**
St. Giles and St. George	1,098	395	1,493	13,943	– 8·7	1,383	– 0·9
Strand	937	322	1,259	6,706	– 2·1	1,496	– 0·5
Holborn	3,801	3,580	7,381	52,217	1 1·2	15,738	– 4·0
City of London	1,733	1,938	3,671	20,098	– 1·3	15,453	– 1·0
Central District	**7,569**	**6,235**	**13,804**	**92,964**	**– 3·9**	**34,070**	**– 1·4**
Shoreditch	1,888	1,289	3,177	27,735	– 10·9	3,638	– 1·4
Bethnal Green	2,231	1,247	3,478	29,587	1 7·0	4,703	– 3·0
Whitechapel	1,327	107	1,434	17,209	– 11·1	1,085	– 0·7
St. George-in-the-East	1,619	338	1,957	16,886	1 7·9	337	– 0·4
Stepney	1,042	166	1,208	10,594	– 7·8	655	– 0·5
Mile End Old Town	1,455	402	1,857	21,334	1 3·1	1,735	– 1·2
Poplar	1,656	1,513	3,169	23,766	– 8·1	7,740	– 2·6
East District	**11,218**	**5,062**	**16,280**	**147,111**	**1 0·1**	**19,893**	**– 1·6**
St. Saviour's	3,642	2,505	6,147	45,146	– 11·1	9,821	– 2·4
St. Olave's	1,996	1,132	3,128	25,458	– 7·6	5,268	– 1·6
Lambeth	2,887	3,356	6,243	38,449	– 6·7	17,017	– 3·0
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,540	1,455	2,995	17,780	– 3·1	7,243	– 1·3
Camberwell	1,883	1,196	3,079	23,153	– 6·1	4,202	– 1·1
Greenwich	2,184	2,369	4,553	26,284	– 9·4	11,611	– 4·1
Lewisham	620	1,198	1,818	9,493	– 3·8	7,530	– 3·0
Woolwich	1,150	1,573	2,723	13,916	– 11·2	8,387	– 6·8
South District	**15,902**	**14,784**	**30,686**	**199,679**	**– 6·8**	**71,079**	**– 2·4**
TOTAL	**54,610**	**36,740**	**91,350**	**715,318**	**– 5·9**	**181,581**	**– 1·6**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1885–86.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	Total.	Cost of In-Maintenance.*	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	1,953	275	2,228	23,359	– 3·1	1,626	– 0·2
Paddington	943	337	1,280	11,581	– 2·2	2,476	– 0·5
Fulham	1,095	828	1,923	16,167	– 5·3	4,714	– 1·5
Chelsea	1,640	492	2,132	18,315	– 8·1	2,724	– 1·2
St. George's	2,257	571	2,828	22,735	– 2·3	3,228	– 0·3
Westminster	814	294	1,108	9,510	– 2·8	1,045	– 0·3
West District	**8,702**	**2,797**	**11,499**	**101,667**	**– 3·3**	**15,813**	**– 0·5**
St. Marylebone	3,171	1,073	4,244	39,795	– 6·8	5,981	– 1·0
Hampstead	343	115	458	5,861	– 2·7	831	– 0·4
St. Pancras	3,805	1,870	5,675	51,886	– 8·3	10,829	– 1·7
Islington	2,042	2,627	4,669	23,706	– 3·6	11,633	– 1·7
Hackney	1,917	2,253	4,170	25,099	– 5·9	11,037	– 2·6
North District	**11,278**	**7,938**	**19,216**	**146,347**	**– 5·8**	**40,311**	**– 1·6**
St. Giles and St. George	1,086	411	1,497	11,427	– 7·1	1,449	– 0·9
Strand	927	362	1,289	11,276	– 3·5	1,649	– 0·5
Holborn	3,885	3,569	7,454	48,348	– 11·9	16,091	– 4·0
City of London	1,730	1,811	3,541	19,593	– 1·3	14,948	– 1·0
Central District	**7,628**	**6,153**	**13,781**	**90,644**	**– 3·8**	**34,137**	**– 1·4**
Shoreditch	1,813	1,319	3,132	22,489	– 8·9	3,715	– 1·5
Bethnal Green	2,196	1,493	3,689	24,849	1 3·6	5,925	– 3·7
Whitechapel	1,217	117	1,334	14,731	– 9·5	938	– 0·6
St. George-in-the-East	1,582	354	1,936	15,654	1 6·4	323	– 0·4
Stepney	1,027	213	1,240	10,891	– 8·0	573	– 0·4
Mile End Old Town	1,415	548	1,963	16,227	– 11·3	1,931	– 1·3
Poplar	1,683	1,563	3,246	20,758	– 7·1	8,103	– 2·8
East District	**10,933**	**5,607**	**16,540**	**125,599**	**– 10·3**	**21,508**	**– 1·8**
St. Saviour's	3,690	2,326	6,016	43,654	– 10·7	9,552	– 2·3
St. Olave's	1,863	1,306	3,169	24,484	– 7·2	5,831	– 1·7
Lambeth	2,988	3,510	6,498	35,906	– 6·2	16,202	– 2·8
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,557	1,702	3,259	17,566	– 3·0	8,401	– 1·4
Camberwell	1,911	1,215	3,126	23,632	– 6·0	4,446	– 1·1
Greenwich	2,175	2,350	4,525	25,096	– 8·8	11,485	– 4·0
Lewisham	708	1,551	2,259	9,902	– 3·8	8,245	– 3·2
Woolwich	1,149	1,374	2,523	11,903	– 9·4	7,470	– 5·9
South District	**16,041**	**15,334**	**31,375**	**192,143**	**– 6·4**	**71,632**	**– 2·4**
TOTAL	**54,582**	**37,829**	**92,411**	**656,400**	**– 5·4**	**183,401**	**– 1·5**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1886–87.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	2,026	311	2,337	23,753	– 3·1	1,790	– 0·2
Paddington	917	309	1,226	12,358	– 2·3	2,480	– 0·5
Fulham	1,183	734	1,917	15,909	– 4·7	3,226	– 1·0
Chelsea	1,681	627	2,308	16,046	– 6·3	2,830	– 1·1
St. George's	2,314	609	2,923	24,247	– 2·4	3,600	– 0·4
Westminster	765	222	987	8,557	– 2·5	868	– 0·3
West District	**8,886**	**2,812**	**11,698**	**100,870**	**– 3·1**	**14,794**	**– 0·5**
St. Marylebone	3,067	1,126	4,193	37,692	– 6·4	6,028	– 1·0
Hampstead	370	143	513	6,103	– 2·6	862	– 0·4
St. Pancras	3,780	1,873	5,653	44,105	– 6·7	10,795	– 1·6
Islington	2,042	2,739	4,781	21,217	– 3·1	11,620	– 1·7
Hackney	2,029	3,085	5,114	3,322	– 5·2	13,809	– 2·8
North District	**11,288**	**8,966**	**20,254**	**132,439**	**– 5·1**	**42,114**	**– 1·6**
St. Giles and St. George	1,060	457	1,517	11,506	– 6·9	1,524	– 0·9
Strand	975	402	1,377	11,407	– 3·3	1,831	– 0·5
Holborn	4,057	3,615	7,672	45,747	– 10·9	15,371	– 3·7
City of London	1,681	1,742	3,423	19,177	– 1·2	14,857	– 0·9
Central District	**7,773**	**6,216**	**13,989**	**87,837**	**– 3·5**	**33,583**	**– 1·3**
Shoreditch	1,766	1,359	3,125	21,515	– 7·9	3,655	– 1·3
Bethnal Green	2,289	1,601	3,890	24,985	1 3·0	6,621	– 4·0
Whitechapel	1,157	96	1,253	13,123	– 8·4	930	– 0·6
St. George-in-the-East	1,505	294	1,799	14,221	1 6·7	356	– 0·5
Stepney	1,007	208	1,215	9,650	– 7·7	463	– 0·4
Mile End Old Town	1,359	513	1,872	14,396	– 9·5	1,968	– 1·3
Poplar	1,810	1,727	3,537	19,383	– 6·9	9,144	– 3·2
East District	**10,893**	**5,798**	**16,691**	**117,273**	**– 9·5**	**23,137**	**– 1·9**
St. Saviour's	3,725	2,414	6,139	39,016	– 9·0	9,669	– 2·2
St. Olave's	1,853	1,542	3,395	20,772	– 6·2	7,108	– 2·1
Lambeth	3,093	3 644	6,737	35,399	– 5·8	17,007	– 2·8
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,666	1,643	3,309	18,970	– 3·0	8,805	– 1·4
Camberwell	2,037	1,324	3,361	21,754	– 5·3	4,478	1·1
Greenwich	2,210	2,668	4,878	22,083	– 7·3	12,559	– 4·2
Lewisham	765	1,536	2,301	9,305	– 3·5	8,132	– 3·1
Woolwich	1,123	1,353	2,476	11,250	– 8·2	7,321	– 5·4
South District	**16,472**	**16,124**	**32,596**	**178,549**	**– 5·7**	**75,079**	**– 2·4**
TOTAL	**55,312**	**39,916**	**95,228**	**616,968**	**– 4·9**	**188,707**	**– 1·5**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1887–88.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	2,054	324	2,378	25,806	– 3·4	2,060	– 0·3
Paddington	994	363	1,357	12,981	– 2·4	2,671	– 0·5
Fulham	1,262	619	1,881	16,960	– 4·9	3,226	– 0·9
Chelsea	1,669	657	2,326	16,337	– 6·3	3,041	– 1·2
St. George's	2,514	555	3,069	26,753	– 2·6	3,743	– 0·4
Westminster	766	218	984	8,896	– 2·6	869	– 0·3
West District	**9,259**	**2,736**	**11,995**	**107,733**	**– 3·3**	**15,610**	**– 0·5**
St. Marylebone	3,130	913	4,043	38,462	– 6·4	5,408	– 0·9
Hampstead	365	180	545	6,047	– 2·5	923	– 0·4
St. Pancras	3,839	1,978	5,817	45,531	– 7·0	10,760	– 1·6
Islington	2,247	2,852	5,099	25,156	– 3·7	12,095	– 1·8
Hackney	2,193	3,328	5,521	27,076	– 5·9	14,811	– 3·2
North District	**11,774**	**9,251**	**21,025**	**142,272**	**– 5·4**	**43,997**	**– 1·7**
St. Giles and St. George	1,058	396	1,454	11,682	– 6·9	1,513	– 0·9
Strand	1,150	364	1,514	13,356	– 3·8	1,837	– 0·5
Holborn	4,054	3,498	7,552	44,767	– 10·6	15,405	– 3·6
City of London	1,738	1,666	3,404	22,340	– 1·4	14,286	– 0·9
Central District	**8,000**	**5,924**	**13,924**	**92,145**	**– 3·7**	**33,041**	**– 1·3**
Shoreditch	1,799	1,394	3,193	22,817	– 8·5	3,909	– 1·5
Bethnal Green	2,422	1,541	3,963	27,861	1 4·7	6,318	– 3·8
Whitechapel	1,234	91	1,325	14,341	– 9·1	866	– 0·5
St. George-in-the-East	1,477	238	1,715	13,855	1 6·0	327	– 0·4
Stepney	1,014	209	1,223	9,396	– 7·5	469	– 0·4
Mild End Old Town	1,436	552	1,988	15,645	– 10·2	2,025	– 1·3
Poplar	1,955	1,710	3,665	21,191	– 7·5	9,696	– 3·4
East District	**11,337**	**5,735**	**17,072**	**125,106**	**– 10·2**	**23,610**	**– 1·9**
St. Saviour's	3,815	2,260	6,075	44,255	– 10·2	9,495	– 2·2
St. Olave's	1,885	1,833	3,718	20,922	– 6·3	8,197	– 2·5
Lambeth	3,054	4,014	7,068	38,379	– 6·2	18,687	– 3·0
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,755	1,855	3,610	21,677	– 3·3	8,982	– 1·4
Camberwell	2,134	1,680	3,814	23,331	– 5·6	6,258	– 1·5
Greenwich	2,364	3,374	5,738	23,620	– 7·8	14,788	– 4·9
Lewisham	796	1,657	2,453	11,001	– 4·1	9,475	– 3·5
Woolwich	1,130	1,398	2,528	12,131	– 8·8	7,691	– 5·6
South District	**16,933**	**18,071**	**35,004**	**195,316**	**– 6·2**	**83,573**	**– 2·6**
TOTAL	**57,303**	**41,717**	**99,020**	**662,572**	**– 5·2**	**199,831**	**– 1·6**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1888–89.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	2,002	366	2,368	23,473	– 3·0	2,129	– 0·3
Paddington	980	378	1,358	13,417	– 2·5	2,988	– 0·6
Fulham	1,314	617	1,931	16,121	– 4·5	3,316	– 0·9
Chelsea	1,609	496	2,105	16,734	– 6·4	2,545	– 1·0
St. George's	2,648	543	3,191	28,013	– 2·8	3,389	– 0·3
Westminster	775	191	966	9,267	– 2·7	889	– 0·3
West District	**9,328**	**2,591**	**11,919**	**107,025**	**– 3·3**	**15,256**	**– 0·5**
St. Marylebone	3,152	760	3,912	39,334	– 6·6	4,472	– 0·7
Hampstead	396	205	601	6,366	– 2·6	988	– 0·4
St. Pancras	4,148	1,824	5,972	48,197	– 7·4	9,732	– 1·5
Islington	2,327	3,100	5,427	26,470	– 3·9	12,591	– 1·8
Hackney	2,294	3,148	5,442	27,617	– 5·9	14,267	– 3·1
North District	**12,317**	**9,037**	**21,354**	**147,984**	**– 5·6**	**42,050**	**– 1·6**
St. Giles and St. George	1,032	413	1,445	11,390	– 6·8	1,528	– 0·9
Strand	1,315	357	1,672	16,044	– 4·5	1,966	– 0·5
Holborn	3,863	3,190	7,053	47,592	– 11·1	13,719	– 3·2
City of London	1,662	1,520	3,182	19,591	– 1·2	13,197	– 0·8
Central District	**7,872**	**5,480**	**13,352**	**94,617**	**– 3·7**	**30,410**	**– 1·2**
Shoreditch	1,748	1,333	3,081	21,659	– 8·1	3,883	– 1·5
Bethnal Green	2,424	1,382	3,806	28,659	1 5·1	5,466	– 3·3
Whitechapel	1,286	89	1,375	15,178	– 9·6	793	– 0·5
St. George-in-the-East	1,581	219	1,800	14,117	1 6·3	304	– 0·4
Stepney	991	154	1,145	9,633	– 7·6	395	– 0·3
Mile End Old Town	1,355	662	2,017	15,926	– 10·4	2,201	– 1·4
Poplar	2,096	1,723	3,819	23,021	– 8·2	9,580	– 3·4
East District	**11,481**	**5,562**	**17,043**	**128,193**	**– 10·4**	**22,622**	**– 1·8**
St. Saviour's	3,970	1,674	5,644	42,113	– 9·7	8,401	– 1·9
St. Olave's	1,833	1,940	3,773	21,575	– 6·4	9,126	– 2·7
Lambeth	3,064	4,148	7,212	38,271	– 6·2	19,993	– 3·2
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,867	1,871	3,738	21,887	– 3·3	8,668	– 1·3
Camberwell	2,333	2,080	4,413	24,516	– 5·8	8,568	– 2·0
Greenwich	2,350	2,747	5,097	24,036	– 7·8	13,971	– 4·5
Lewisham	888	1,815	2,703	11,496	– 4·2	8,131	– 3·0
Woolwich	1,135	1,442	2,577	12,681	– 9·0	8,249	– 5·8
South District	**17,440**	**17,717**	**35,157**	**196,575**	**– 6·1**	**85,107**	**– 2·7**
TOTAL	**58,438**	**40,387**	**98,825**	**674,394**	**– 5·2**	**195,445**	**– 1·5**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1889–90.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	1,888	373	2,261	23,405	– 3·0	2,081	– 0·3
Paddington	927	310	1,237	12,750	– 2·4	2,613	– 0·5
Fulham	1,392	602	1,994	17,430	– 4·7	3,221	– 0·9
Chelsea	1,606	558	2,164	16,229	– 6·2	2,930	– 1·1
St. George's	2,719	562	3,281	27,446	– 2·7	3,311	– 0·3
Westminster	799	150	949	9,372	– 2·7	793	– 0·2
West District	**9,331**	**2,555**	**11,886**	**106,632**	**– 3·2**	**14,949**	**– 0·5**
St. Marylebone	3,091	683	3,774	39,724	– 6·7	3,944	– 0·7
Hampstead	393	177	570	6,458	– 2·5	942	– 0·4
St. Pancras	4,211	1,728	5,939	52,498	– 8·1	9,237	– 1·4
Islington	2,470	3,068	5,538	28,172	– 4·1	12,927	– 1·9
Hackney	2,194	2,662	4,856	26,988	– 5·7	13,042	– 2·8
North District	**12,359**	**8,318**	**20,677**	**153,840**	**– 5·8**	**40,092**	**– 1·5**
St. Giles and St. George	988	411	1,399	11,095	– 6·7	1,448	– 0·9
Strand	1,321	364	1,685	17,518	– 4·9	2,050	– 0·6
Holborn	3,835	2,874	6,709	42,278	– 9·7	11,912	– 2·7
City of London	1,581	1,393	2,947	20,834	– 1·3	12,560	– 0·8
Central District	**7,725**	**5,042**	**12,767**	**91,725**	**– 3·6**	**27,970**	**– 1·1**
Shoreditch	1,800	1,372	3,172	24,484	– 9·1	4,021	– 1·5
Bethnal Green	2,434	1,286	3,720	28,959	1 5·2	5,408	– 3·2
Whitechapel	1,257	98	1,355	15,317	– 9·5	801	– 0·5
St. George-in-the-East	1,478	219	1,697	11,922	1 3·2	298	– 0·4
Stepney	980	207	1,187	9,915	– 7·8	315	– 0·2
Mile End Old Town	1,432	737	2,169	16,224	– 10·6	2,487	– 1·6
Poplar	2,150	1,614	3,764	24,495	– 8·8	9,369	– 3·4
East District	**11,531**	**5,533**	**17,064**	**131,316**	**– 10·7**	**22,699**	**– 1·8**
St. Saviour's	3,918	1,550	5,468	43,135	– 9·9	7,692	– 1·8
St. Olave's	1,904	2,197	4,101	23,297	– 7·1	10,176	– 3·1
Lambeth	3,124	3,998	7,122	40,256	– 6·5	19,816	– 3·2
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,854	1,732	3,586	22,409	– 3·3	8,392	– 1·2
Camberwell	2,463	2,499	4,962	26,109	– 6·1	10,117	– 2·4
Greenwich	2,391	2,737	5,128	24,549	– 7·7	12,699	– 4·0
Lewisham	873	1,095	1,968	12,428	– 4·5	5,807	– 2·1
Woolwich	1,114	1,355	2,469	13,149	– 9·1	8,150	– 5·6
South District	**17,641**	**17,163**	**34,804**	**205,332**	**– 6·3**	**82,849**	**– 2·6**
TOTAL	**58,587**	**38,611**	**97,198**	**688,845**	**– 5·3**	**188,559**	**– 1·4**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1890–91.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	1,948	342	2,290	26,191	– 3·3	2,188	– 0·3
Paddington	957	345	1,320	13,099	– 2·5	2,402	– 0·5
Fulham	1,512	689	2,201	19,709	– 5·3	3,552	– 1·0
Chelsea	1,574	429	2,003	16,809	– 6·2	2,671	– 1·0
St. George's	2,540	517	3,057	28,780	– 2·7	3,255	– 0·3
Westminster	775	156	931	9,757	– 2·8	733	– 0·2
West District	**9,306**	**2,478**	**11,784**	**114,345**	**– 3·4**	**14,801**	**– 0·4**
St. Marylebone	3,086	640	3,726	38,606	– 6·5	3,597	– 0·6
Hampstead	378	167	545	6,813	– 2·6	952	– 0·4
St. Pancras	4,172	1,830	6,002	54,630	– 8·4	9,070	– 1·4
Islington	2,522	3,213	5,735	29,313	– 4·2	13,793	– 2·0
Hackney	2,162	2,680	4,842	28,822	– 6·0	12,227	– 2·6
North District	**12,320**	**8,530**	**20,850**	**158,184**	**– 5·9**	**39,639**	**– 1·5**
St. Giles and St. George	974	446	1,420	10,895	– 6·6	1,505	– 0·9
Strand	1,367	370	1,737	18,771	– 5·1	1,966	– 0·5
Holborn	3,873	2,234	6,107	45,272	– 10·3	10,101	– 2·3
City of London	1,565	1,253	2,818	24,995	– 1·5	11,282	– 0·7
Central District	**7,779**	**4,303**	**12,082**	**99,933**	**– 3·8**	**24,854**	**– 1·0**
Shoreditch	1,758	1,181	2,939	22,718	– 8·5	3,328	– 1·2
Bethnal Green	2,416	1,107	3,523	29,075	1 5·2	5,140	– 3·0
Whitechapel	1,274	99	1,373	15,932	– 10·3	850	– 0·5
St. George-in-the-East	1,391	219	1,610	12,873	1 5·0	392	– 0·5
Stepney	960	148	1,108	10,073	– 8·1	704	– 0 6
Mile End Old Town	1,412	773	2,185	16,737	– 10·9	2,716	– 1·8
Poplar	2,159	1,608	3,767	26,795	– 9·6	9,325	– 3·3
East District	**11,370**	**5,135**	**16,505**	**134,203**	**– 11·0**	**22,455**	**– 1·8**
St. Saviour's	3,879	1,201	5,080	46,732	– 10·8	6,757	– 1·6
St. Olave's	2,024	2,474	4,498	26,217	– 7·9	11,214	– 3·4
Lambeth	2,995	3,766	6,761	40,640	– 6·5	19,209	– 3·1
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,878	1,865	3,743	25,608	– 3·6	8,876	– 1·3
Camberwell	2,460	2,809	5,269	28,518	– 6·6	11,381	– 2·6
Greenwich	2,424	2,456	4,880	27,694	– 8·5	11,138	– 3·4
Lewisham	871	1,580	2,451	11,949	– 4·3	5,950	– 2·1
Woolwich	1,175	1,314	2,489	14,135	– 9·7	7,844	– 5·4
South District	**17,706**	**17,485**	**35,171**	**221,493**	**– 6·8**	**82,369**	**– 2·5**
TOTAL	**58,481**	**37,911**	**96,392**	**728,158**	**– 5·5**	**184,118**	**– 1·4**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1891-92.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. Indoor.	Outdoor (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	1,920	308	2,228	26,613	– 3·2	2,129	– 0·3
Paddington	919	231	1,150	13,362	– 2·4	2,225	– 0·4
Fulham	1,588	622	2,210	20,161	– 4·9	3,400	– 0·8
Chelsea	1,507	431	1,938	16,887	– 5·8	2,640	– 0·9
St. George's	2,481	513	2,994	30,106	– 2·8	3,115	– 0·3
Westminster	726	149	875	10,319	– 2·8	695	– 0·2
West District	**9,141**	**2,254**	**11,395**	**117,448**	**– 3·3**	**14,204**	**– 0·4**
St. Marylebone	2,947	525	3,472	39,527	– 6·3	3,211	– 0·5
Hampstead	386	173	559	7,320	– 2·6	1,079	– 0·4
St. Pancras	4,220	1,664	5,884	58,700	– 8·9	8,872	– 1·3
Islington	2,564	3,543	6,107	32,017	– 4·6	15,093	– 2·2
Hackney	2,307	2,488	4,795	29,851	– 6·2	11,755	– 2·4
North District	**12,424**	**8,393**	**20,817**	**167,415**	**– 6·1**	**40,010**	**– 1·5**
St. Giles and St. George	947	405	1,352	11,249	– 6·3	1,459	– 0·8
Strand	1,333	384	1,717	19,820	– 5·2	2,091	– 0·5
Holborn	3,542	2,060	5,602	40,977	– 9·1	9,313	– 2·1
City of London	1,375	1,102	2,477	23,526	– 1·4	10,397	– 0·6
Central District	**7,197**	**3,951**	**11,148**	**95,572**	**– 3·5**	**23,260**	**– 0·9**
Shoreditch	1,793	1,143	2,936	24,165	– 8·5	3,270	– 1·2
Bethnal Green	2,264	1,087	3,351	30,051	1 4·9	5,288	– 3·0
Whitechapel	1,276	84	1,360	16,842	– 9·9	799	– 0·5
St. George-in-the-East	1,329	148	1,477	13,598	1 5·4	382	– 0·5
Stepney	996	139	1,135	11,180	– 9·0	770	– 0·6
Mile End Old Town	1,484	911	2,395	19,987	1 0·7	3,108	– 2·0
Poplar	2,308	1,459	3,767	27,607	– 9·7	9,709	– 3·4
East District	**11,450**	**4,971**	**16,421**	**143,430**	**– 11·3**	**23,326**	**– 1·8**
St. Saviour's	3,877	1,119	4,996	47,948	– 10·5	6,566	– 1·4
St. Olave's	2,002	2,748	4,750	27,935	– 7·9	12,465	– 3·5
Lambeth	2,998	3,202	6,200	41,422	– 6·5	18,396	– 2·9
Wandsworth and Clapham	1,983	1,999	3,982	28,831	– 3·8	9,585	– 1·3
Camberwell	2,529	2,449	4,978	30,835	– 7·2	11,586	– 2·7
Greenwich	2,479	1,973	4,452	29,712	– 8·6	9,069	– 2·6
Lewisham	870	1,074	1,944	12,041	– 4·3	5,540	– 2·0
Woolwich	1,195	1,215	2,410	14,772	– 7·2	7,399	– 3·6
South District	**17,933**	**15,779**	**33,712**	**233,496**	**– 6·7**	**80,606**	**– 2·3**
TOTAL	**58,145**	**35,348**	**93,493**	**757,361**	**– 5·5**	**181,406**	**– 1·3**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1892–93.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. In-door.	Out-door (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance. *	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Out-door Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	*s. d.*	£.	*s. d.*
Kensington	1,979	296	2,275	28,220	– 3·3	1,960	– 0·2
Paddington	897	250	1,147	14,337	– 2·6	2,015	– 0·4
Fulham	1,720	601	2,321	24,198	– 5·7	3,461	– 0·8
Chelsea	1,569	350	1,919	18,722	– 6·3	2,493	– 0·8
St. George's	2,558	486	3,044	32,860	– 3·0	3,178	– 0·3
Westminster	811	140	951	10,946	– 2·9	786	– 0·2
West District	**9,534**	**2,123**	**11,657**	**129,283**	**– 3·6**	**13,893**	**– 0·4**
St. Marylebone	3,072	441	3,513	41,438	– 6·5	2,742	– 0·4
Hampstead	364	193	557	7,552	– 2·6	1,110	– 0·4
St. Pancras	4,243	1,845	6,088	60,582	– 9·2	9,006	– 1·4
Islington	2,605	3,610	6,215	36,246	– 5·2	15,740	– 2·2
Hackney	2,367	2,695	5,062	31,845	– 6·5	11,377	– 2·3
North District	**12,651**	**8,784**	**21,435**	**177,663**	**– 6·4**	**39,975**	**– 1·4**
St. Giles and St. George	949	380	1,329	11,819	– 6·5	1,287	– 0·7
Strand	1,387	343	1,730	20,998	– 5·4	2,071	– 0·5
Holborn	3,603	1,898	5,501	48,898	– 10·7	9,067	– 2·0
City of London	1,303	1,004	2,307	24,687	– 1·4	10,015	– 0·6
Central District	**7,242**	**3,625**	**10,867**	**106,402**	**– 3·9**	**22,440**	**– 0·8**
Shoreditch	1,883	960	2,843	26,333	– 9·2	2,633	– 0·9
Bethnal Green	2,456	1,020	3,476	32,014	1 6·0	4,984	– 2·8
Whitechapel	1,291	70	1,361	18,700	– 11·9	756	– 0·4
St. George-in-the-East	1,279	217	1,496	13,253	1 4·9	348	– 0·4
Stepney	1,100	156	1,256	14,283	– 11·6	774	– 0·6
Mile End Old Town	1,566	1,108	2,674	20,549	1 1·0	3,693	– 2·3
Poplar	2,442	1,715	4,157	30,755	– 10·5	9,914	– 3·4
East District	**12,017**	**5,246**	**17,263**	**155,887**	**1 0·1**	**23,102**	**– 1·8**
St. Saviour's	3,735	972	4,707	48,557	– 10·6	6,171	– 1·4
St. Olave's	2,123	3,023	5,146	29,380	– 8·4	12,713	– 3·7
Lambeth	3,035	3,219	6,254	44,154	– 6·9	18,739	– 2·9
Wandsworth and Clapham	2,126	2,349	4,475	32,045	– 4·1	11,085	– 1·4
Camberwell	2,658	2,902	5,560	33,332	– 7·8	12,512	– 2·9
Greenwich	2,636	1,756	4,392	31,765	– 9·1	7,964	– 2·3
Lewisham	932	1,541	2,473	14,013	– 4·9	6,130	– 2·1
Woolwich	1,212	1,223	2,435	16,154	– 8·0	7,046	– 3·5
South District	**18,457**	**16,985**	**35,442**	**249,400**	**– 7·1**	**82,360**	**– 2·4**
TOTAL	**59,901**	**36,763**	**96,664**	**818,635**	**– 5·9**	**181,770**	**– 1·3**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylum.

LONDON.—In-Maintenance and Out-Relief, 1884–85 to 1893–94—*continued.*

YEAR 1893–94.

DISTRICT AND UNION OR PARISH.	Mean Number of Paupers. In-door.	Out-door (excluding Lunatics, Insane Persons, and Idiots).	TOTAL.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.	Cost of Out-door Relief.	Rate in the £. on Rateable Value.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
				£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Kensington	2,176	347	2,523	30,322	– 3·6	2,088	– 0·2
Paddington	981	276	1,257	14,876	– 2·7	2,032	– 0·4
Fulham	1,819	774	2,593	26,008	– 6·1	3,953	– 0·9
Chelsea	1,675	354	2,029	20,458	– 6·7	2,555	– 0·8
St. George's	2,716	536	3,252	33,580	– 3·0	3,335	– 0·3
Westminster	895	130	1,025	12,481	– 3·3	784	– 0·2
West District	**10,262**	**2,417**	**12,679**	**137,725**	**– 3·8**	**14,747**	**– 0·4**
St. Marylebone	3,158	430	3,588	41,512	– 6·5	2,577	– 0·4
Hampstead	390	184	574	8,048	– 2·7	1,029	– 0·3
St. Pancras	4,481	1,869	6,350	64,082	– 9·6	9,946	– 1·5
Islington	2,798	3,997	6,795	39,357	– 5·5	17,697	– 2·5
Hackney	2,527	3,127	5,654	35,259	– 7·2	12,770	– 2·6
North District	**13,354**	**9,607**	**22,961**	**188,258**	**– 6·7**	**44,019**	**– 1·6**
St. Giles and St. George	977	372	1,349	12,023	– 6·6	1,242	– 0·7
Strand	1,490	397	1,887	22,916	– 5·8	1,982	– 0·5
Holborn	3,740	1,949	5,689	41,749	– 9·0	9,070	– 2·0
City of London	1,394	995	2,389	25,268	– 1·4	9,926	– 0·6
Central District	**7,601**	**3,713**	**11,314**	**101,956**	**– 3·6**	**22,220**	**– 0·8**
Shoreditch	1,925	952	2,877	25,788	– 9·1	2,430	– 0·9
Bethnal Green	2,563	1,158	3,721	34,050	1 7·1	4,970	– 2·8
Whitechapel	1,415	64	1,479	19,834	– 11·5	715	– 0·4
St. George-in-the-East	1,241	125	1,366	13,404	1 4·8	374	– 0·5
Stepney	1,260	185	1,445	15,366	1 0·4	697	– 0·6
Mile End Old Town	1,706	1,162	2,868	22,017	1 2·0	4,077	– 2·6
Poplar	2,623	2,296	4,919	33,124	– 11·4	12,379	– 4·3
East District	**12,733**	**5,942**	**18,675**	**163,583**	**1 0·7**	**25,642**	**– 2·0**
St. Saviour's	3,976	1,152	5,128	51,263	– 11·2	6,954	– 1·5
St. Olave's	2,234	2,841	5,075	31,859	– 9·1	13,107	– 3·7
Lambeth	3,137	2,990	6,127	45,739	– 7·0	18,678	– 2·9
Wandsworth and Clapham	2,323	3,248	5,571	34,564	– 4·4	13,682	– 1·7
Camberwell	2,788	3,257	6,045	36,101	– 8·3	15,652	– 3·6
Greenwich	2,803	1,664	4,467	33,261	– 9·4	7,658	– 2·2
Lewisham	944	1,780	2,724	14,507	– 5·0	7,909	– 2·7
Woolwich	1,296	1,105	2,401	16,978	– 8·3	7,002	– 3·4
South District	**19,501**	**18,037**	**37,538**	**264,272**	**– 7·5**	**90,642**	**– 2·6**
TOTAL	**63,451**	**39,716**	**103,167**	**855,794**	**– 6·1**	**197,270**	**– 1·4**

* Including the cost of the maintenance of fever and small-pox patients in the Metropolitan District Asylums.

APPENDIX, No. 21.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *J. T. Dodd*, 3 May 1895.

COPY of PETITION mentioned in Reply to Question 7555.

To The Right Honourable *Henry H. Fowler*, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, Whitehall, London.

WE, the undersigned,* respectfully but formally request and require you as President of the Local Government Board, with the other Members of the said Board, to issue Rules or Regulations under 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 69, enabling Boards of Guardians to hire land (1) for the employment of the unemployed; (2) to let land for allotments to labourers.

* The words "being agricultural labourers now unable to obtain employment," were added here in some cases.

APPENDIX, No. 22.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, 22 March 1895.

(*See* Evidence, p. 51.)

APPENDIX, No. 23.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Mather* (a Member of the Committee), 17 May 1895.

To the Chairman and Members of the Select Committee on the Distress arising from Want of Employment.

1. REFERENCE to the formation of land colonies has been made by several witnesses during our inquiries into the "distress arising from want of employment" among the working classes. There has been also much discussion in the public Press and by social reformers on this subject. As our Committee will naturally be expected to examine this question among others, I venture to submit some definite proposals which may enable our Committee to consider it in all its bearings.

2. Though I have taken some interest in the work of two societies which are dealing with the subject by different methods, I have no personal experience of their working; but I have availed myself of that of others to put into a concrete form the results of their experience, combined with views I have long held on the employment of surplus labour.

3. It does not seem impracticable by some such scheme to secure sources of employment in times of need for the well-conducted unemployed working classes, during temporary cessation of their regular occupations over a considerable period, without breaking up their homes or extinguishing their natural and praiseworthy desire to earn their own living.

4. For those permanently displaced from occupations they have followed, the scheme may afford the entrance to a new life, a life of work with hope of contentment. To accomplish this, while at the same time using the resources of nature hitherto unfruitful, and without interfering with the labour of any other men, or wasting the capital required for the purpose, must be to enrich in some degree the whole nation, as well as to provide relief from an ever-growing social danger and industrial burden.

5. Such an object is, I venture to think, well worthy of the time and serious investigation of our Committee before we cease from our labours, even if the result be only to prove the scheme impossible.

6. In devising means whereby self-supporting employment caa be derived from the land for large numbers of those now dependent upon intermittent wage earnings, the fact that agricultural depression has been growing of recent years has not been overlooked. The large capital necessary for land and buildings; the necessity for the possession of skill as well as of some money far working purposes; the different powers of work of various individuals; the varying quality of land; the unoccupied time when labour on the land is unprofitable; and the necessity of the avoidance of competition with existing labour; all these have been carefully considered in drawing up the following proposals.

7. Should the Committee desire to take expert evidence on the scheme as a whole, or as to the practicability of any of the suggestions therein, I shall be glad to submit the names of gentlemen who would be ready to place their knowledge and experience at the service of the Committee.

15 March 1895. *William Mather.*

DRAFT SCHEME to provide Work for the Unemployed Working Classes.

8. There are two distinctly different classes which have to be considered in relation to these proposals. The first of these comprises the temporarily unemployed working classes who are without money or experience of landed work. This class can be assisted by the organisation of "farm training colonies" upon the basis explained in Part I. The other class comprises those who are displaced from industries they have followed, and seek to obtain a permanent living from the land. This class can be assisted by fhe formation of "small farm settlements" as described in Part II.

PART I.—FARM TRAINING COLONIES.

SUMMARY of PROPOSALS.

9.—(1.) The State to advance money for the founding of farm training colonies as an investment, the management to be placed by the Local Government Board in the hands of county councils.

(2.) Such colonies to consist partly of land out of cultivation, partly of land under tillage, and to be worked mainly for arable dairying, but with such other cropping as may give profitable employment for manual labour; the whole working to be under well trained skilled management.

(3.) The number of men received upon the colonies to be regulated by the area of land, and each man, in addition to doing all work on the land that is required in exchange for his maintenance, to have some auxiliary employment for his own benefit.

(4.) Poor law authorities to be authorised to accept applications for work on the colonies from men who are not in receipt of poor law relief; such applications to be made to specially organised departments, distinct from those which deal with the pauper classes.

(5.) Should there be any deficiency in the working of the colonies, each poor law authority to contribute towards the same in proportion to the number of men nominated by it.

10. In taking into consideration the establishment of farm training colonies, it is necessary to recognise the fact that the labour of any able-bodied man upon land can, under proper directions and conditions, be of at least an equal value to the cost of his maintenance.

11. The proposal for having farm training colonies in each county would be, to some extent, following the method adopted in Germany, where there are one or more farm colonies in each of the 18 provinces. The character and class of men received under the conditions here suggested would, however, be quite different from those going to the German colonies, which are mainly occupied by vagrants and semi-criminals.

a. In the case of these colonies there is generally a deficiency varying from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per week for every man, without charging interest on capital. We have, however, in England, special advantages not available to the German colonies, while the men who would wish to be helped here are far better workers than the class of men received upon those colonies. It is, therefore, unlikely that any such deficiency would be experienced here upon any suitable property upon which the work had been specially laid out with the idea of securing maintenance for every man employed.

b. The experience of the Hadleigh colony supports this conclusion. The first balance sheet showed that when it was treated as a farm colony, and most of the men in it were employed on the land, a profit was shown over and above the payment of some rent, the provision for maintenance, and a cash grant to the men employed. When, however, most of the men were set to work at various competitive industries unconnected with the land, the finances of the colony showed considerable losses, which, however, were partly recovered last year when more attention was paid to the farm cultivation.

c. No farm colony to which large numbers of unskilled men are sent can possibly succeed, unless the chief employment of those men is on the land and in auxiliary industries connected with the products of the land. Nor is the introduction of competitive industries necessary to insure continuous employment. An example of this may be seen in the German farm colonies, one of which is described in the report on "Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed" as having four-fifths of its men working on the land. In the most recently established farm colony, that of La Chalmelle in France, every man is employed upon the land.

12. In order to achieve the best results certain conditions must be observed.

(1.) A colony for men unskilled in agricultural work must mainly consist of land out of cultivation, but such land must be of a nature which is capable of profitable cropping when brought under cultivation.

Work on land of the character named is the only class of labour upon which an uncertain and varying number of men, possessing no knowledge of farming, can be profitably employed. Such land, however, must be of a nature which will pay when labour is expended upon it. This is a matter which has been too frequently overlooked. Thus, for instance, in the case of the land at Dartmoor, and in the penal colonies of Holland, it is evident that the reclamation work which has been done would not have been undertaken by an ordinary landowner. The capability of some land out of cultivation to bear profitable crops is shown by the results obtained at the Hadleigh colony, where a crop of rivet wheat, grown on a part of the land which was out of cultivation at the time possession was obtained, is stated to have given the exceptional return of over 60 bushels of grain with 2½ loads of straw from every acre.

(2.) The colony must also contain considerable areas of land in good cultivation.

If this were not the case, there could be no money return from the labour at the commencement of the work, and no produce to support the men engaged. If a farm colony has to be self-supporting, it must have some good land, and the number of men must be regulated in accordance with the returns from that land. Farm labour colonies in Belgium, Germany, Holland, and Switzerland have all been founded on waste land only, and the heavy cost of annual subsidies necessary in the earlier years of those colonies has arisen solely from this error, which, with the experience we have, can now be avoided.

(3.) The system of management should be to devote special attention to the production of such crops as can only be profitably dealt with when manual labour is largely available, without, however, excluding the use of steam and mechanical appliances.

The most general error made in organising hand labour-colonies, next to the mistake of selecting nothing but poor waste land for the purpose, seems to be undertaking work by hand which can be more profitably done in other ways. On the municipal farms near Berlin, where 900 to 1,200 men resident in the city workhouse are employed, the deficiency is about 4*l.* 10*s.* per man annually, in addition to costs of administration; but here large sums are wasted by hand labour being employed for work which could be more profitably done by the employment of ordinary farm machinery.

(4.) Auxiliary industries must be introduced upon the colony, in order that the time when work upon the land is impossible may be profitably employed.

Probably nearly one-third of the working time of each year cannot be occupied in work on the land owing to weather and other causes. During this time every man should carry on some industrial occupation, the nature of which will be defined subsequently. The whole returns from such auxiliary industry would belong to him, but the larger part would be retained by the authorities of the colony to accumulate for his benefit or to be sent to his family.

13. Provided these four conditions be kept in view, every county council should be authorised to acquire land within its county which would be suitable for a farm training colony, and to erect upon it buildings to accommodate such a number of men as the self-supporting capacity of the land will permit. The buildings should be mainly for single men, with some accommodation for married persons.

14 To such a colony the poor law authorities might send men of the unemployed working classes who seek for relief through employment only. These men would have to undertake to remain and work on the colony for a definite period, during which they would be mainly employed upon the land, and would receive their maintenance in return for their labour. That period should be not less than a month; and no man taken on to a colony should be allowed to quit it without giving a week's notice, unless he can satisfy the manager of the colony that he has the offer of a definite and immediate engagement in some industrial occupation. Of course, on their admission to the colony, their physical capability for hard out-door work and agricultural labour will be tested.

15. No man in receipt of an allowance from a trade union or a friendly society should be disqualified thereby from admission to a colony.

16. The question of the support of families is a matter of vital importance. There will be some women's work to be done upon the colony, and the presence of married women will have advantages. Consequently some of the men

men could be admitted with their wives, provided they have no children dependent on them ; but the wives would have to undertake to do a certain part of the work usually undertaken by women, and they would receive their maintenance in exchange for that work. This, however, would apply to but a small number. From the economic aspect it would be far better to receive upon the colony married rather than single men, if by the work they there performed they were enabled to keep their homes together in their usual place of occupation. In order to enable this to be done, it would be desirable to remit to the wife of every married man a sum of not less than 4*s.* a week on account of the value of his industrial labour, and when this exceeded the total cost of his maintenance and the sum remitted to his wife, the balance could be at his discretion. In some cases also it might be desirable to make a loan for payment on account of rent, in order to prevent the furniture of the house being seized, the amount so lent being a debt upon the earnings of the man. The Poor Law authorities in Berlin advance money for the payment of rent repayable from future earnings, and have found this course practicable and economical. Either of these courses might involve loss, but this loss would not exceed the amount that would otherwise be paid under the present unremunerative system of Poor Law relief, the cost of which has already been put in evidence before the Committee. It must be borne in mind that, were the unemployed working classes to appeal to the authorities for relief instead of, as they now do, bearing great privations rather than adopt this course, the total amount for poor relief throughout the country would be greatly increased, and the difficulties of dealing with it multiplied.

17. The advantages of this system of dealing with the well-conducted members of the unemployed working classes would be threefold. In the first place, the money earned would come largely out of the land which the labour of the man had rendered more productive, thus adding to the national wealth without detracting from the productive labour of any other individual in the nation ; secondly, the man and his family would be wholly or almost entirely sustained by the work of his own hand ; thirdly, no taint of pauperism could attach to this system, and no disfranchisement be connected therewith.

18. Although such a colony should be under the control of a County Council, the liability which would arise from its maintenance should be taken by the Poor Law authorities. This would be done by making the latter responsible for the deficiency in the working expenses (if any) in proportion to the number of men sent to the farm from their union. Before the actual foundation of the colony, it would be advisable for certain Poor Law authorities to agree to send a fixed minimum number of men whom they would select and introduce. The men so selected should be those who were not in receipt of Poor Law relief of any kind, but whose circumstances would compel them to make an application for the same unless they were taken upon the farm. This condition is necessary, as the colonies will be for the unemployed working classes, and not for permanent paupers.

19. There should be no restriction as to the places from which the men might come. In many counties it would be difficult to find suitable land for a colony, while in other parts, such as our East Anglian districts, there are many thousands of acres available, which might be used for men sent by Poor Law authorities in London or other centres. This cannot be done without the assent of the Local Government Board, which, however, has ample powers to give this assent, and has, in fact, already given it in some instances.

20. Care must be taken that the saleable products of such a farm do not compete with existing home products. They should be mainly butter or bacon, the production of which under the arable system of dairying affords opportunity for large employment of labour, while our home demand for these products is now largely met by foreign importation, not because of the lower price of the foreign product, but in consequence of insufficiency of home production. These products could, therefore, be raised without displacing any home farm labour now employed. The land might also be used for flax, beetroot for sugar, and growing farm seeds, for which the amount of hand labour available would give great facilities in competition with foreign products. Our imports during 1894 of flax and flax substitutes exceeded 9,000,000*l.*, in addition to the seed, of nearly 4,000,000*l.* Last year over 700,000 tons of sugar came from Germany, and 300,000 tons from France and Holland, in both cases a continuous increase over previous years being shown, the total quantities from these countries being 130,000 tons in excess of the amount imported in 1892. With skill and ample hand labour, beet can be grown and its saccharine properties developed as successfully in this country as abroad. Our imports of farm seeds in 1894 were of the value of nearly 1,000,000*l.* Vegetables and fruit would be grown and preserved for use on the colony, but, with the exception of evaporated vegetables and such articles as seakale, mushrooms, and asparagus, should not be placed in the market, which is already sufficiently supplied.

21. The auxiliary industries would have to be of a character which require little capital and can be carried on by intermittent labour. The productions therefrom would have to be (*a*) such as are required upon the colony, or (*b*) such as are not now made in this country, or (*c*) those for which the demand here exceeds the existing supply.

22. The industries which comply with these conditions are of a varied character. They should mainly be of a nature arising from the products of a farm. Thus they might include straw-plaiting from straw grown upon the farm ; preparing flax for the market ; various products from rushes, osiers, and pith, if these were grown or found as a waste product ; milling for consumption on the colony ; cleaning and hand-picking seed for market ; curing bacon ; evaporating fruit and vegetables ; and the making and packing of butter, sterilised milk, and other products of the dairy.

23. For the supply of such a community there would be bootmaking, tailoring, repairing clothes, building work of various descriptions, decorative work, carpentry, joinery, furniture making, and upholstery, for those men who have experience in any of these trades prior to coming upon the colony. Men who prove their aptitude in the use of tools might receive training in some of the simpler departments of outdoor work, such as the making fittings for live stock, fencing, the erection of farm outbuildings, and such other things as may be required for use either upon the colony, or by the men who propose to settle permanently on the land in accordance with the proposals contained in Part II.

24. In the selection of an estate, its adaptability for burning bricks, making cement, producing concrete slabs, opening a stone quarry, or working a gravel pit, should be considered, as the products of any of these industries would be of great utility upon the colony.

25. Lastly, a few handicrafts might be introduced which have long since died out in competition with modern manufactures, but which, if now revived, having a quality of their own, might create a new demand for productions not now supplied in this country. It must be remembered that much work which has ceased to be profitable in England as a sole means of livelihood might well be introduced upon such a colony.

26. It has been pointed out that one-third of the working time of each man may be employed by him in auxiliary industries for his own benefit. The two-thirds of his time will be sufficient to supply his maintenance. In order that every colonist may receive some cash payment in addition to his maintenance, even at times when the whole of his labour is required on the land, and he has no spare time to devote to any auxiliary industry, all work employed on the land should, as far as possible, be paid for at the piece-work rates current in the district, and the colonist should be paid at those rates for all work done by him on the land in excess of the amount considered requisite to provide maintenance expenses. When the whole of a man's time is required on the land, and it is not found possible to calculate its value at piece-work rates, then definite duties can be assigned to him to be discharged by him in exchange for his maintenance, and all his excess work—which in this case would be on the uncultivated land only—would be paid for as piece-work and at piece-work rates. If the payment above-named of 4*s.* per week

has been sent to the wife or family of any colonist, then that sum should be deducted from the cash wages earned by him; while if no such payment had been made, the whole of the amount earned by him should be credited to him, a part only to be drawn by him in cash, and the remainder to accumulate and be paid to him when he left the colony.

27. The money advanced by the State for the founding of these colonies would be in the nature of an investment.

(1.) The land purchased would become and remain national property, to be dealt with by the State as it thought fit.

(2.) The value of the land, a large portion of which would be land that had either never been cultivated or had gone out of cultivation, would be greatly enhanced by the labour bestowed on it under skilful management and favourable conditions.

(3.) As soon as the land provided for a farm training colony had been brought to such a state of cultivation that there no longer existed any uncultivated portions, it would cease to be adapted for training purposes, and would be suitable for the permanent settlements and small farms described in Part II. When this stage was reached, the land would bring in rent; and in view of the advantages which the tenants of these settlements would enjoy, in the way of assistance by skilled managers, the benefit of co-operation, and the specially good condition of the land itself, there would be no reason to doubt that the returns from their labour upon the land would be such as to admit of the payment of rents which would not only pay interest on the money advanced by the State, but also a sinking fund out of which the capital sum could be eventually repaid.

28. Under these circumstances no interest should be charged by the State on the money advanced to found the colony, so long as it remained a farm training colony; because, as has been pointed out, there will be a constantly growing increment in the value of the land due to the labour of those employed upon it; and that increment will in itself—apart from any consideration of the use of the land for the purpose of meeting and dealing with a great social difficulty—accrue to the State as a valuable asset to set off against any loss of interest during the years when the land is being used as a training colony, and before the period when it will have become an interest-bearing investment.

29. The financial possibilities of farm training colonies upon this system; the liabilities and prospects which Poor Law authorities would have in connection with them; and the means the State would have for securing and obtaining a return of the money invested; will be best shown by an example.

30. The cost of such a colony to accommodate 200 persons may be estimated at about 30,000*l.*, this amount being made up as follows:

	£.	£.
Purchase of cultivated farm of 600 acres at 15*l.* per acre	9,000	
Purchase of 600 acres of uncultivated land at 5*l.* per acre	3,000	
Capital expenditure on 200 acres of latter at 8*l.* per acre	1,600	
Capital expenditure on 400 acres of latter at 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre	1,400	
Total expenditure for land		15,000
New buildings necessary for colony	6,000	
Furniture and fittings for the same	2,000	
Other permanent capital		8,000
Working capital for farm and industries		7,000
		£. 30,000

31. In this example it will be seen that the amount set down for the purchase of the land averages 10*l.* per acre for the entire area of 1,200 acres. At this price large tracts of arable land can be obtained, which may have been subject to some degree of tillage, and have yielded remunerative cereal crops, but are now going out of cultivation. It will be further noticed that there is an allowance of 8*l.* per acre for expenditure upon a part of the uncultivated land. This will be required for the costs of one year's maintenance of 50 men (out of the 200), who will be employed entirely on that land: and to cover salaries and wages for skilled labour and supervision over the whole colony, as well as to provide piece-work remuneration for work done by the men over and above the amount required from them in exchange for their maintenance. On the remaining 400 acres a sum of only 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre is allowed, as no separate provision is needed for the maintenance of the men employed on this portion of the uncultivated land, because they are included among those whose maintenance is derived from the proceeds of the cultivated land. The amount put down for the new buildings would be required for the erection of tenement houses for those living with their wives, and lodging houses for the others. There would also have to be erected sheds for the auxiliary industries and stores. There would probably be found some cottages upon the property, and also two or more farm houses, which should be adapted to accommodate the management staff and skilled labourers. The existing farm buildings would probably be ample, but the amount allowed above would permit of any additions found to be necessary. The sum put down for furniture and fittings would be found sufficient not only for the lodging houses, but for the complete equipment of the married men's quarters. The last item of working capital would be necessary for implements, live stock, cash for salaries, wages, maintenance of men, and farm expenses, and for materials and expenses of carrying on the auxiliary industries.

32. Coming now to the current expenses of the cultivated portion of a colony so acquired and equipped, the farm working expenses to be provided would include tithe, rates, wages of farm manager and skilled labourers, steam cultivation, horse labour, seed, manure, depreciation of implements, and general costs of administration. Seeing that the farm would be worked on the arable dairying system, and kept in high cultivation, these payments might be estimated to amount to 2,500*l.* per annum. In addition to this there would be the cost of maintenance of the other 150 colonists, which would come from the products of the cultivated land, and which, at 16*l.* each, would amount to 2,400*l.*, making a total annual expenditure of 4,900*l.* to be provided for.

33. As to the returns—With the increased produce from hand surface tillage under skilled direction, and the profitable nature of some crops, which the hand labour available would render possible, the annual value of the crops on the 600 cultivated acres might reasonably be expected to be 9*l.* per acre, or 5,400*l.* But of this produce about a third will be consumed in the maintenance of the colonists. The remaining produce will be converted, for sale in whatever form is the most profitable, by the industrial departments of the colony; and the cost of such conversion would be got out of the price realised for the product in excess of the value of the crop. From this source would be derived the money to buy for the colony all those consumables required, such as coal, &c., which are not raised upon the colony, and also the funds to meet the farm working expenses.

34. It

34. It has been shown that the returns given in this example amount to 5,400*l.*, while the total expenses are 4,900*l.* There would, therefore, be a margin of 500*l.*, which will provide the cash payments for piece-work, or otherwise, which might be paid to the men on account of their work upon the cultivated land. If the returns were only 7*l.* 10*s.* per acre each year, which may be taken as the present average return from any ordinary farm not having the opportunities of the special hand cultivation, and advantages which the colony would possess, the total returns would only be 4,500*l.*, but the costs of harvesting and other expenses being less, would reduce the farm payments by at least 300*l.* Allowing, however, for the same possible payment of 500*l.* to the colonists, in addition to maintenance, there would be a total cost of 5,100*l.*, showing a deficiency on the year's working of 600*l.*, which would have to be made up by the Poor Law authorities. This loss would amount to 3*l.* for each of the 200 men, or about 1*s.* 3*d.* per head per week. The above figures have reference only to the land in cultivation at the time the colony was entered upon.

35. As to the finance of the work upon the uncultivated land, it will be seen that in the example given a sufficient amount of capital is provided for the maintenance during the first year of 50 men, to be solely employed in bringing 200 acres under cultivation. When these 200 acres have been brought into a state of full cultivation the products from them will be of a similar value to those from the other cultivated land, and they will contribute in like proportion to the maintenance of the men employed thereon. Consequently, with 800 acres of cultivated land the full number of 200 colonists would be maintained, and with the capital expenditure of about the amount estimated of 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre, more of the uncultivated land could be gradually brought under tillage, and the self-supporting powers of the colony thus still further increased.

36. In cases where the number of acres of cultivated and uncultivated land were not equal, as in the example given above, the methods would have to be different. If the estate consisted more largely of uncultivated land, then either the number of men would at the commencement of the colony have to be less in proportion to the total area, or larger sums would have to be allowed for capital expenditure upon the land. If the estate consisted more largely, or even entirely, of land which was more or less cultivated, then more skilled supervision would be required for the gradual introduction of hand labour in cultivation, and the number of men received should be strictly limited to the work necessary for the land. In the latter case the capital expenditure would be less, and the whole estate would the sooner yield the highest possible results, and therefore it would be the more speedily prepared for a permanent farm settlement, as described in Part II.

37. From the same example it will now be shown how the amount invested by the State is secured, and can be returned if necessary. When, by the above procedure, the whole 1,200 acres have become highly cultivated, they will be adapted for the permanent settlements referred to in Part II. The land would then have a minimum value of certainly 20*l.* per acre if used for that purpose. It could then be offered to the trustees of such settlements, either at a rental of 3 per cent. on that value, which would be 12*s.* per acre per annum, or, if the State decided to sell to the trustees of the settlement, the sale could be made by payment of an annual sum for interest and sinking fund, which would be 4½ per cent. if spread over a term of 50 years, or a higher sum if a shorter term were arranged. The State would thus receive interest on the full improved value of the property from the time that it was used for the purposes of the settlement.

38. Moreover, the State will have an equivalent for the interest on capital while the property was being used for a training colony. It will be seen from the above example that the land, when in a condition for the formation of a settlement, will have a value of 24,000*l.*, that is 9,000*l.* in excess of the 15,000*l.* originally paid and since expended upon it. But if the land alone, after complete cultivation, has a total value of 24,000*l.*, there will only remain a difference of 6,000*l.* between that value and the 30,000*l.* originally invested by the State. The value of the assets in the equipment of the colony, other than land, could not fail to cover that difference by more than the interest accruing if taken over a period of five years at 3 per cent., as well as leaving a sum sufficient to write off depreciation in the floating capital, buildings, and stock. Thus, during the period necessary for bringing the whole area into a complete state of cultivation, the labour of the men employed would, besides having provided for their own maintenance, have added to the value of the land a sum sufficient to cover the accrued interest on the State's investment, as well as providing for the depreciation of the working plant and equipment of the farm, on which half of the State capital had been spent.

39. It will be seen from the foregoing statement that when the whole area of 1,200 acres is completely cultivated and ready for use as one of the farm settlements described in Part II., the State will have more security for its capital investment of 30,000*l.* than when the training colony was founded; for the condition of the land would enable the settlers easily to pay interest as a rent for their holdings, together with a sinking fund spread over 50 years. If such land were to be offered for sale to private owners with the property upon it, the full amount invested by the State in its purchase and equipment could be realised. It must, however, be borne in mind that the whole purpose of the scheme is to encourage settlers to remain permanently on the land, and to show that such settlements, maintained in a high state of cultivation under skilful management, may afford permanent occupation to that portion of the population which, but for this outlet, would add to the present difficulties of finding constant employment for able-bodied men in the manufacturing centres of this country. Consequently, the land, once acquired, should be for ever devoted to the object for which it was purchased. It should remain vested in trustees under the county council as national property, notwithstanding that the money provided by the State had been repaid by a sinking fund.

40. In concluding these suggestions relating to farm training colonies, it must be pointed out that their success will largely depend upon their management. The whole colony should be under the direction of some competent and trained superintendent, who has a scientific and practical knowledge of agriculture and thorough cultivation, in order to direct the uninitiated labour which would be received upon the farm for the purpose of obtaining the highest possible results. It is obvious that, with such management, not only would each individual have a higher value when working in common with others, but exceptional opportunities would be afforded for the utilisation of the fruits of his labour. For the direction of the small industrial occupations, which will be required when work is not wanted on the land, it would not be difficult to obtain the services of skilled persons at very moderate remuneration, to control and direct these departments of labour to the greatest advantage of the men and the needs of the colony. This would supply an opening for the employment of men who have become too old to compete with younger men in the manufacturing districts, but whose skill and experience would make them very useful in this capacity.

41. It will be observed that farm training colonies offer no attraction as a permanent means of livelihood to those who seek its assistance, and that even if the costs were higher, and the results less than those named in the example, it would have the advantages already stated over the existing system. The men, after having been temporarily assisted with healthful work, which would enable them to live and support their families without resorting to poor law relief, would either go back to their occupations, or would acquire a sufficient knowledge and taste for permanent country life to enable them to be assisted under the methods described in Part II.

42. The funds to be provided by the State for the founding of such colonies might be derived from a source similar to that from which the funds are now provided for the purposes of technical education for the industrial classes. An annual grant of 780,000*l.*, derived from the duties on whiskey and beer, is made by the State to local authorities, which they may apply either to the object of promoting technical education or to the relief of local burdens; and, as a matter of fact, a total sum of 654,000*l.* is now being annually spent by the various local

authorities on educational purposes. It is obvious that a similar allocation of the money of the State as that made in one year only by the State to the local authorities for the above purposes, would establish, at least, 25 such farm training colonies at a cost of 30,000*l.* each ; and if, in the present year, only one-fourth of that amount were devoted to this object, six of such colonies could be founded at once, which would be sufficient to test the success of the scheme without any risk of ultimate loss to the State of the capital sum, with a reasonable expectation that the money would be recovered, even if the results did not justify the adoption of the scheme to its utmost possibilities, viz., that of providing remunerative work for large masses of the population.

43. The control of these farm training colonies being vested in the county councils might enable a system of management to be adopted by them which would utilise the zeal and activity of voluntary helpers, who would associate with the working life of the colonists such recreations and moral influences as would tend to elevate those who lived there, for however short a period. It is now usual for county councils to invite the voluntary aid of persons interested in technical education to join the committees of the councils to manage their schools. In like manner they might invite the co-operation of zealous and discreet persons in the various localities where farm training colonies were established, to take a large and active part in their management. It is also not unreasonable to suppose that the colonies would attract the generosity of those who would desire to make them a great success, by contributing funds to the managers to provide recreations and recreative instructions, which would prevent the life of the colony becoming monotonous or depressing.

Part II.—SMALL FARM SETTLEMENTS.

1. In order to meet the case of those who are displaced from industries they have followed, and who may be encouraged to seek to obtain a permanent living from the land, it will be necessary to provide suitable estates for small farm settlements. Where the lands used for the farm training colonies described in Part I. have reached so high a state of cultivation as to be unfit for that purpose, they can at once be used for permanent settlements. Where such lands are not available, county councils should be authorised to negotiate with landowners in their counties who may be willing to supply the requisite areas of suitable land, either with or without the necessary buildings.

2. The method of procedure for converting farm training colonies into permanent settlements has already been dealt with in Part I. Where land has to be specially acquired for such settlements, the method of procedure should be as follows :—

3. Every county council should receive applications from those who seek to obtain a permanent living from the land. Landowners should be asked to send to the county council particulars of any available farms which may be suitable for the purpose. On the general suitability of any farm being approved, the council should convene a meeting of the applicants, and if the farm be accepted at such a meeting by a sufficient number to take up the entire area, the council should appoint provisional trustees or managers to act for the applicants. These trustees should then arrange terms with the owner of the land, and settle its allotment and the buildings suitable for the applicants. They should next submit to the county council full particulars of the terms which can be settled with the owner of the land, the areas desired to be taken by each of the intending occupiers, and the cost of the buildings necessary. If the county council approve of the proposed terms, they should then recommend a loan to be made by the State to the trustees of the sum necessary for the erection of the buildings and laying out the property.

4. On such a loan being sanctioned, the trustees would acquire the property and erect the buildings, and the holdings would be allotted to the respective applicants. Before possession was given, every applicant would have to undertake to do, within six months of entry, the fencing and certain other specified work, mainly in relation to the outbuildings, which could reasonably be required to be done by the occupier. He might then take possession on any one of three different systems: He might (*a*) sign an ordinary agreement of tenancy on terms agreed upon with the trustees ; or (*b*) pay at least one-tenth the cost of the buildings upon his holding, executing at the same time a deed stating the amount remaining due from him for the same, and the annual charge upon it, calculated at 4 per cent. interest ; or (*c*) agree to pay annually 6 per cent. interest on the total cost for a term of 25 years, which at the end of that term would discharge his liability in respect of the buildings.

5. Wherever possible, the land should be secured on a perpetual lease. To the owner this system would secure an annual rent on so certain a tenure that it would be saleable without difficulty at short notice at any time. To the occupier it would give a permanent tenure without any obligation to pay the capital value of the land. Lastly, a loan only being required for the erection of the buildings, the total sum necessary to be advanced by the State would be much less than if the purchase money was to be paid for the land. This system, though little used in England, would be practically introducing the principle of the Scottish feu rent. If, however, no sufficient number of farms were found which the owners were able to lease in this manner, the trustees should be authorised to buy the land. In this case the whole of the purchase money would be advanced to them, and the property made subject to an annual charge, which would provide the interest on the purchase money and form a sinking fund to repay the capital to the State at the end of a term not exceeding 50 years. If the full period were allowed for repayment, an annual payment of under 4¼ per cent. would be sufficient for the purpose.

6. To give an example of the working of this suggested system. A suitable farm of 500 acres might be offered on a perpetual lease at 300*l.* per annum. The trustees might apportion this rent at an average of 15*s.* per acre, thus securing a profit rental in order to provide the management charges. An occupier requiring 8 acres of average land, with house and buildings costing 140*l.*, would then obtain entry on agreeing to do certain work upon the holding, and undertaking either (*a*) to pay a rent of 12*l.* per annum for the house and land ; or (*b*) to make a payment of 15*l.* and sign a mortgage deed for 125*l.* at an annual interest of 5*l.* with the perpetual ground rent of 6*l.* per annum for the eight acres of land ; or (*c*) to agree to pay the sum of 9*l.* per annum for a term of 25 years with a perpetual rent of 6*l.* for the land. If the land were purchased at 25 years' purchase upon the rent named in the example, the price for the land of each holding might be capitalised at the same rate, and made repayable by each occupier at the rate of 4¾ per cent. if the payments were to extend for a period of 50 years, or of 6 per cent. if the payments were to extend over only 25 years. The former would amount to 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* and the latter to 9*l.* per annum, in the place of the 6*l.* perpetual rent named in the example. The annual value of the crops from the eight acres would average from 60*l.* to 80*l.*, nearly one-half of this being produce for consumption, while the remainder would be converted into products for sale. The amount of mortgage charged upon the holdings when the buildings were purchased could be reduced at the wish of the occupier at any time.

7. The margin between the rates of interest named to be chargeable to the occupiers, and the 3 per cent. at which the money should be lent by the State, would be sufficient to defray all management costs, and leave a small surplus fund in the hands of the trustees. On every settlement it would be necessary to erect central buildings for general use. These should comprise dairy factory, bacon-curing sheds, fruit and vegetable-preserving room, mill, seed stores, bakery, the cost of same varying from 800*l.* to 1,500*l.*, according to the size and requirements of the settlements. The whole of the amount necessary for the erection of such buildings should be advanced by the State,

State, subject to an annual payment of 5½ per cent. which would provide for interest and repayment of principal at the end of 25 years. The charge made to the tenants for the use of the buildings would then be such amount as would meet this annual payment, in addition to defraying the working expenses of the business carried on in the buildings.

8. Taking into consideration the security to the State, it will be seen that the work which the occupier would have to do for the property at the time of entry, the improvements and additions which the majority of the occupiers would make to the houses, and the greatly improved value which in every case would be given to the land by the labour of the occupiers, would speedily create a valuable tenant-right. Judging from the experience of small holdings, this tenant-right of the land alone might amount to from 6*l.* to 10*l.* per acre within even three years, so that continual occupancy would be certain under ordinary circumstances. If in exceptional cases an occupier suddenly left, the trustees would be able at once to sell his interest to another occupier. If the land were purchased by the trustees, then the annual charge for the holding would be heavier than if the land were leased; but as payment on account of the land would entirely cease at the end of the agreed term, a further element of security for continued occupancy would be given.

9. In many cases, if the system of loan for the erection of buildings for this class of small occupiers were sanctioned, landowners themselves, without assistance from the county councils, would be willing to form such settlements and give their personal aid and direction to their formation. It is the difficulties of finding money for the erection of buildings that has hindered the foundation by private landowners of settlements of small farms for the benefit of those intending occupiers who would gladly rent such properties if available, and that of getting a sufficient number of simultaneous applications through a competent body.

10. In the case of owners erecting the buildings, loans should be granted to them either permanently at 3 per cent. interest, if not more than two-thirds the cost of erection was required, or, if the loan were made repayable by annual instalments to cover principal and interest over a term not exceeding 30 years, then the entire cost of the buildings might be lent.

11. It will thus be seen that under such a system, through a combination of landowners, county councils, and the State, it will be feasible to afford to these unemployed classes an outlet on the land which has never before existed, and would not be possible under any other arrangement.

12. The first question to be considered in connection with these proposals is whether there is a large number of men who would form these settlements. If the possession of not less than 20*l.* or 30*l.*, which is a third of the total amount of capital necessary for a settler on entering upon the land, be held to justify the loan of the remaining two-thirds, there can be little doubt as to there being many thousands of such men. They include those who have been displaced from industrial pursuits in the towns in consequence of the changes in manufactures; town workers who have country wives, and who, for the sake of their families or for their own health, wish to go into the country even at a sacrifice of income and some comforts; country mechanics who no longer have a sufficiency of work in the rural districts, and who will be joining the intermittently "unemployed" in our towns unless assisted in a country life; army pensioners or reserve men, whose income is insufficient to keep them from competing for work with unskilled labourers; and country labourers to whom friends, relatives, or late employers would be willing to supply the small capital needed, if other conditions were afforded to enable them to secure a living upon a small holding. To give assistance to these classes will be as beneficial to the destitute unemployed as if given direct to the latter, owing to the fact that the former, though they possess some means, are at present competing in the labour market.

13. Secondly, there is the economic question as to whether the land of England will sustain a largely increased number. On this point it is only necessary to point out that, whereas the census returns of 1871 showed the number of agricultural labourers in England and Wales in that year to be 980,054, in 1891 the number had fallen to 779,527, notwithstanding the increase in population. We thus see that in only 20 years, over 200,000 wage-earners, representing with those dependent upon them a population of probably 1,000,000 persons, went away from the land, either to become dependent upon charity or to compete for work in our towns. As long as we have this continual and rapid decrease in the number of those maintained from the land, with a growing population, the difficulties of employment are certain to increase.

14. Thirdly, there arises the question whether there is reasonable ground for expecting that the men taken on to these small farm settlements will be able to make a living on them for themselves and their families.

For an answer to this question we may look to experience derived from various sources.

(*a.*) Probably the largest co-operative settlement of small tenants is at Frederiksoord, in North Holland. Here a charitable society is working 1,250 acres of land mainly for training labourers, and has established those who have been trained upon about 220 holdings of less than seven acres each. This property is most unsuited for its purpose. It consists of poor sandy land, situated many miles from the nearest market; the tenants apparently do not possess sufficient capital; the current price of produce is less than half the amount realised in England; and there are no industries in operation except for training young people. Nevertheless the tenants seem to be able to live and pay a rent, although the latter in many cases is much in arrear.

(*b.*) In Guernsey the size of the farms averages about the same as that at Frederiksoord, and the difference in the result is mainly owing to suitable land, adequate capital, and sufficient skill. On this island there is a population of 35,000 persons maintained upon less than 30,000 acres. There is no waste of manure; the hedges and ditches are kept clean; every available yard of land is utilised; the dairy stock is fed and reared especially in view of butter production; all possible appliances are used to improve the products and reduce labour; and there is united action in the realisation of produce. Here, therefore, we find the conditions named, and the result is entirely satisfactory. No doubt Guernsey possesses some advantage in climate, but against this there is the disadvantage of the heavy rent, which varies from 4*l.* to 7*l.* per acre.

(*c.*) In France it is computed that there are 1,500,000 small owners cultivating their own land in holdings of less than eight acres each. The character of the land is not superior to what we have in England, while prices for surplus produce are much less. Within the past few years the necessity of co-operation has been more fully recognised, and particularly in Normandy it is being largely introduced with the greatest benefit.

(*d.*) In Switzerland we find the small holders living in a most adverse climate; but here, again, by reason of the possession of an auxiliary industry, many of the occupiers of even a smaller area than that named in the above conditions are able to earn a living, although, owing to inclement seasons, it is a hard and difficult one.

(*e.*) France with its small cultivators is able to produce the greater part of the food needed for its population, while our imports during 1894 of agricultural produce for the purposes of consumption exceeded a value of 115,000,000*l.* Of this amount nearly 20,000,000*l.* was live stock or meat, which our small farmers could not produce. Corn and wheat exceeded 48,000,000*l.*, out of which barley would be a profitable crop for small growers here, though the import of 710,000 tons in 1892 had increased to 1,560,000 tons in 1894. Of butter, cheese,

cheese, bacon, ham, pork, lard, and milk, all direct or indirect products of the dairy, and which can be produced profitably from small holdings, the imports were nearly 35,000,000*l.* Imported butter alone was of the value of 13,470,000*l.*, the quantity being nearly 130,000 tons as compared with under 110,000 tons in 1892. For foreign eggs we paid 3,780,000*l.*, and of potatoes, onions, apples, fresh fruit, and vegetables, the imports exceeded 5,000,000*l.* When we remember that in addition to these articles we also imported vast quantities of linseed, clover, and other seeds, hay, straw, rabbits, poultry, flax fibre, and other agricultural products, some of which cannot be grown by large farmers, but can be profitably produced by small cultivators, there can be no doubt that, with skilful direction, small holders can find home markets for such produce as they do not require for consumption, until at least some thousands of additional acres of our land are under more thorough cultivation.

(*f.*) In England small farms are usually considered as being of 40 or 50 acres, and when of that extent and mainly of arable land, they have proved most unsatisfactory. The tenants of these small farms have to contend with the same adverse conditions as large farmers, but without the advantages of machinery, large capital, and wholesale buying.

15. The method by which a larger number of persons can be helped to a living upon land is not therefore in the extension of such isolated small farms as we are now acquainted with in this country, but by the formation of definite settlements of small farms where the conditions of success as above stated can be supplied; where the same skilled general management and supervision as that described as essential to the success of the farm training colonies will be continuously maintained at the cost of the whole settlement; and where the production will be principally for home consumption and only partially for competitive sale.

16. Probably many of the settlers would require assistance to enable them to secure adequate working capital. This could safely be provided upon the adoption of the co-operative principle which was introduced by Herr Raffeisen, and has been so great a success among the small holders on the Continent, provided that the loan in no case exceeded two-thirds of the amount of capital actually used upon a holding by the cultivator. The men upon any particular settlement would form a co-operative body for mutual help in harvesting and marketing, and for obtaining labour-saving appliances. Loans might safely be made to that body upon their joint responsibility. This responsibility would naturally not be undertaken for the purpose of granting loans to any borrowers except those of a known good character, and unless the amount lent was for an approved purpose of a productive nature. The adoption of this principle of mutual liability for obtaining additional credit would not be quite new in England, for such co-operative credit societies are already in operation in this country. Some fund must, therefore, be provided to be loaned to the committee of the occupiers, to be used by them for such purposes as the committee may sanction, and subject to some such conditions as the model rules issued by the Agricultural Banks Association show to be necessary.

17. To carry out the system of settlement here suggested involves the possession of more means than those who had been on a training colony would usually possess. A commodious house, therefore, should be erected upon the property chosen for a settlement, to be used as a lodging house for those coming from a training colony and wishing ultimately to secure an independent farm. The old farmhouse upon the property might possibly be enlarged and adapted for this purpose. To any man having skill, but no capital, might be allotted a particular portion of the land as a tenant, with the understanding that he should be supplied with the seed, manure, and other articles required for efficiently working the area appropriated to his use, while the trustees would realise his produce, paying him the sum obtained, less the cost of articles supplied by them and the cost of his maintenance in the house. Under this system the tenant would be free to use his time in any way that he desired, provided that he kept his land in good cultivation. By securing harvest wages from a large farmer, or by obtaining specially remunerative returns from his industrial work in addition to good profits from the land held by him, he might soon be able to provide the necessary sum which would enable him to be assisted in securing one of the holdings with a house erected upon it. In some cases two or more single men might join together to take one of such holdings.

18. But in suggesting the extension of the number of cultivators, the reasons for quitting country life must not be forgotten. These are numerous; but by far the greatest are the hopelessness of the life of a rural labourer to our younger men and the deadly dulness of country life. The introduction of a recognised system of small holdings, under which they will speedily obtain a home, where there will be a continual interest in improvements and additions; and the collection of such small cultivators on to one settlement, giving an opportunity of social recreation, will rid a country life of what are at present its greatest disadvantages. These settlements would also afford a large field for the work of benevolent members of the cultivated and wealthier classes, who would devote time and zeal to bring refinement and recreation to the lives of the settlers, and many of whom might be willing to act as trustees of the settlements under the county councils.

19. It is not suggested that these proposals to form farm colonies and settlements will give immediate work to the hundreds of thousands who are now in need of employment. They can, however, be commenced without fresh legislation or delay. That there is plenty of land suitable for the purpose, and ready to be restored to cultivation, may be seen from a comparison of the agricultural returns for 1892 with those of 20 years ago. These show that within that period the total acreage of land under tillage had decreased from 13,600,000 acres to 11,800,000 acres; that is, 1,800,000 acres which were formerly under arable cultivation had become permanent grass land. Of these 1,800,000 acres a sufficient quantity could be obtained, together with the necessary proportion of cultivated land, for the purpose of forming, in the course of time, any necessary number of the farm training colonies and farm settlements described in this scheme. In view of our growing population, and of the increasing and pressing desire of many to be assisted in the directions named, there can be little doubt that as these colonies and settlements are created, they will absorb to the utmost of their capacity those who now form the unemployed industrial classes, anxious for work and asking only for the opportunities to be given them to maintain themselves.

20. The effects of such a system properly carried out would be far-reaching. There would be good grounds for hope that the stream of the younger men to the towns would be checked, and that a considerable portion of that large population which 25 years ago was maintained by the land, but which has since left it, would return thither. Not only would it gradually provide a remedy for the present and apparently chronic distress arising from want of employment, but the growth and extension of the system of placing unemployed men on the land and bringing unemployed land into cultivation, would increase the wealth of the country by developing home products, would release a large amount of capital now lying in the land idle and profitless, and would lessen the congestion of population and the consequent fierce competition of labour in our manufacturing districts.

21. It will be seen that these proposals to meet the great problem submitted by Parliament to the Select Committee are based on the principle that "prevention is better than cure," so far as concerns the want of employment of the well-conducted working classes.

APPENDIX, No. 24.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Bramwell Booth*, 28 May 1895.

SCHEDULE of the various Shelters for Homeless Men and Women.

Price per Night.	Number of Shelters.	Extent of Accommodation.	Nature of Accommodation.	Food supplied.	Character of Men using Shelters.
1*d.*	1	500	Comfortable wooden seat in a warm building, slice of bread, ample lavatory accommodation, with hot and cold water and towels.	Soup, ½*d.*; bread (6 ozs.), ½*d.*; jam or butter, ½*d.*; other varieties of good wholesome food at low rates.	Chiefly the lowest possible grade, homeless, destitute, and often starving.
2*d.*	10	3,490	Bunk for each man, with seaweed mattress, pillow and covering, hot and cold water, towels, &c.	Soup, ½*d.*; bread (6 ozs.), ½*d.*; jam or butter, ½*d.*; other varieties of good wholesome food at low rates.	A little improved, and more likely to be raised, and in course of elevation.
3*d.*	1	100	Bunk with mattress and covering in a cubicle like a ship's cabin; lavatory accommodation as in the 2*d.* shelter.	Soup, ½*d.*; bread (6 ozs.), ½*d.*; jam or butter, ½*d.*; other varieties of good wholesome food at low rates.	A middle class, securing privacy when they can afford it.
4*d.*	5	738	(*a*) Bunk similar to last class, with food. (*b*) Separate bedstead; lavatory accommodation.	(*a*) Roll (6 ozs.); pint of tea, coffee, or cocoa, both supper and breakfast. (*b*) Without food.	Improved class, many boardcarriers, bill-distributors, and odd job men.
4*d.* and 6*d.*	4	590	Separate bedstead, reading and smoking rooms, bath, &c.	Food not included, can be had at cheap rates.	Gathered principally from those who have come up from the preceding classes.
TOTAL - - -		5,418			

APPENDIX, No. 25.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Bramwell Booth*, 28 May 1895.

RETURN showing the number of men passed through the Hadleigh Colony, and with what results, up to 30th September 1894.

The number of men passed through the Colony is 1,616; of these 128 left immediately after or before commencing work, so that the number who became colonists is 1,488.

Number restored to friends	51
Number sent to situations obtained for them through the scheme	283
Number enlisted in Her Majesty's Army and emigrated	51
Number left, whose conduct was satisfactory, with situations in view	602
Other satisfactory cases	6
Left without notice on their own account	146
Discharged as unsatisfactory for various reasons, including drunkenness and being unwilling to work	349
TOTAL	1,488

RETURN of Food and Shelter Section of Darkest England Scheme for 12 months ended 30th November 1894.

	£.	s.	d.
Income for shelter	10,007	9	2
Income for food	18,809	6	–
TOTAL CREDIT	£. 28,816	15	2

The Disbursements were :—

	£.	s.	d.
Rent, rates, taxes, and insurance	4,460	3	5
Gas and water	1,589	13	3
Fuel	985	7	9
Repairs and replacements	1,070	13	11
Incidental expenses (soap, disinfectant, legal and medical charges)	1,687	9	1
Wages of officers, cooks, cleaners, &c.	2,851	11	1
Management expenses	873	12	–
	13,518	10	6
Purchases of food, &c.	14,695	5	9
TOTAL DEBIT	£. 28,213	16	3

STATEMENT showing the loss on the Farm Colony at Hadleigh, 1894 : the average number of colonists at work the distribution of the colonists, and the average loss per week per man.

	£.	s.	d.
The loss for the year was	2,445	6	4

The average number of colonists at work was 243

	£.	s.	d.
Showing a weekly average loss per man of about	–	3	10

Note.—Of the loss, 1,400*l.* was from exceptional and mechanical causes in no way affected by the labour of the men : the remainder, 1,045*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* divided by 243, gives a weekly average loss on each man of about 1*s.* 6*d.*

The men were distributed as follows :—

Farm	19	Bricks	63
Market garden	50	Works	34
Nursery, dairy, poultry	11	Baker, butcher, boots, &c.	12
Traffic	23		
Home hospital, laundry, &c.	23	TOTAL	243
Office and stores	8		

RETURN showing analyses of trades of 222 men (about 32 per cent. of 700 unemployed men) working in connection with the Darkest England Scheme, in February 1895.

Carpenters - - - - 25	Stokers - - - - 6	Bookbinders - - - 2
Painters - - - - 23	Brickmakers - - - 5	Pictureframe makers - - 2
Engineers - - - - 19	Blacksmiths - - - 5	Glass blowers - - - 2
Tailors - - - - 13	Plumbers and gasfitters - 5	Plasterers - - - - 2
Shoemakers - - - 11	Masons - - - - 4	Sailmakers - - - - 2
Printers - - - - 10	Polishers - - - - 3	Saddlers - - - - 2
Watchmakers - - - 8	Weavers - - - - 4	Upholsterers - - - 2
Ironworkers - - - 6	Paviors - - - - 3	Millers - - - - 2
Bakers - - - - 6	Paperhangers - - - 2	Engravers - - - - 2
Cabinet makers - - - 6	Brushmakers - - - 2	Wire workers - - - 2
Compositors - - - 6		

And one each of the following trades :—

Gold Blocker.	Furrier.	Pattern maker.	Cigar maker.
Candlemaker.	Mackintosh maker.	Trunk maker.	Tinman.
Wheelwright.	Soap boiler.	Rope maker.	Miner.
Decorator.	Paper stainer.	Paper maker.	Rivetter.
Bedstead maker.	Brass moulder.	Lithographer.	Metal stamper.
Mat finisher.	Scale maker.	Stick maker.	Cooper.
Silk weaver.	Sugar boiler.	Tool plater.	Slater.
Plasterer.	Coach smith.		

TOTAL - - - - 222

APPENDIX, No. 26.

PAPER handed in by the *Chairman*, 26 June 1895.

Sir, Stockton Rectory, Rugby, 14 June 1895.

In answer to your inquiry on behalf of the Select Committee on Distress, I have the honour to make the following statement:—

My experience of this parish extends over little more than a year. During that time I have carried on the arrangements made by Mr. Tuckwell with regard to the glebe land, making only such alterations and modifications as appeared to me necessary.

I explained to the tenants that the agreements between them and Mr. Tuckwell expired with his resignation (as indeed was stated in the agreements, but not thoroughly understood by all the men), but that if they liked to make fresh arrangements with me, they were welcome to do so. I pointed out that I had no power to bind my successor, and that our agreements would be from year to year, terminable by six months' notice prior to Michaelmas, or by my decease or resignation.

The other alteration I made was a re-adjustment of rent, according to the position and quality of the land and the demand for it. I found that those tenants whose land was at a little distance from the village were jealous of those who held allotments which were more handy, but let at the same price. Consequently, those in the two nearest fields now pay 30*s.* per acre, those in the next 25*s.*, and in the furthest 1*l.* This was the best arrangement I could devise, but of course it was not made without some little friction. The land, however, is all let, and the men are, for the most part, I believe, satisfied. I may point out that the rent of the nearest allotment field stood at 3*l.* per acre before Mr. Tuckwell lowered it to 1*l.*, and that, I believe, my highest rent for arable land is lower than the lowest of any other allotments in this or the neighbouring parish of Southam.

You, sir, will judge whether your Committee need be troubled with these details, but I have written them partly in my own defence against the charge preferred by Mr. Tuckwell, in his evidence before you, that I had upset his arrangements.

There are two points, however, that I should like to make: The first is that it is a mistake to suppose that the population of this parish consists of agricultural labourers, or, that there is any real distress which cannot be met in the usual way. (I mention this because Mr. Tuckwell's evidence seems to imply that this is a typical agricultural parish.) I should say that not more than one man in 30 out of a population of nearly 800 is an agricultural labourer, and this view is confirmed by others well qualified to judge. There are three sets of lime and cement works in the parish, and almost every man and boy is employed in them throughout the year. The result is that the population rapidly increases, which would not be the case in a typical agricultural village.

The second point is this: That though most of the men are glad to have from one-third to half an acre of allotment, they do not want more, as they have neither the time nor the strength to work it. Most of them, too, are well housed, and have capital gardens attached to their cottages.

The chief cause of any distress we ever have is the fact that, as a rule, money is not saved but spent in drink.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Campbell-Bannerman, M.P. (signed) *C. L. E. Parker.*

APPENDIX, No. 27.

PAPER handed in by the *Chairman*, 26 June 1895.

To the Chairman of the Committee on the Distress of the Unemployed.

Dear Sir, Waltham Rectory, Grimsby, 24 June 1895.

Mr. Parker states, in the letter which you are good enough to send, that he has re-adjusted, not upset, my Stockton covenants. These are the facts as reported to me by the persons concerned. On his appointment, Mr. Parker wrote to the principal tenant a letter, which lies before me, announcing that he should continue my arrangements as regards the land. After coming into residence he ejected this tenant from his land with scant notice, and without option of remaining at a higher rent; ejected from house as well as land, another tenant of some 30 acres, who had been my right hand in allotment management; raised to 6*l.* 10*s.* the rent of a cottage, set down in the cottage schedule as worth 5*l.*, the rent of about 25 allotment tenants from 20*s.* to 30*s.* an acre; of about 12 more to 25*s* an acre; and cancelled my 14 years leases of which eight years were still to run, replacing them by a yearly tenancy.

Prolonged security of tenure and a maximum 20*s.* per acre were, in my judgment, vital to the success of my scheme, for reasons stated in a published leaflet, which I sent to Mr. Parker. His letter does not show that he had weighed these reasons, or given any consideration to the economic value of the experiment in the men's interest, and to the danger of injuring them by its infraction.

I do not see the bearing of his statement that three-fourths of the tenants are cement-makers, not agricultural labourers. Their average income is 15*s.* a week, a sum which means poverty alike to labourer and artisan; my enterprise increased this to 19*s.* a week, in the case of one-acre tenants, who formed the majority, proportionally in the case of smaller holders; and this increase is imperilled, in my opinion, by Mr. Parker's re-adjustment. The jealousy of which he speaks was never manifested to me, except in the case of an out-lying field let later on, whose rent I accordingly lowered; the original tenancies, far and near, were distributed by lot to the entire satisfaction of the men. That this satisfaction is at an end I have abundant evidence. They resent the raised rent, still more bitterly the yearly tenancy. These strike at the essentials of my plan, and I feel justified in visiting them with an anathema.

Yours, &c.

(signed) *W. Tuckwell.*

APPENDIX, No. 28.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *H. Llewellyn Smith*, March 1895.

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS.

TABLE showing the PERCENTAGE NUMBER of MEMBERS of the TRADE SOCIETIES in the *United Kingdom* rendering Returns to the BOARD OF TRADE who were returned as UNEMPLOYED* at the close of each Month in the under-mentioned Years.

At End of each Month.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	Mean for the Seven Years (1888-94).
January	7·8	3·1	1·4	3·4	5·0	10·0	7·0	5·4
February	7·0	2·8	1·4	2·6	5·7	9·5	6·3	5·0
March	5·7	2·2	1·7	2·8	5·7	8·7	6·5	4·8
April	5·2	2·0	2·0	2·7	5·4	6·9	6·1	4·3
May	4·8	2·0	2·0	3·0	5·9	6·2	6·3	4·3
June	4·6	1·8	1·9	2·9	5·2	5·8	6·3	4·1
July	3·9	1·7	2·3	3·3	5·0	6·2	7·4	4·3
August	4·8	2·5	2·3	4·2	5·1	7·1	7·7	4·8
September	4·4	2·1	2·6	4·5	6·2	7·3	7·6	4·96
October	4·4	1·8	2·6	4·4	7·3	7·3	7·4	5·0
November	3·4	1·5	2·4	3·8	8·3	7·2	7·0	4·8
December	3·3	1·7	3·0	4·4	10·2	7·9	7·7	5·5
Mean for Year	**4·9**	**2·1**	**2·1**	**3·5**	**6·3**	**7·5**	**6·9**	—

* Not including sick or superannuated members.

APPENDIX, No. 29.

PAPERS handed in by Mr. *Vallance*, 25 June 1895.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING HOMES FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

A.

REPORT of the Committee of Guardians of the Whitechapel Union appointed on the 24th January 1888 to consider the following "Proposal for Training Able-bodied men in Country pursuits by means of the Poor Law," as introduced by the Rev. S. A. Barnett, viz. :—

"1. That the guardians of London, represented by a central authority under the Metropolitan Poor Act, or an existing board of guardians, purchase uncultivated land in the neighbourhood of London.

"2. That such guardians provide on or near this land accommodation for in-door poor either in existing buildings or in sheds built for the purpose.

"3. That the Local Government Board be asked to issue a Special Order to administer this country settlement, so that its arrangements may be adapted to the training of the inmates in country work without forcing them to conform to rules which are suggestive of the workhouse.

"4. That the guardians offer able-bodied persons of good character and of apparently solid determination residence in the country settlement, and an offer of the fixed tenure of land in England or the Colonies at the expiration of their time.

"(These are rather proposals on which discussion may be raised than part of a well-prepared plan. Discussion might bring out happier suggestions and might show how charity might supplement the Poor Law. Wages, for instance, might be credited to the men out of a charity fund, and means might be found for keeping the families without bringing them into touch with the Poor Law.)"

The consideration of the question referred to your committee has been entered upon with a due appreciation of its importance and an anxious desire to ascertain whether Poor Law administration in this country is capable of development in the direction of training the unemployed and destitute poor in agricultural pursuits. The country is face to face with a social problem of no ordinary difficulty, and it seems to your committee to be fitting that Poor Law guardians should take their part in dealing with it, at all events to the extent of adapting their administration to modern needs and making it as remedial and as helpful as possible. The statistics of pauperism do not, perhaps, in themselves, justify a pessimistic view of the future, but they must be read side by side with such facts as the present congested condition of the labour market, the gravitation of the unemployed to London and other large centres, the gradual decline of agriculture in England, the dependence of the country upon foreign importations, not alone for bread, but for meat, fruit, poultry and dairy and garden produce, and the loss of wealth and employment which is involved in the abandonment of the soil. In the existence of such facts as these appears the justification for the present reference; and your committee think they will best discharge their responsibility by adverting to the proceedings at their several meetings before reporting the conclusion at which they have arrived.

Your committee accordingly desire to state that at their first meeting, on the 31st of January, the Rev. S. A. Barnett explained that his object was to deal with the existing conditions of distress in the Metropolis in a manner which would inspire the individual with hope and energy and either place him (by means of amended Land Laws) in occupation or possession of soil in this country, or fit him for life in the colonies. The proposal was intended to meet the cases of the better class of unskilled workmen who now shunned the workhouse and were fast becoming, by enforced idleness, demoralised and unfitted for labour. Something had to be done, and there seemed to be more hope in this being done by the Poor Law than by private or organised benevolence. If a farm of, say, 100 or 150 acres were procured at a moderate distance from London, the unemployed labourers might be drafted there and trained in farm work, building, draining, and such handicrafts as would fit them for independence in England or the Colonies. They might be received upon condition that they agreed to remain for, say, six months; their families being meanwhile relieved at home by Poor Law or charity. Or, there was the alternative of providing for whole families on the farm and single men—an incentive to good conduct and industry being afforded by some charity fund undertaking to credit each of the inmates with a weekly sum which would be alone paid upon the satisfactory completion of the period of training.

The discussion which ensued—and which it was arranged should be preliminary to the more detailed consideration of the proposal at a future meeting—*inter alia* raised the points whether the scheme would not be more likely to be successful on Canadian rather than on English soil—whether, do what guardians may, the stigma of pauperism will not attach to the scheme, seeing that an "agricultural settlement" will be but a country workhouse under relaxed conditions—and whether, pending an amendment of the Land Laws, emigration is not the only available remedy for present distress.

At the second meeting of your committee, on the 28th February, letters and papers which had been received by the clerk, as the result of the publicity given to the original proposal, were submitted and read as follows, viz :—

Letter from a gentleman stating that he has 152 acres of first-class land at Swanley, Kent, on which he proposes to test the question of "home colonisation" with some 20 families, and asking for co-operation.

Letter from a practical farmer in Essex stating that the scheme under consideration had attracted his attention, and commended itself to him as one of real utility and practicability, and adding, that if any guardian would like to give him a call, he would explain how, in his opinion, it could be carried out at a small cost, with prospect of a remunerative return in the near future.

Letter from Mr. A. E. Petrie, Assistant Commissary General, accompanying copy of his published pamphlet, entitled, "Labour and Independence : or Profitable Work for those in need of it." Mr. Petrie's scheme is for the employment by the State of the unemployed on waste and other unoccupied lands, such as New Forest, Exmoor, Dartmoor, &c., by means of "Labour Centres." Single men and women, married men and women, and boys from 10 to 15 to be there received. The work to consist mainly of land cultivation, and the object in view the fitting the employés

employés for colonial life. It is proposed that the parish sending an inmate should pay a daily sum of 6*d.* to the Government for his or her maintenance; and further, that the estates of deceased persons falling to the Crown should be applied, in part, to the expenses of the labour centres, and, in part, to expenses of emigration by lot.

Letters from a lady, accompanying copy of a paper explanatory of her efforts to achieve independence when left in 1879 a widow in London, without means and with six children to maintain. In this paper the writer speaks of her earliest efforts to provide for her little ones by painting pictures, which at first brought her in some 30*s.* a week, but which later on was brought into competition with German importations until it became impossible to get bread, and with want came illness, and with the doctor, the mandate, "rest and nourishment—complete rest for months." In her distress and need, clinging to life for the sake of her children, and, seeking Divine guidance, she was led to see a "vista of hope" in the prospect of being able to do in the country what farm labourers were said to be able to do—live upon 10*s.* a week—this amount having been recently promised by a relative "to help with her rent." She then tells her pathetic story how she yearned for the country; how she left London and took a four-roomed cottage in a distant village, with bread oven in kitchen, two sheds, some fruit trees, and ¼-acre of garden ground for 4*l.* 19*s.* per annum. The worst furniture was taken down, the rest sold; and then the writer goes on to say how she and her children lived there; how they worked; how they tilled the garden; how they succeeded with poultry and animals; how they learned dairy farming; how at Michaelmas, 1886, they removed into another house (eight rooms) with 4½ acres of ground at a rent of 16*l.*; how they succeeded there; how circumstances improved and health returned, until at length she is led to say, "Friends, where is my poverty? I have lost it; it has gone. I am in the midst of abundance, and yet I have not worked hard one day, but only used prudence and the usual amount of common sense which every Londoner's worked brain possesses."

In the course of the discussion which followed, it was observed that the scheme formulated by Mr. Barnett differed essentially from that of the Home Colonisation Society; the former being akin to the German system which provides solely for men, the relief being only for a few months; and the latter being akin to the Dutch system under which whole families and persons may spend their lives in industrial colonies. It was further suggested as open to question whether the English labourer was, by education and temperament, as likely to succeed as the German and Dutch labourer, and whether, before the labourer could be got into possession of the land, the Land Laws would not have to be altered and facilities for transfer afforded. A point was also raised whether the State should not undertake the care of the roads throughout the country. The condition of those in the county of Essex, notwithstanding that the highway rates amounted to 1*s.* in the £. were stated to be very bad indeed, especially with so much adjacent land out of cultivation (20,000 to 25,000 acres, it was said), and so much consequent neglect of hedging and ditching; and that an immense amount of work was awaiting to be done and should be done if the State could only be induced to undertake it. At this stage information was desired as to the existing accommodation in the London workhouses and the maximum number of paupers relieved therein during the present winter; and the clerk was directed to seek such information and further formulate, in draft, a resolution.

At the third and last meeting of your committee held this day, the clerk submitted the replies which he had received to his circular of inquiry as to the accommodation and the pauperism of the Metropolitan workhouses, from which it appears that in 30 workhouses there is certified accommodation for 30,786 inmates, and that the highest number maintained therein at any time during the present winter has been 30,905; but that, notwithstanding the small aggregate excess of paupers over accommodation, the numbers for which the workhouses are certified have been exceeded this winter in 15 establishments. The resolution which had been formulated, in draft, by the clerk was then submitted and read; and after a further discussion it was unanimously decided to make representation of the conclusions at which your committee have arrived upon the subject, as follows, viz.:—

"That, in the opinion of your committee, the primary object sought to be attained by the proposal contained in the reference, namely, to provide the means of training in agricultural work so as to fit men of good character and solid determination for the profitable occupation of the soil in this country, or the colonies, is one which deserves the earnest consideration of Poor Law guardians and all who are seeking to serve the cause of the poor.

"The facts appear to be undeniable that labour, especially unskilled, is largely in excess of the demand in this country—that the unemployed are gravitating to London and other large cities and there becoming enervated and demoralised by enforced idleness and the conditions of city life, as well as increasingly chargeable to the poor rates for support—that agricultural land is rapidly going out of cultivation—and that, to a corresponding extent, the production of wealth is being diminished, whilst millions of money is annually paid for meat, and dairy and garden produce imported from abroad. It is with these facts that guardians have to deal when they seek to make their administration helpful in the direction of the removal of causes of pauperism and distress.

"The condition precedent, however, to the Whitechapel, or any other, single board of guardians formulating a practicable scheme must necessarily be that such board is in actual need of workhouse accommodation; since, in the hands of guardians, an industrial or agricultural settlement in the country would be but an additional form of in-door relief. Under these circumstances, and having in view that the Whitechapel guardians are not in present need of such accommodation, your committee are of opinion that the guardians of all the Metropolitan unions should be invited forthwith to meet in conference to consider the question.

"Your committee submit accordingly.

"13 March 1888. (signed) *John Outhwaite*, Chairman of the Committee."

Agricultural Training Homes for the Unemployed.

B.

Report of the Committee appointed at a meeting of Metropolitan Poor Law Guardians, held at the City of London Board Room, 61, Bartholomew-close, on the 23rd July 1888, "to inquire into the practicability of applying the surplus labour of the Metropolis to the unproductive land at Home and in the Colonies, and the desirability of carrying out a scheme for this purpose under the direction of the Poor Law."

Your committee have to report that, as a preliminary to the consideration of the subject-matter of reference, they deemed it essential that information, both general and specific, should be sought from the chairman of each board of guardians in the county of Essex, being an agricultural county and contiguous to the Metropolis. A circular letter was accordingly addressed to the chairman of each of the Essex unions, as follows, viz.:—

"Agricultural Training Homes for the Unemployed.

"Dear Sir,

"A committee of guardians of Metropolitan unions and parishes has been formed for the purpose of considering "the question of the practicability, by means of the Poor Law, of adapting workhouse administration in the metropolis and large centres to the education and training of able-bodied men in country pursuits, in order to fit them for agricultural life in England, or the colonies.'"

"This committee emanates from a conference of metropolitan guardians which was held at the board room of the City of London Union on the 23rd of July, at which the following resolution was adopted, viz. :—

"That this conference is of opinion that it is desirable to appoint a committee to inquire into the practicability of applying the surplus labour of this metropolis to the unproductive land at home and in the colonies, and the desirability of carrying out a scheme for this purpose, under the direction of the Poor Law; and to report to a future conference."

"Naturally, in the consideration of the question, the committee feel that they cannot hope to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion without the advice and assistance of practical agriculturists, especially those who may be connected with Poor Law administration. I have accordingly been desired to address you and other chairman of boards of guardians in the county of Essex, and seek the favour of your co-operation with the committee in the direction of information, advice, and assistance, to enable them to determine the practicability of the proposal.

"Specifically, the committee would desire to ask you (1) whether there is any land in your union capable of utilisation for the purpose of establishing an 'Agricultural Training Home'; (2) whether, in your opinion, such an institution, worked under the Poor Law, could be managed so as to pay working expenses, or at least, without a loss to the ratepayers of the union from which the men there employed might be sent; (3) whether it would be possible to find employment for, say 80 or 100 men on the land, or farm, during the winter months; (4) whether employment could, in your opinion, be found for the men on neighbouring farms after a period of instruction; and (5) whether, in the event of there being no land available for the purpose of an industrial farm, under Poor Law management, any farmer in your neighbourhood would, in your opinion, be willing to take men sent to them from metropolitan unions as agricultural apprentices bound to serve for a fixed period of time.

"Enclosed herewith, for your information is a copy of a report of a committee of the Whitechapel Board of Guardians which led to the conference of metropolitan guardians; and if you, or your colleagues, can find opportunity and means of aiding the committee in any way, either personally at a meeting of the committee or by letter, I am to say that your assistance will be gratefully received.

"I am, &c."

To this circular letter four replies have been received by your committee; and as these afford a valuable contribution to the subject under consideration, it will be interesting here to append extracts from each such reply, as follows, viz. :—

The chairman of one union writes :—

"(1.) There is no land in this union capable of utilisation for the purpose of establishing an agricultural training home. Farms in the district have been recently re-let, at lower rents, and some land is in hand; but there is none out of cultivation in this union.

"(2.) It is quite certain that an institution, worked under the Poor Law, could not be managed to pay working expenses. Practical men, who have been at the work for years, with a thorough knowledge of the details of management, find great difficulty surrounds their task; and the officials of the Poor Law system would have neither the energy nor perseverance of these men. They could not make it pay, even if their labour, or a large portion of it, cost them nothing. The competition from the continent, the colonies, America, and India, is so severe, that prices for cereals and vegetable produce is forced down to a very low figure. Until this season, much of the latter has never found a market at all, but wasted in the fields. There is not a sufficient margin of profit for the cultivator who has made the subject a study; consequently, the master, manager, or other official, would not have the slightest chance.

"(3.) In the winter few hands are required on the land. These must be useful men, and those inured to exposure and hardship. London artisans would be of no value, and would suffer from the wet and cold.

"(4.) Farmers naturally employ their neighbours in preference to strangers, and naturally so. Extra hands are welcomed at special periods; hay-time, hopping, or harvest, find the Irish in the country, delighted to leave the smoke of London for a change of air. Thus they gain a holiday in imitation of the middle and upper classes.

"(5.) Occupiers hold their farms, in many instances, on short tenures, and would hesitate to be tide to their servants for long periods. The difficulty here arises as to boarding and caring for young hands. In the north of England, hirings are extended to 12 months.

"In this union, the guardians purchased a field adjoining the workhouse, to find employment for the men and boys, who might at any time be able to labour out of doors. They were placed under the direction of the master and an assistant, the latter being on the ground most of the time that the paupers were. The spade was used, the land cleaned and brought into a good state. But there was no wish to work on the part of the labourers; their desire was to smoke, to gaze at the passers by, to idle away and waste their time; there was not tho slightest energy to perseverance. The guardians, disgusted with their little farm, gave up agriculture, let their freehold, and took up wood-chopping. At all events, the lazy inmates are in-doors out of sight, and not a scandal to the neighbourhood. This is the experience of men, most of whom know a little of, and are interested in, horticulture or husbandry.

"There are two difficulties apparent; that the guardians met with, and others would find, to obtain suitable overlookers for the task, men never tired, never wearied, men who understand the work and fond of it; then to find labourers who would face the weather, the heat, the cold, and all the changes of our fickle climate.

"The first step is, not to send more men into the country, but to endeavour to keep those that are there. Those that have been brought up to the plough, have learned to stack, to drill, to ditch, to care for stock, &c., &c. In some parishes of Essex, the young men all wish to go to London, to be policemen, railway porters, bricklayers, carpenters, or labourers, &c., and no wonder when the farmers are unable to offer sufficient remuneration.

"The decline of agriculture in England is occasioned by the price returned for the products of the soil. Just take examples at the present moment of vegetable produce—potatoes, 60*s.* per ton; cabbages, 3*d.* to 4*d.* per dozen; scarlet beans, 1*s.* 6*d.* per bushel (40 lbs.); &c., &c. The list might be extended to any length. We are surfeited with vegetables, which is only a natural sequence to the low prices which cereals realise. And this has been the state of trade in these articles all through the year. Cultivation of these useful necessaries has increased so much in many parts of England, till the puzzle now is what to grow that will find a market when it comes to perfection.

"Under these conditions, the time seems inopportune for Poor Law authorities to embark in such a speculation in an industry that is manifestly overdone."

Another chairman writes :—

"(1.) There is land in this union, uncultivated or imperfectly cultivated, which might be utilised for training homes. (2) I cannot form an opinion as to this, it would depend on so many circumstances. (3) There is less demand for labour on the land in winter than at any other season, and it would be almost impossible, even on a very large farm, to find employment for the number of men named. (4) This would be doubtful. (5) I do not know of any; the probabilities would be against it; farmers generally know so little about apprenticeship."

The

The vice chairman of one union writes :—

"(1.) Land in any quantity can be purchased at low rate. (2) Most certainly not. The men, under such a system, would assuredly earn less than half their maintenance. (3) Eighty or 100 men are sufficient for the working of 2,500 acres of land in the winter months. Drainage, &c., once done lasts many years, besides which it is work that only picked labourers can do. (4) In this neighbourhood there is abundance of labour. (5) Our board has tried a modification of this plan with our union house boys with but little success. Could fruit growing be successfully started and carried on by limited companies much more labour might be profitably utilised. With present low prices for general produce it is now out of the question."

The clerk of another union writes :—

"Whilst admitting the desirability of the course proposed, my board is strongly of opinion that it will be found impracticable in this part of the county of Essex. In reply to your first query, I may answer, no. To your second, that it could not be managed to pay working expenses, or without loss to the ratepayers. To your third query, certainly not in this union or neighbourhood. To your fourth query, it is believed not, except, perhaps in hay-time or harvest. During the winter months we have a large number of unemployed able bodied men. Lastly, my board, which consists almost exclusively of farmers, was unanimosly of opinion that the farmers, as a body, would not be troubled with agricultural apprentices."

Other communications of an interesting and suggestive character were also received, as will be seen by the following extracts, viz. :—

An Essex clergyman writes :—

"In my county, Essex, the depression is great. My own glebe is let under 7*s.* an acre, tithe-free, and yet the tenant says he can barely live. Consequently farmers employ fewer and fewer labourers, and pay no more than 10*s.* a week, and make deductions for wet days and bad weather. Since Christmas last (1887) many men have earned less than usual owing to the unusual amount of bad weather. Young men and lads yearn therefore to quit the country and seek work in the towns, where wages are higher and hours shorter. They hope that they may succeed, though others fail, and thus the stream runs from the country into the towns. Your scheme seems to propose to force an opposite current from town to country ; but can you do it ? Before you spend money upon it, might it not be prudent to take into your counsel some persons who live in the country and could give you an accurate idea of the great changes that are silently going on in its condition. My own opinion is that few of your town men would be equal to the hard work done by our fellows here for wages at 2*d.* an hour. I am often distressed at seeing them and dare not blame any young man for trying to leave such toil for other and lighter work. We hear a great deal about the sufferings of the poor in towns, but I say that the poor in the country have to endure terrible hardships. Last winter I felt constrained to supply at my own cost soup dinners to half the children in the parish school. But the sufferings of the country make less noise than those of the town."

Another clergyman writes :—

"We find in the country that there are already hundreds and thousands of men unemployed. There is room for all of them if the farms were let. But unfortunately many of the farms are quite without tenants and on those which are farmed too few men are employed. Machinery and the poverty of the farmers have made poor cultivation the rule, and one man to a 100 acres is the average. The land, if cultivated, will bear 20 men on a 100 acres. The only way to secure better cultivation and more employment of hands, in my opinion, is to grant the land in small lots under a manager at a fair rent. * * * For the unemployed of London I consider that several farms might be started, and with very little training each man could learn to manage an allotment. A man can live on three acres ; I know those who live on less. I am obtaining two farms from noblemen for unemployed labourers and shall be glad to give you any evidence or information which would help you to carry out your idea successfully."

Miss Twining, 84, Palace Gardens-terrace, writes :—

"I cannot help expressing my opinion, of whatever worth it may be, that the effort, so far as it regards our metropolitan able-bodied, will be an impossible and hopeless one. I do not speak quite without knowledge of the circumstances. I hear of our able-bodied poor at our Mary-place Workhouse and I know of the efforts that have been made there to provide and to persuade to work outside. I have read of the plans made in Holland and elsewhere in this direction, and I heard about them when I was in Holland some years ago. From none of these sources do I gather encouragement to embark on similar plans. Lastly, I know something of the metropolitan poor, having worked amongst them for over 40 years in various parishes. This experience leads me to believe that such will never consent to be sent to, or remain in, country work of any kind. Had they preferred the country they would not have come up to London, which, with all its miseries, has an attraction and a fascination for them. I have just been reading through the reports on Foreign Relief and I came across this passage. In speaking of plans adopted in Denmark, the author adds—'An attempt to employ paupers without coercion on land, absorbed large sums of money and failed in 1842.'"

These and other letters were read and considered at the meeting of your committee which was subsequently held. At this stage, however, it was felt by the committee that an important factor in the inquiry had recently been introduced in the shape of an issue of the "First Report of the Mansion House conference on the condition of the unemployed," and that care should be taken not to enter into competition with voluntary effort, but rather to work in concert with it. From this report of the Mansion House conference and its appendices, it appeared that not only had the opinion been reached that "any experimental scheme of agricultural colonies should be worked by private charity, in co-operation, as far as possible, with the Poor Law, rather than as part of the Poor Law system," but that a detailed scheme had been formulated, offers of land invited, and a public appeal for funds made. Under these circumstances, it was decided as a preliminary to further consideration of the question, to empower the chairman (Mr. J. G. White) to seek a meeting of the committee with the members of the Mansion House sub-committee, for the arrangement of a conference, at which the question whether the scheme should be undertaken by the Poor Law, or by voluntary charity, should be discussed. A joint meeting of the committee was accordingly convened and held with the result, however, that no concerted action between the two committees was found to be at the moment practicable ; the following resolution being, after a long discussion, carried by a majority of those present, viz. :—"That the representatives of the board of guardians be respectfully asked to submit the question at issue to the metropolitan boards of guardians and to inform the Mansion House committee of the result, before any further steps are taken"

Under these circumstances your committee are of opinion that they will best discharge their responsibility under the reference by submitting to the conference the information which they have gathered, and reporting the result of their recent interview with the Mansion House sub-committee ; and further by asking the conference to determine

(1.) Whether, in view of the steps taken by the Mansion House council to establish, out of voluntary funds, an agricultural training home, it is inexpedient, or unnecessary, for the Poor Law to enter upon a competitive scheme ; or

(2.) Whether, as a direction of development of Poor Law administration, it is still possible and desirable that the conference should continue their deliberations and action in the matter ; or

(3.) Whether the question shall be allowed to remain in abeyance pending the result of the agricultural training home experiment on the part of the Mansion House council.

Your Committee submit accordingly."

(signed) *J. G. White*, Chairman.

The conference accordingly again met on the 4th of February last, when it was resolved—"That, in the opinion of this conference it is not desirable that it should be immediately dissolved, but that the question of the expediency of establishing agricultural training homes for the unemployed under the direction of the Poor Law, be allowed to remain in abeyance pending the result of the agricultural training home experiment on the part of the Mansion House council."

(C.)

WHITECHAPEL UNION.

Agricultural Training Homes for the Unemployed.

At a meeting of the "agricultural training homes" committee of the guardians, held on Tuesday, the 13th June 1893, the following draft report was submitted and read by the clerk, viz. :—

Your committee resumed to consideration of the question of "agricultural training homes for the unemployed" on the 13th of December last, at the point at which the question had been left by a former committee in 1888, and subsequently by a joint conference of metropolitan guardians held at the board-room of the City of London guardians in Bartholomew-close.

Your committee started with the proposition that the only means by which guardians could establish an agricultural training home would be by a development of the workhouse system. The points, therefore, formulated were : (1) whether such a development is expedient ; (2) whether an agricultural training home can be best administered in the interest of the struggling poor by a Poor Law authority or by a voluntary body ; (3) whether, in the latter event, the "home" should be in part maintained by capitation payments by guardians, or by subscriptions under the 42 & 43 Vict. c. 54. s. 10 ; (4) whether it should be reserved for "able-bodied persons of good character and of apparently solid determination," or whether it should be open to all comers as a test of such character and determination ; (5) what means should be taken for placing men, who may have satisfactorily passed through a period of training in agricultural employment, or possession, or both ; or (6) whether the training should have for its object the placing of men and their families in a position of hope and possibility in the Colonies.

At their meeting on the 7th of February, Captain Gretton, hon. secretary of the East London Emigration Fund, attended in conference, and in the course of his remarks, suggested that what was wanted was a farm where men could be sent for a year, at the least, and where they would go through all the rotation of work, both in the farmyard and in the field, including milking, rough carpentering, &c. A dock labourer, for instance, was not physically fitted to compete in the agricultural labour market ; therefore he would require a long period of training. In the cases of married men, not only should they be sent to the farm, but also their wife and children, in order that one and all should become accustomed to country life. He illustrated this by referring to cases within his own experience in Canada, in which the wife, for want of a preparation for country life, became bored by the solitude, and prevailed upon the man to migrate into a town. In the country they were trained by necessary circumstances to habits of frugality and sobriety, the wife taking her share in learning to milk, make cheese and butter, and so preparing herself for natural occupation on a farm. He further advised that, experimentally, a selection should be made of, say, three or four families, who should be placed in cottages, and provided for during a probationary period, and an arrangement entered into with a neighbouring farmer for their training in agricultural pursuits.

On the 7th of March a communication was read from Mr. Walter Hazell, 15, Russell-square, regretting his inability to meet your committeee, but stating that he had in a very limited measure, experimented in the matter of an agricultural training home. He had a farm, he said in Essex of about 28 acres, with a comfortable farmhouse, where he took eight or ten lads or men at a time. As a rule they stayed for two or three months, and if their conduct was satisfactory, they were drafted off elsewhere, largely to Canada, by the aid of the "Self Help Emigration Society." A small proportion had turned out quite unsatisfactory, but in the last two years 40 men and boys had successfully passed through the farm ; and although, from a financial point of view, the effort had been a failure, socially and morally it had been a great success.

At this point it was suggested that the committee were face to face with two schemes, one to form a colony of men who should be trained in agriculture for a time and then settled on land in this country or the colonies, and the other, arising out of Captain Gretton's suggestion, to arrange with farmers to take men and women and to give them training in in-door and out-door work, including poultry rearing and dairy farming.

At this point the chairman of your committee intimated that he had already sent out to a number of selected farmers and others the following questions, viz. :—

> "Assume a Londoner, intelligent, enfeebled by poor living, but with a good physique and some energy, married to a decent wife, and with two or three children.
>
> "Could such a man, with his wife and family, be settled in a hut or cottage in your neighbourhood ? Could he, while receiving sufficient for support from London guardians, be worked by you ? Could you, that is, give him work on your farm so that he might at a year's end have some skill in digging, rough carpentering, and milking, be, in fact, fit for emigration ? Would it be possible to pay you for your trouble by a capitation grant on every man capable of digging, &c., &c. ? And might it be a condition that during the year so much waste land might be reclaimed ? This last condition is imposed to obviate the substitution of country by London labour."

In reply, one correspondent, a farmer at Thetford, said he thought the only practical method would be for boards to take farms and manage them on the lines of Booth's and Mills' farms. This gentleman has communicated with four farmers, three of whom appear to be guardians. They all think the scheme either illegal or impracticable for various reasons :—

(1.) There is not sufficient cottage accommodation.

(2.) Much jealousy would be stirred amongst the country people.

(3.) There is hardly any digging on farms. As to milking, the cows being most sensitive on the subject, no stock-owner would allow strangers to learn in that way.

(4.) Even

(4.) Even supposing a tolerably likely townsman, you could not convert him into a countryman in 12 months.

(5.) But the supposition itself appears most unlikely. If the man's morale and physique promised well for such an experiment, he would not not be in such a case.

(6.) Country guardians would object most indignantly if poor persons were allowed to be sent into parishes in the country and kept there a year, just long enough to make them chargeable to such country parish. A relieving officer is punishable for conniving at such a thing in the present state of the law (*sic.*).

Another correspondent said the scheme suggested seemed impracticable to all the farmers whom he had consulted. He thought, however, they would willingly form a committee down there (Chelmsford) to advise and supervise. A friend of his had further asked the question, "Where are the cottages, the farmers and the land for such experiments."

An Essex rector said he would gladly help were it not that the plan seemed to him "Utopian."

An Oxford vicar said he had 20 cottages vacant, and between 1861 and 1891 the population had decreased by 450. There was not work enough to keep the people.

A Buckingham farmer and Poor Law guardian thought there was little opening for such a man as a regular farm labourer, but thought he might get enough by odd jobs to gain experience in farm work.

Another correspondent said it was "a big question," and required great consideration. He added, that "on farms there is no digging done, it is too expensive, and, as to milking, such men as you mention would spoil the cows; and we have no waste land to reclaim."

Still by another correspondent, the scheme on any large scale was regarded as "impracticable." "Very few farmers" he said, "would be willing to undertake it, and even if they did, the man to be taught would probably soon drift into the lowest and least instructive work. I feel sure that a far better plan would be to take a piece of low-rented land and put several families on it under a superintendent. There may be objections to this of a different kind, but in this way the men might learn something."

At the same meeting, Mr. Trotter spoke of his experience in connection with General Booth's Farm Colony at Hadleigh. He said they had about 280 men at work, all single men. He picked them out of the Salvation Army workshops, generally taking a batch of about 20 at a time and paid their fares down. There they were put to hard manual labour in the brickfields or otherwise. It made them ache all over for two or three weeks, but after that their pains went and very often they had come forward and testified to their own improved physical condition. After describing the internal economy of the farm, Mr. Trotter said that about 1,100 had passed through it, some had been there the whole time, but the average was about three months. He would not be able to trace more than a dozen of them. Very often men would ask to stay as they were afraid, they said, of the influence of drink elsewhere. No men had been sent out to the colonies, and for the most part he did not know what became of those who left.

Mr. James Brown also submitted for consideration a scheme for purchasing a farm of, say, 300 acres; 200 acres to be retained for agricultural purposes, and the remainder divided into 33 plots of three acres, with a cottage, &c., on each; the 33 men to work on the farm at piece-work; and after 12 months to be allowed (*a*) to emigrate if they wish, or (*b*) to buy their own land at a price proportionate to that originally paid for the whole.

At their meeting on the 25th of April your committee had the advantage of the attendance of Mr. Bolton Smart, Mr. F. C. Mills, J.P., Miss Charlton and Miss Crawford, guardians of the Stepney Union. At this meeting, also, a letter was read from Mr. T. Hancock Nunn, who had been in communication on behalf of the chairman of this committee, with farmers and other practical men, enclosing a communication from another correspondent to the effect that the writer had talked the matter over with various individuals in different parishes, but that he only knew of one farmer who approved of it. "The scheme," he said, "of sending men to live on farms with their families for training in agriculture was looked upon as impracticable: (1) on account of the expense; (2) the insufficiency of any payment to compensate for the trouble and time necessary for an ordinary farmer to give to train the men; (3) the objection to introducing strangers and their families among the villagers; (4) the dissatisfaction which would be occasioned among the ordinary employés; and (5) the impossibility of guaranteeing the reclamation of waste land, since the farmer willing to take the men would probably have no waste land to be reclaimed. The writer goes on to say that it is generally considered, by those best able to judge, that a far better plan would be for the guardians themselves (or the district councils or town councils, or whatever body takes the place of the guardians under the Local Government Bill introduced last week) to purchase a farm that has got into a bad state of cultivation and work it themselves, with a competent manager and as few other skilled labourers as practicable. On this farm they might employ unskilled labour to as great an extent as it would be possible to do the work by hand labour, the manager all the time aiming to train the men to take up work on a colonial farm to be carried on concurrently by the guardians, and from which the men might be assisted into situations or to take up land on their own account. Gradually the home farm might be worked into a garden state of cultivation, and then sold at a large cost over first profit, this profit helping to recoup the ratepayers for the cost of carrying on the farm."

The foregoing narrative of the proceedings of the committee will sufficiently explain the nature and bases of the discussions which have taken place.

In considering, however, how far the establishment of an agricultural training home, or homes, is practicable, it has to be borne in mind that guardians can alone approach the question from the standpoint of the Poor Law, that is to say, from the standpoint of a possible development of the workhouse system in the actual treatment of paupers. If the guardians should foresee the possibility of improving their workhouse administration, and making it more and more contributory to character, self-help, and industrial habit, they would doubtless be quite justified in seeking means to that end, whether in the direction of the establishment of an agricultural training home, or otherwise, seeing that any such provision would not, in its broad features, be a departure from the principle of maintaining the able-bodied poor in a well-regulated workhouse. Possibly even this may seem to some an ambitious proposal; and yet those with the largest experience are those who are most conscious of the importance of making in-door relief as helpful, and as little hurtful as possible. On the other hand, there are those who would so far relax Poor Law administration as to attract "out of work" men of the better sort, who now suffer privation rather than resort to the Poor Law; and truly if one class more than another claims commiseration and practical help it is the latter. But here, it seems to your committee, to be of great importance, not only to give priority to the claims of the self-respecting poor in any scheme for improving the condition of the unemployed, but equally so to see to it that the aristocracy of the poor are not attempted to be saved from the Poor Law by the machinery of the Poor Law. Such an attempt would be fatal to character, and inimical to the interests of the community. Dealing, therefore, with this class alone, and not with those who already resort to the workhouse, your committee are of opinion that any scheme of an agricultural training home must necessarily be carried out by a body or organisation outside the Poor Law. No doubt to many this will be a disappointing conclusion, inasmuch as the Poor Law possesses means of enforcing rules, and of controlling numbers, which would not be possessed by any voluntary organisation. At the same time, it is to be borne in mind that it is the comparatively well-disposed and self-respecting whose circumstances would be met by the establishment of an agricultural training home, and therefore they would embrace a class of men presumably the most amenable to influence and disciplinary rules.

Your committee would welcome any proposal for thus bringing the unemployed into contact with agricultural life, and aiding them in achieving an independent existence under conditions helpful to themselves, and conducive to the interests of the community. But to attain this end, something more than training and acclimatisation is required. A man when he voluntarily submits himself to a course of preparation for agricultural life, must, in some

some form or other, have his future assured to him ; and if this is not in the occupation and possible ownership of the soil, his self-imposed hardships will have been in vain. There may have been more fiction than fact in the words of the poet that—

"There was a time ere England's woes began,
When every rood of ground maintained its man,"

but yet it would be strictly true to say that there was a time when a large portion of the soil of England was occupied by the rural population ; and if such a time could again be brought about, it would no doubt be to the interest of the poor, and conduce to the welfare and wealth of the nation. Failing this, the only outlook will be in the direction of emigration, and here again the possibilities of the future must be seen to be definite, sufficient, and assured.

As to the other class of able-bodied men who now resort to the workhouse, many of them upon any and every pretence, it is to be feared that but few would be found to be men of "solid determination," or be likely to be attracted by a proposal, however considerate and humane, which would withdraw them from their associates in London. Then again, if an agricultural training home were so designed as to offer special attraction to the "ne'er-do-well," and to tempt him to apply for parochial relief, it might be held to be opposed to the fundamental principle of the English Poor Law : that "the condition of the pauper should, upon the whole, be less eligible than that of the independent labourer." Still, something might, no doubt, be done in the way of providing in such an institution, whether designated a "home" or "workhouse," not precisely an eligible subsistence, but one in which there would be to the hopeful the elements of hope and possibility as to the future ; and to the "habitual pauper" a greater degree of deterrent influence than if relieved in a London workhouse. But even this would not be practicable without the power of enforcing detention during a reasonable period, and for this legislation would be necessary ; whilst it is open to serious question whether such an arrangement could be carried out successfully by any single board of guardians.

Upon the reading of the foregoing Report, the Chairman expressed his and, probably, other members' disappointment at its conclusions, as being a very poor outcome from the deliberations of the Committee ; and, with a view to assisting the Committee in reaching a less negative result, he (the Chairman) submitted the following alternative draft Report, viz. :—

The course which the Committee's inquiry should take was sketched at one of the earlier meetings, when the following points were raised for future consideration.

(1) Whether such a development of the present system as agricultural training farms would involve, is expedient ?

(2) Whether such homes would be best administered by the Poor Law or by voluntary bodies ?

(3) In the latter case whether the guardians should support the voluntary body by capitation payments or by subscriptions under the 42nd and 43rd Vict. ?

(4) Whether such farms should be open only to men of ascertained solid determination or whether they should be open to all able-bodied men, to serve as a test of such "solid determination" ?

(5) What means could be devised of dealing with the men when trained ?

(6) Whether the Colonies should be held out as the ultimate destination of the men ?

(1.) As to its expediency. The able-bodied who are out of work may roughly be divided into those who can work, but will not, and those who will work, but cannot obtain it. The charitable public have no means of discriminating between these two classes. The Poor Law was intended to help the public by offering relief coupled with ineligible conditions to those who professed to be destitute. These conditions are felt to be too hard for those who, although destitute, perhaps, through their own fault, are yet anxious to redeem their characters and earn an honest livelihood. The latter class is therefore constantly, but in most cases unavailingly, helped, by the charitable, along with a great many whose cases are practically hopeless.

To prevent the public from dealing with a problem which private charity is powerless to solve, it does appear expedient that the Poor law should take upon itself the responsibility of dealing with the unemployed. To do this adequately it must discriminate between those who are, and those who are not, willing to work. And it must do this without attempting to investigate character, and without making relief more eligible than independence. It is, therefore, proposed that boards of guardians should have power to offer work, which should not be degrading in itself, which should open up a chance of an honest career by training a man to earn a livelihood, and which should be ineligible to all but men of solid determination.

(2.) It is suggested that the guardians should use the charitable energy of the community to the full by appointing committees largely composed of well known and well tried charitable workers.

By thus opening a door of escape for the unemployed who seriously desired to work, the Poor Law would be enabled to deal from more severely than public opinion at present permits with the mere loafer and the "sturdy vagabond."

(3.) It would be necessary, of course, too, that guardians in offering the training should hold out reasonable hope that at its end a chance of a livelihood should be opened. Guardians at present have full powers of emigrating families, and there is a steady demand in Canada for agricultural labourers.

In order that no excuse should be available it would be desirable that the home of the man should be kept up during his training by means of a small allowance for his wife and family, its amount depending upon their earning power.

In order that a trial might be made of such a scheme, it is suggested that a board of guardians, willing to apply the principle, should acquire a small dairy farm, and engage a master, who should be capable of acting as foreman. The master-foreman would engage two or three experienced gangers, who would work with the men, instruct them, supervise and report upon their work. The produce of the farm would be utilised at the workhouse and the infirmary.

Whereupon it was Resolved :

That the alternative Reports now submitted be printed and circulated among the Committee ; and that this meeting do now stand adjourned until Tuesday the 3rd day of October next.

(D.)

REPORT of Committee of the Guardians, *re* "English Land Colonisation Scheme," which was submitted to the Board of Guardians and adopted at their meeting on Tuesday, 3rd October 1893 :

"Your Committee have been in conference with Mr. Harold E. Moore, Honorary Treasurer of the English Land Colonisation Society, touching the proposals of the society as set forth in recent letters addressed to the Guardians.

"The

"The definite inquiry submitted to the guardians is whether they will be prepared to make payment to the society in respect of such number, not exceeding 40, of the able-bodied poor of this union, as might be selected for the colony which the society proposes to found in Essex; the places vacated from time to time to be filled up by other men.

"The object of the society is to provide agricultural and other productive work 'to carry on such industries as are connected with farming,' and 'to introduce other minor industrial employments, which will bring in some return without competing with existing English products, and which may in the future be useful to the men so employed.'

"Annexed hereto is the draft of alternative Reports which have been formulated and already stand for consideration by your Committee, and which will be found to bring the history of the question. as presented to your Committee during the last five years, down to date.

"In view, however, of the nature of the representations made to the guardians by the English Land Colonisation Society in reference to their contemplated experiment, your Committee have deemed it expedient to anticipate the further consideration of the question, by dealing at once with the proposals submitted to the guardians by the Society.

"In doing so, your Committee desire in the first place to state that they are not prepared to make any recommendation which is calculated to weaken or impair the strict, uniform and well understood administration of the last 23 years. At the same iimt, it must not be forgotten that during that long period the guardians have continuously sought to attract voluntary and organised effort in the direction of saving the poor from pauperism, and the success of that effort has been contributory to the unbroken character of the administration.

"In the present instance, it does not appear to your Committee to be necessary for the guardians to identify themselves with the actual scheme of the English Land Colonisation Society, by giving adhesion to its principles, supporting its methods, predicting its success, or even accepting the statements as regards the condition of the labour market upon which the proposals are based. The Society is about to try an experiment in the direction of saving a certain class of destitute poor from pauperism; and the sole question is whether the Guardians will, under the statutory powers already existing, be disposed to assist in it, seeing that, as regards Poor Law administration, it will in no way impair its efficiency, whilst in the present state of public opinion it will present an interesting and instructive 'object lesson' It will also enable the guardians, in a practical way, to determine the character of the able-bodied men who now resort to the workhouse, and go far to justify a strictness of administration in those cases in which men decline to respond to efforts on their behalf.

"Under these circumstances, your Committee recommend that the guardians do consent, at the expiration of twelve months from the Society actually commencing operations, to subscribe to its funds a sum based upon a computation of the number of men actually received from this Union at a rate of 5*s.* per head per week; the Guardians to be satisfied by such evidence and means as may be determined that such 'men' are in a destitute condition and that they have resided in the Whitechapel Union 12 months and upwards immediately prior to such reception.

"The proposal to make such grant will be under the Act 42 & 43 Vict. cap. 54, sect. 10, upon the ground that the English Land Colonisation Society is an Institution which appears to the guardians 'to be calculated to render useful aid in the administration of the relief of the poor' and will be subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

"Your Committee recommend accordingly.

(signed) "*Saml. A. Barnett.*
Chairman."

(L.)

REPORT of the General Purposes Committee, submitted to the Guardians, 9th April 1895.

YOUR Committee have had under their consideration the letter addressed to the Local Government Board by the Paddington Board of Guardians on the 3rd of December last, a copy of which has been received by the guardians of this Union, as also communications from other metropolitan boards of governors upon the subject of the "Unemployed."

Taking up the question where it was left by the guardians of this Union last rear, it is to be observed that the experiment of sending certain selected men to the Bird Tree Farm, Langley (Newport), Essex, for training, with a view to emigration, has been more successful than could have been expected. Of the six men sent to the farm in the early part of the year, one did not reach his destination, one left for *bonâ fide* reasons, having succeeded in obtaining suitable employment, two have already been emigrated to an English colony, and the remaining two are on the eve of assisted emigration under equally hopeful conditions. True, the experiment has been a very limited one, and has, of course, made no perceptible impression upon the pauperism and poverty of the district. At the same time, it has been a very suggestive one, and has pointed (1) to the desirability of dealing, sympathetically and helpfully, with the exceptional cases of men who drift into the workhouse from no fault of their own, or if from fault or failure, who are sufficiently in earnest to respond to efforts for their redemption; (2) to the possibility of saving some from recourse to the workhouse at all; and (3) to the immense advantage of the Poor Law and voluntary agencies working in concert in dealing with the "unemployed." The managers at the farm in question did what the Poor Law could not do; whilst the necessity which was imposed upon Mr. Hazell in curtailing numbers and restricting the operations of the farm has been in no small measure a guarantee for the success of the experiment.

The position which has been up to the present taken by the guardians in relation to the question is sufficiently expressed in the following resolutions which were some time since adopted by the London and District Poor Law Officers' Association and subsequently concurred in by the guardians:—

"1. That in the opinion of this meeting of Poor Law officers, the question of the establishment of agricultural training homes for the unemployed, has alone a relation to Poor Law administration, in so far as it presents a development of the workhouse system without any weakening of its safeguards, or otherwise affords boards of guardians the means of co-operating with organised voluntary effort in cases of exceptional desert.

"2. That whilst the history and experience of labour colonies abroad afferd no sufficient data upon which to predict the success of an extended scheme of agricultural settlements in England, it ia yet worthy of consideration whether in dealing with 'out-of-work cases of the better sort, who suffer privation rather than resort to the Poor Law,' it would not be to the interest of such men, and conduce to the wealth and welfare of the nation, if they could be trained to an industrial life, and be brought eventually into permanent contact with the land.

"3. That to this end, and in supplementation of fragmentnry efforts already being made, it would be of great public value and interest, if, upon a limited scale, an agricultural home could be experimentally established by some voluutary organisation commanding public confidence, with a view to determining whether such an institution can be made the means of effectually training and improving the condition of any number of the unemployed.

"4. That it is not expedient that boards of guardians should enter into relations with voluntary bodies for the mere provision by the latter of a maintenance—possibly more eligible than in the workhouse—to able-bodied destitute persons; and that such co-operation should be strictly confined to selected cases of desert from the workhouse, with the definite object and intention of redeeming them from a condition of dependence.

"5. That this Meeting do re-affirm the following resolutions, which were, *inter alia*, adopted at the meeting of this Association on the 12th of May 1893, viz.:—

'That where an able-bodied pauper of the ordinary class has been an inmate of the workhouse at intervals of time ranging over a period of not less than six months, and who, during a period of one month has been admitted to the workhouse on more than three occasions, he should be deemed to be "an habitual pauper" and be liable to be taken before a Justice,' and

'That "an habitual pauper" upon being brought before a Justice should be liable—at the discretion of the Justice, having regard to all the circumstances—to be convicted and sent to a workhouse or farm colony to be specified, there to be detained, and trained in useful labour during a period of not exceeding three months.'"

As in previous years, the country is still face to face with the problem of the "Unemployed"—a term sufficiently vague to include the unfit and the unwilling as well as those of good character who are honestly seeking to maintain their independence but failing to obtain employment. The question thus again arises whether the circumstances of those "who make great personal sacrifices, in order to avoid the stigma of pauperism, to maintain their independence" can be met by the Poor Law, short of actual admission to the workhouse. Your Committee, therefore, submit that, whilst any general relaxation of the conditions of relief would be as inimical to the interests of the poor as to those of the community, no effort should be spared to make the administration of such relief helpful to those who are driven to the Poor Law by sheer necessity as well as deterrent to those who resort to it upon any and every pretence.

The experiment of sending men to a farm for training, with a view to emigration, has been alone tried in the cases of certain unmarried men, and it is difficult to see how it can be applied to those of married men with families, without involving their separation from their homes. At the same time, where a married man might desire to participate in the advantages of such an arrangement, it would, no doubt, be possible to provide for a shorter period of probation and training, and then to assist the emigration of the entire family. At all events, your Committee would submit that where a man, having a wife and family, is of good character, in possession of a decent home, and has resided in the union for at least 12 months, and who, from no fault of his own, is out of work and destitute, he might be offered assistance in the form of agricultural training for emigration, the wife and children being afforded adequate assistance through voluntary agencies, or failing this, in the form of out door relief. In other cases of exceptional desert, the arrangements contemplated by the modified Workhouse Test Order of 18th April 1887, might be sought to be resuscitated, assuming, of course, that voluntary charity should be found unequal to the task of relieving the families and keeping homes together.

Of course there would still remain the promised co-operation with the District Board of Works in the nature of "recommending for employment persons who, from their previous circumstances and condition, it is most desirable should not be placed under the necessity of receiving relief at the cost of the rates;" thus dealing in an exceptional manner with "the front rank of resident heads of families of good character, whose homes are worth preserving."

APPENDIX, No. 30.

PAPERS handed in by Sir *Hugh Owen*, K.C.B.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIANS AND THEIR OFFICERS AS TO RELIEF.

Administration of Relief.

ENGLAND and Wales, for the purpose of the relief of the poor, is divided into 654 unions, each union being under a separate board of guardians. Each union has its staff of relieving officers. The unions vary very much in population and in extent; in some unions there is but one relieving officer, whilst in others there are several such officers, each of them having a separate district for which he acts. In some cases the relieving officers have the services of assistants. The appointments and salaries of the officers are subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Each union has also a staff of medical officers, on whom it devolves to attend the sick poor in the workhouses, and the out-door poor in respect of whom they receive orders for their attendance.

Every person who is destitute has a right to relief. The relief may be given in the discretion of the guardians, either in the workhouse or (subject to certain restrictions imposed by Orders of the Local Government Board) by way of out-relief.

The guardians usually hold their meetings weekly, but in some cases the meetings are held fortnightly. Between the meetings of the guardians it devolves on the relieving officers to deal with the applications for relief which may be made to them.

It is the duty of a relieving officer, under the General Consolidated Order of 24th July 1847—

Duties of Relieving Officers as to Relief.

(*a*) To receive all applications for relief made to him within his district, or relating to any parish situated within his district, and forthwith to examine into the circumstances of every case by visiting the house of the applicant, if situated within his district, and by making all necessary inquiries into the state of health, the ability to work, the condition and family, and the means of such applicant, and to report the result of such inquiries in the prescribed form to the guardians at their next ordinary meeting; and also to visit from time to time as requisite all paupers receiving relief, and to report concerning the same as the guardians may direct.

(*b*) In any case of sickness or accident requiring relief by medical attendance, to procure such attendance by giving an order on the district medical officer, or by such other means as the urgency of the case may require.

(*c*) In every case of a poor person receiving medical relief, as soon as may be, and from time to time afterwards, to visit the house of such person, and until the next ordinary meeting of the guardians to supply such relief (not being in money), as the cases on his own view, or on the certificate of the district medical officer, may seem to require.

(*d*) In every case of sudden or urgent necessity to afford such relief to the destitute person as may be requisite, either by giving such person an order of admission into the workhouse and conveying him thereto if necessary, or by affording him relief out of the workhouse, provided that the same be not given in money.

(*e*) Duly and punctually to supply the weekly allowances of all paupers belonging to his district or being within the same, and to pay or administer relief of all paupers within his district to the amount and in the manner in which he may have been lawfully ordered by the guardians to pay or administer the same.

It is further the duty of the relieving officer to enter in a book termed the application and report book the particulars of all applications for relief which have been received by him, the result of his inquiries as regards the applicant, and the relief which has been given by him in any such cases; and in this book any orders which may be given by the guardians for the granting of relief or the continuance of relief are also entered.

Duties of Masters of Workhouses as to admission to Workhouse.

It is the duty of the master of the workhouse to admit into the workhouse any person for whose admission an order has been given by the board of guardians or by a relieving officer. It also devolves on him to admit a person without any order in a case of sudden or urgent necessity. The duties which devolve on the master as regards admissions to the workhouse are to be discharged by the matron of the workhouse in the absence of the master or his inability to act.

Out-door Relief.

In a case of sudden and urgent necessity, an overseer of the poor may also provisionally grant an order for the admission of a destitute person into the workhouse.

Out-door Relief Regulation Order.

With regard to out-door relief certain restrictions are imposed by Orders of the Local Government Board in pursuance of powers conferred by the 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76. These restrictions have reference chiefly to the relief of the able-bodied.

In the metropolis and a large number of provincial unions, especially in the manufacturing districts, the Out-Door Relief Regulation Order, which was first issued on the 14th December 1852, is in force. The Order contains the following provisions:—

Whenever the guardians allow relief to any able-bodied male person, out of the workhouse, one-half at least of the relief so allowed shall be given in articles of food or fuel, or in other articles of absolute necessity.—(Art. 1.)

In any case in which the guardians allow relief for a longer period than one week to any indigent poor person, resident within their union or parish respectively, without requiring that such person shall be received into the workhouse, such relief shall be given or administered weekly, or at such more frequent periods as they may deem expedient.—(Art. 2.)

Out-door Relief Regulation Order—*continued.*

It shall not be lawful for the guardians or their officers—

To establish any applicant for relief in trade or business ;

Nor to redeem from pawn for any such applicant any tools, implements, or other articles ;

Nor to purchase and give to such applicant any tools, implements, or other articles, except articles of clothing or bedding where urgently needed, and such articles as are hereinbefore referred to in Article 1 ;

Nor to pay, directly or indirectly, the expense of the conveyance of any poor person, unless conveyed under the provisions of some statute, or under an order of justices or other lawful authority, or in conformity with some Order or regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners, or the Poor Law Board [or the Local Government Board], except in the following cases, viz. :—

1st. The case of a person conveyed to or from a district school, or an hospital or infirmary, or a lunatic asylum, or a house licensed or hospital registered for the reception of lunatics ;

2nd. The case of a person conveyed to the workhouse of the union or parish in which such person is at the time chargeable ;

3rd. The case of a person conveyed to or from any other workhouse, or other house or establishment for the reception of poor persons, in which for the time being it shall be lawful for the guardians to place such person ;

Nor to give money to or on account of any such applicant for the purpose of effecting any of the objects in this article mentioned.

Nor to pay, wholly or in part, the rent of the house or lodging of any pauper, nor to apply any portion of the relief ordered to be given to any pauper in payment of any such rent, nor to retain any portion of such relief for the purpose of directly or indirectly discharging such rent, in full or in part, for any such pauper.

Provided always, that nothing in this article contained shall apply to any shelter or temporary lodging procured for a poor person in any case of sudden or urgent necessity or mental imbecility.—(Art. 3.)

No relief shall be given from the poor rates of any of the said parishes, or of any parish comprised in any of the said unions, to any person who does not reside in some place within such parish or union respectively, save and except in the following cases :—

1st. The case of a person casually within such parish, and destitute.

2nd. The case of a person requiring relief on account of any sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity, affecting him or her or any of his or her family.

3rd. The case of a widow, having a legitimate child dependent on her for support, and no illegitimate child born after the commencement of her widowhood, and who, at the time of her husband's death, was resident with him at some place other than the parish of her legal settlement, and not situated in the union in which such parish is comprised.

4th. The case of a child under the age of sixteen, maintained in a workhouse or establishment for the education of poor children not situate within the union or parish.

5th. The case of the wife or child residing within such parish or union of some person not residing therein.—(Art. 4.)

No relief shall be given to any able-bodied male person while he is employed for wages or other hire or remuneration by any person.—(Art. 5.)

Every able-bodied male person, if relieved out of the workhouse, shall be set to work by the guardians, and be kept employed under their direction and superintendence so long as he continues to receive relief.—(Art. 6.)

Provided that the regulations in Articles 5 and 6 shall not be imperative in the following cases :—

1st. The case of a person receiving relief on account of sudden and urgent necessity.

2nd. The case of a person receiving relief on account of any sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity, affecting such person or any of his family.

3rd. The case of a person receiving relief for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the burial of any of his family.

4th. The case of the wife, child, or children of a person confined in any gaol or place of safe custody.

5th. The case of the wife, child, or children, resident within the parish or union, of a person not residin therein.—(Art. 7.)

The guardians shall, within thirty days after they shall have proceeded to act in execution of Article 6, report to the [Local Government] Board the place or places at which able-bodied male paupers shall be set to work, the sort or sorts of work in which they or any of them shall be employed, the times and mode of work, and the provision made for superintending them while working, and shall forthwith discontinue or alter the same, if the [Local Government] Board shall so require.—(Art. 8.)

No relief which shall be contrary to any regulation in this Order shall be given by way of loan, but any relief which may be given in conformity with the provisions of this Order to or on account of any person to whom relief may be lawfully given above the age of twenty-one, or to his wife, or any part of his or her family under the age of sixteen, may, if the guardians shall think fit, be given by way of loan.—(Art. 9.)

If the guardians shall, upon consideration of the special circumstances of any particular case, deem it expedient to depart from any of the regulations hereinbefore contained (except those contained in Art. 3), and within twenty-one days after such departure shall report the same, and the grounds thereof, to the [Local Government] Board, the relief which may have been so given in such case by such guardians before an answer to such report shall have been returned by the said Board shall not be deemed to be contrary to the provisions of this Order, and if the [Local Government] Board shall approve of such departure, and shall notify such approval to the guardians, all relief given in such case after such notification, so far as the same shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions of such approval, shall be lawful, anything in this Order to the contrary notwithstanding.—(Art. 10.)

It will be observed that the guardians of the unions to which the Order applies are not precluded from granting relief to able-bodied men who require it in consequence of being out of employment, subject to the conditions specified in the above mentioned Articles. When out-relief is granted by the guardians, the amount of the relief is in their discretion, and the Orders of the Local Government Board impose no conditions in this matter.

matter. But it is the duty of the district auditor when auditing the accounts of the union, if he finds that any moneys belonging to the union have been wasted or misapplied, to surcharge the officer or other person accounting with the amount so wasted or misapplied, and if the sums granted by way of relief were clearly in excess of the requirements of the case he would be empowered to surcharge the amount of the excess.

Out-door Relief Regulation Order—*continued.*

In other unions, comprising chiefly agricultural districts and towns with a small population, relief is administered under the Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order. The provisions of that Order are as follows:—

Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order.

Every able-bodied person, male or female, requiring relief from any parish within any of the said unions, shall be relieved only in the workhouse of the union, together with such of the family of every such able-bodied person as may be resident with him or her, and may not be in employment, and together with the wife of every such able-bodied male person, if he be a married man, and if she be resident with him; save and except in the following cases:—

1st. Where such person shall require relief on account of sudden and urgent necessity.

2nd. Where such person shall require relief on account of any sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity affecting such person, or any of his or her family.

3rd. Where such person shall require relief for the purpose of defraying the expenses, either wholly or in part, of the burial of any of his or her family.

4th. Where such person, being a widow, shall be in the first six months of her widowhood.

5th. Where such person shall be a widow, and have a legitimate child or legitimate children dependent upon her, and incapable of earning his, her, or their livelihood, and have no illegitimate child born after the commencement of her widowhood.

6th. Where such person shall be confined in any gaol or place of safe custody, subject always to the regulation contained in Article 4.

7th. Where such person shall be the wife, or child, of any able-bodied man who shall be in the service of Her Majesty as a soldier, sailor, or marine.

8th. Where any able-bodied person, not being a soldier, sailor, or marine, shall not reside within the union, but the wife, child, or children of such person shall reside within the same the board of guardians of the union, according to their discretion, may, subject to the regulation contained in Article 4, afford relief in the workhouse to such wife, child, or children, or may allow out-door relief for any such child or children being within the age of nurture, and resident with the mother within the union.—(Art. 1.)

In every case in which out-door relief shall be given on account of sickness, accident, or infirmity, to any able-bodied male person, resident within any of the said unions, or to any member of the family of any able-bodied male person, an extract from the medical officer's weekly report (if any such officer shall have attended the case), stating the nature of such sickness, accident, or infirmity, shall be specially entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the board of guardians of the day on which the relief is ordered or subsequently allowed.

But if the board of guardians shall think fit, a certificate under the hand of the medical officer of the union, or of the medical practitioner in attendance on the party, shall be laid before the board, stating the nature of such sickness, accident, or infirmity, and a copy of the same shall be in like manner entered in the minutes.—(Art. 2.)

No relief shall be given from the poor rates of any parish comprised in any of the said unions to any person who does not reside in some place within the union, save and except in the following cases:—

1st. Where such person, being casually within such parish, shall become destitute.

2nd. Where such person shall require relief on account of any sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity, affecting such person, or any of his or her family.

3rd. Where such person shall be entitled to receive relief from any parish in which he or she may not be resident, under any order which justices may by law be authorised to make.

4th. Where such person, being a widow, shall be in the first six months of her widowhood.

5th. Where such person is a widow, who has a legitimate child dependent on her for support, and no illegitimate child born after the commencement of her widowhood, and who, at the time of her husband's death, was resident with him in some place other than the place of her legal settlement, and not situated in the union in which such parish may be comprised.

6th. Where such person shall be a child under the age of sixteen, maintained in a workhouse or establishment for the education of pauper children not situate within the union.

7th Where such person shall be the wife or child residing within the union, of some person not able-bodied, and not residing within the union.—(Art. 3.)

Where the husband of any woman is beyond the seas, or in custody of the law, or in confinement in a licensed house or asylum as a lunatic or idiot, all relief which the guardians shall give to his wife, or her child or children, shall be given to such woman, in the same manner, and subject to the same conditions, as if she were a widow.—(Art. 4.)

It shall not be lawful for the guardians, or any of their officers, or for the overseer or overseers of any parish in the union, to pay, wholly or in part, the rent of the house or lodging of any pauper, or to apply any portion of the relief ordered to be given to any pauper in payment of any such rent, or to retain any portion of such relief for the purpose of directly or indirectly discharging such rent, in full or in part, for any such pauper.

Provided always, that nothing in this Article contained shall apply to any shelter or temporary lodging, procured in any case of sudden and urgent necessity, or mental imbecility, or shall be taken to prevent the said guardians, in regulating the amount of relief to be afforded to any particular person, from considering the expense to be incurred by such person in providing lodging.—(Art. 5).

Provided always, that in case the guardians of any of the said unions depart in any particular instance from any of the regulations hereinbefore contained, and within fifteen days after such departure report the same, and the grounds thereof, to the [Local Government] Board, and the [Local Government] Board approve of such departure, then the relief granted in such particular instance shall, if otherwise lawful, not be deemed to be unlawful, or be subject to be disallowed.—(Art. 6.)

Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order —*continued.*

No relief which may be contrary to any regulation in this Order shall be given by way of loan; and any relief which may be given to, or on account of, any person above the age of twenty-one, or to his wife, or any part of his or her family under the age of sixteen, under Article 1, or any of the exceptions thereto, or under any of the exceptions to Article 3, or under Article 4, or under the proviso in Article 6, may, if the guardians think fit, be given by way of loan.—(Art. 7.)

Out-door Labour Test Order.

In the case of a large number of unions to which the regulations in the Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order apply, an Out-door Labour Test Order has been issued, and there has been no indisposition on the part of the Local Government Board to comply with an application from a board of guardians for the issue of the Out-door Labour Test Order when the circumstances have appeared to be such as to require it. The provisions of that Order are as follows:—

Subject to the provisions of the [Out-door Relief Prhibitory Order], every able-bodied male pauper who receives relief within the union, and is relieved out of the workhouse, shall be relieved in the following manner; that is to say:—

Half at least of the relief given to such pauper shall be given in food, clothing, and other articles of necessity.

No such pauper shall receive relief from the guardians, or any of their officers, or any overseer of any parish in the union, while he is employed for wages or other hire or remuneration by any person; but every such pauper so relieved shall be set to work by the guardians.—(Art. 1.)

The guardians shall, within fourteen days after the day when this Order comes into force, and from time to time afterwards as the Local Government Board may require, report to the Local Government Board the place or places at which able-bodied male paupers shall be so set to work in the union, the sort or sorts of work in which they or any of them shall be employed, the times and mode of work, and all such other matters relating to the employment of such able-bodied paupers as the said guardians shall deem material to be communicated to the Local Government Board, or as the Local Government Board shall require.—(Art. 2.)

If the guardians shall depart, in any particular instance, from any of the regulations hereinbefore contained, and shall, within fifteen days after such departure, report the same and the grounds thereof to the Local Government Board, and if the Local Government Board shall approve of such departure, then the relief granted in such particular instance shall, if otherwise lawful, not be deemed to be unlawful, or be subject to be disallowed.—(Art. 3).

In the case of persons who are set to work under a Labour Test Order as a supplement to the Out-Relief Prohibitory Order, the amount of the out-relief to be granted is in the discretion of the guardians, as in the case of persons relieved under the provisions of the Out-Relief Regulation Order.

(A.)

Out-Relief to Aged Poor.

No regulations have been made by the Local Government Board restricting the discretion of guardians in regard to the relief of destitute persons chargeable to their union, other than the able-bodied and their families. The guardians have full power to grant out-door relief to destitute aged persons, when they think such relief suitable, in amounts adequate to meet fully the necessities of the case.

The Royal Commission on Aged Poor in the Summary in their Report, p. lxxxiii., issued in the present year, state as follows:—

"We have seen that, except in crowded urban areas, the great majority of aged poor in receipt of relief are "given out-door relief, while those receiving indoor relief are usually persons for whom it is necessary for substantial "reasons. The view often held that the aged labourer has in general only the workhouse before him in which to "end his days has been shown to be erroneous. We are of opinion that no fundamental alterations are needed in the "existing system of Poor Law relief as it affects the aged, and that it would be undesirable to interfere either by "statute or order with the discretion now vested in the guardians as to the manner in which such relief should be "given, since it is in our view of essential importance that guardians should have power to deal, on its merits, with "each individual case. At the same time we are convinced that there is a strong feeling that in the administration "of relief there should be greater discrimination between the respectable aged who become destitute and those "whose destitution is distinctly the consequence of their own misconduct; and we recommend that boards of "guardians, in dealing with applications for relief, should inquire with special care into the antecedents of destitute "persons whose physical faculties have failed by reason of age and infirmity; and that out-door relief should, in "such cases, be given to those who are shown to have been of good character, thrifty according to their "opportunities, and generally independent in early life, and who are not living under conditions of health or "surrounding circumstances which make it evident that the relief given should be indoor relief. We desire to "place on record in strong terms our conviction that where out-door relief is given the amount should be adequate "to meet fully the extent of the destitution, and that proper investigation and supervision should be ensured in all "cases in which application is made for relief. . . . We do not ourselves advocate any restriction of the present "powers of guardians to grant out-door relief in the case of destitute aged persons, and, as appears from the "preceding recommendations, we are of opinion that the mode of relief should always be settled with a due regard "to the past character, health, and surroundings of the applicant, and should be fully adequate to meet the "destitution. It accordingly appears to us eminently desirable that boards of guardians should adopt rules in "accordance with the general principles which we have indicated, by which they may be broadly guided in "dealing with individual applications for relief, and that such rules should be generally made known for the "information of the poor of the union, in order that those really in need may not be discouraged from "applying."

It may be mentioned that the Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) Act, 1894, enacts that "it shall be lawful "for any board of guardians, if they think fit, to grant relief out of the poor rates to any person otherwise "entitled to such relief, notwithstanding that the said person shall, by reason of his membership of a friendly "society, be in receipt of any sum; and that in estimating the amount of the relief that shall be granted to such "person being a member of a friendly society as aforesaid, it shall be at the discretion of the board of guardians "whether they will or will not take into consideration the amount which may be received by him from such "friendly society."

(B.)

Relief on Loan and its Recovery.

By the 4 & 5 Will. IV., cap. 76, sec. 58, "any relief or the cost price thereof, which shall be given to or on "account of any poor person above the age of 21, or to his wife, or any part of his family under the age of 16, "and which the [Local Government Board] shall, by any rule, order, or regulation, declare or direct to be given "or considered as given by way of loan, and whether any receipt for such relief, or engagement to repay the "same, or the cost price thereof, or any part thereof, shall have been given or not by the person to or on account "of whom the same shall have been so given, shall be considered, and the same is hereby declared to be, a loan to "such poor person."

The

The Out-door Relief Regulation Order and the Out Relief Prohibitory Order contain provisions to the effect that any relief which may be given in conformity with the provisions of those Orders to or on account of any person to whom relief may be lawfully given above the age of 21, or to his wife, or any part of his or her family under the age of 16, may, if the guardians shall think fit, be given by way of loan.

By 4 & 5 Will. IV., cap. 76, sec. 59, it is provided that where relief is given or treated as given by way of loan, under the rules, orders, and regulations of the Board or the provisions of the Act, it shall be lawful for any justice upon the application of the guardians and upon proof of such relief having been given, and the same or part thereof still remaining due, to issue a summons requiring the person to whom the relief was given, and his employer or some person on his behalf, to appear before any two justices, and show cause why the wages due to such person should not be paid over in whole or in part to the guardians; and if no sufficient cause be shown to the contrary, the justices shall by order direct the employer to pay "either in one sum or by such weekly or other "instalments as the said justices shall in their discretion think fit, taking into consideration the circumstances of "such poor person and his family," out of such wages to the guardians the amount of such relief, or so much thereof as shall from time to time be due or unpaid.

By 11 & 12 Vict., cap. 110, sec. 8, it is enacted that relief granted to any pauper upon loan may also be recoverable in the county court or other court for the recovery of small debts for the district, on the plaint of the guardians appearing through a duly authorised officer.

These powers are in addition to the general power of guardians, under 12 & 13 Vict., cap. 103, sec. 16, to recoup themselves from money or security for money found in the possession of any pauper the expenses incurred on relief given to him during the preceding twelve months.

(C.)

Employment of the Poor by Boards of Guardians for Wages.

The 43rd Eliz. cap. 2, section 1, provides that the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of each parish "shall "take order from time to time, by and with the consent of two or more justices of peace, for setting to work the "children of all such whose parents shall not by the said churchwardens and overseers, or the greater part of them, "be thought able to keep and maintain their children; and also for setting to work all such persons, married or "unmarried, [who], having no means to maintain them, use no ordinary and daily trade of life to get their living "by, and also to raise . . . by taxation . . . a convenient stock of flax, hemp, thread, iron, and other "necessary ware and stuff to set the poor on work." 43 Eliz. c. 2.

No power was given by the Statute to provide buildings for setting the poor to work. The work to be provided would seem to have been intended to be carried on in the dwellings of the poor. This "setting the poor to work" was, therefore, something quite different from the workhouse system, in which work is merely one of the incidents of in-door relief.

By 59 Geo. III. c. 12, section 12, after reciting that by the 43 Elizabeth the churchwardens and overseers "are "directed to set to work certain persons therein described," and that "by the laws now in force, sufficient powers "are not given to the churchwardens and overseers to enable them to keep such persons fully and constantly "employed," the churchwardens and overseers are authorised, with the consent of the vestry, to take into their hands any lands belonging to the parish, or "to purchase, or to hire and take on lease, for and on account of the "parish, any suitable portion or portions of land within or near to such parish not exceeding 20 acres in the whole "(increased to 50 acres by 1 & 2 Will. IV. c. 42), and to employ and set to work in the cultivation of such land, on "account of this parish, any such persons as by law they are directed to set to work, and to pay to such of the poor "persons so employed as shall not be supported by the parish reasonable wages for their work." 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, and 1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 42.

In regard to the extent of the practice of giving work as relief, the Poor Law Commissioners of 1834 reported that "it appears from the Parliamentary Returns that payment for work is the most unusual form in which relief is "administered. The Poor Rate Returns for the year ending 25th March 1832 state that out of 7,036,968*l.* expended "in that year for the relief of the poor, less than 354,000*l.*, or scarcely more than one-twentieth part, was paid for "work, including work on the roads and in the workhouses."

Under the Poor Law Act, 1834, the ordering, giving, and directing of all relief to the poor is vested exclusively in the guardians of the poor. 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76.

Doubt has been felt with regard to the meaning of the provisions of the 43rd Elizabeth as to setting the poor to work, and especially as to whether they apply to persons who ordinarily live by their labour, and are only temporarily out of work. Further, it has been urged that, looking to the system set up under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834, the provisions of the earlier Acts as to the employment of the poor for wages must be regarded as obsolete, and as having ceased to exist. Upon these and some other points the law officers of the Crown were desired, in 1893, to express their opinion.

The law officers have advised that it was the intention of the Statutes referred to that the persons employed should be given relief in the form of wages for work done, and that relief was not distinguished from wages.

They also advised that the effect of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834, was to transfer to the guardians the powers of the overseers under the Act of Elizabeth.

Since the system established under the Act of 1834 came into operation, poor persons have not been employed by guardians or overseers for wages, and the provisions under which they might have been so employed have been regarded as obsolete. At the same time the provisions have not been repealed, and consequently they are still on the Statute Book.

(D.)

Expedition of Loan Sanctions.

Urban and rural district councils can carry out any works within their statutory powers without reference to the Local Government Board. The only cases in which the sanction of the Board is required are those in which it is proposed that the cost of the works should be defrayed by means of borrowed money. The district councils are not empowered to borrow without the Board's sanction, and it devolves on the Board to prescribe the period within which a loan sanctioned by them shall be repaid.

It is the practice of the Board, under ordinary circumstances, before sanctioning a loan, to direct a local inquiry by one of their inspectors, after due notice published in the district. At this inquiry any persons interested are entitled to attend and make any representations which they think fit with respect to the proposal of the district council. Of late years there has been a very great increase in the number of inquiries held by the engineering inspectors of the Board, and in consequence of this increase arrears accumulated, and it must be admitted that there were many cases in which there was considerable delay in the holding of the inquiries. Some additional assistance was obtained, but this was found to be insufficient, and further temporary appointments were sanctioned by the Treasury. By means of the help thus obtained the arrears of inquiries have been dealt with, and for some months past the Board have been enabled to arrange for the inquiries being held within a short time after the cases are ripe for inquiry. During the period of exceptional distress in the early part of this year every effort was made to secure the inquiries being held promptly, and in some instances, where the amount to be expended in works was not considerable, the Board caused visits to be made by their inspectors without formal inquiry, in order that the requisite information prior to the loans being sanctioned might be obtained without any delay.

The Board, before sanctioning loans, require full particulars to be furnished as to the works to be carried out, together with plans and detailed estimates of the cost, and it not infrequently happens that delay is occasioned by the necessary particulars not being furnished to the Board.

It is certainly of much importance, especially at times of exceptional distress, that the Board should have such a staff of inspectors as will admit of the inquiries being held with promptitude and the sanctions being given without any delay that can be avoided. But the fact that a local authority are induced to expedite works during a period of distress, with the view of providing employment at a time when it is specially needed, would not be regarded by the Board as affording sufficient ground for dispensing with such particulars being furnished and such inquiries being held as they may deem necessary for the purpose of satisfying themselves that the circumstances are such that the works ought to be carried out with borrowed money, which involves a charge not merely upon the present ratepayers, but also upon the ratepayers of future years.

(E.)

LABOUR TESTS FOR ABLE-BODIED OUT-DOOR POOR.

THE Out-door Labour Test Order and the Out-door Relief Regulation Order provide that able-bodied male paupers relieved out of the workhouse under their provisions shall be set to work, and that the place of work, the amount and nature of the work, and other matters relating thereto, shall be reported to the Local Government Board.

Provision for enforcing the due performance of such work is made by the Statute 29 & 30 Vict., cap. 113, section 15. That Statute provides that "where the guardians . . . . shall prescribe a task of work to be "performed by any poor person to whom . . . . relief shall have been lawfully granted by such guardians out of "the workhouse, such task being suited to the age, sex, strength, and capacity of such person, and being of a "nature and description of which the [Local Government] Board shall have previously approved, and such person "shall refuse or wilfully neglect to perform such task . . . . he shall be deemed to be an idle and disorderly "person within the meaning of" the 5 Geo. 4, cap. 83, and shall be liable to be dealt with and punished accordingly.

This Statute requires that the task shall have been approved by the Local Government Board if the person refusing to perform it is to be deemed idle and disorderly. It is the practice, therefore, of the Board formally to approve of the tasks of work reported to them in such cases, if satisfied that they are suitable, and the person refusing to perform the task is then liable to imprisonment with hard labour for one month.

(F.)

POWERS OF BOARDS OF GUARDIANS AS REGARDS MAKING GRANTS IN AID OF WORK THAT WILL ANTICIPATE PAUPERISM, AND ACCEPTANCE OF SUMS TO BE USED BY THEM IN THE ANTICIPATION OF PAUPERISM.

THE Local Government Board consider that a Board of Guardians are not empowered to make grants out of the rates to local authorities towards the cost of works which those authorities have power to carry out, or to make grants towards funds which are subscribed for the purpose of affording employment, with the view of rendering it unnecessary for those who may be so employed to apply for Poor Law relief.

The Board are of opinion that boards of guardians are not precluded from becoming the trustees of funds to be used by them for purposes other than those for which they have been constituted, and that they are not precluded, therefore, from accepting moneys to be used by them in anticipation of pauperism.

APPENDIX, No. 31.

PAPER handed in by Sir *Hugh Owen*, K.C.B.

Constructive and other Works in the Execution of which Labour may be Employed by Local Authorities.

County Councils.

The county council are empowered to maintain, repair, improve, and enlarge main roads within their county. These powers are, however, subject to the right of an urban district council or a sanitary authority in the County of London or the Common Council in the City of London within 12 months of the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1888, or where a road becomes a main road at any subsequent date, within 12 months of that date to retain the management of any main road within their district. The county council may also contract for the undertaking by a district council or other highway authority of the management of the main roads within their district. The county council may, if they think fit, contribute towards the cost of the maintenance, repair, enlargement, and improvement of any highway or public footpath in the county, although the same is not a main road.

The county council are liable for the repair of public bridges in the county, and not within any city or town corporate. They are empowered to purchase or take over on agreed terms, bridges, and to erect new bridges, and to maintain, repair, and improve any bridges so purchased, taken over, or erected. They may contribute, to an extent not exceeding one-half of the cost, towards the erection of any bridge.

A county council may erect and furnish such halls, buildings, and offices as they require.

They may establish, maintain, and contribute to reformatory and industrial schools.

They may provide and maintain shire halls, county halls, assize courts, judges' lodgings, lock-up houses, court-houses, justices' rooms, police stations, and other county buildings, *e.g.*, militia storehouses, technical schools.

A visiting committee of the county council may provide and maintain lunatic asylums.

Where a county council are of opinion that there is a demand for small holdings, they may acquire suitable land, and adapt it for small holdings by dividing and fencing it, making occupation roads and executing other works.

Additional Powers possessed by the London County Council.

The London County Council have special powers in connection with various matters which are not possessed by county councils generally.

They may provide and maintain fire engine stations, stables, and houses for firemen.

They may under various statutory powers, provide, maintain and improve parks, gardens, open spaces, &c.

Under the Main Drainage Acts they may construct and maintain sewers, precipitation works, machinery, appliances, &c.

Under Part I. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, the London County Council may, in the execution of a scheme confirmed by Parliament for the re-arrangement and re-construction of the houses in an unhealthy area, clear the area to which the scheme relates, and lay out, form, pave, and sewer the streets, and with the express approval of the Local Government Board rebuild houses in the area.

Under Part III. of the same Act, the county council may erect, furnish, and maintain lodging-houses for the working classes, including separate houses or cottages, whether containing one or several tenements.

The London County Council may make, widen, or improve any streets, roads, or ways, for facilitating the passage and traffic between different parts of the metropolis, or contribute to the cost of such street improvements, and maintain certain of such streets.

They may by a license of the Board of Trade, or by Provisional Order confirmed by Parliament, supply electricity for any public or private purpose in such parts of their county as they are authorised to light, and may execute the necessary works.

They may construct tramways where authorised by Provisional Order confirmed by Parliament.

The county council must provide and maintain proper accommodation for holding inquests. This may be done by contracting with a vestry or district board for the use of a mortuary provided by the vestry or board.

The county council may provide and fit up one or two suitable buildings for the retention for purposes of identification of unidentified bodies.

Vestries and District Boards in Metropolis.

The vestry or district board repair and maintain the highways (exclusive of such as are repaired and maintained by the county council).

They must keep the streets, including the footways, properly swept and cleansed, so far as is reasonably practicable, and collect and remove therefrom, so far as is reasonably practicable, all street refuse.

They may, with the consent of the London County Council, extend, widen, alter or improve any street, road, or way, or any bridge over a canal for the purpose of facilitating passage and traffic, or for any other public purpose, or may contribute to the cost of any such improvement.

The vestry or district board are required to make, repair, and maintain all sewers (other than those vested in the London County Council) and subsidiary works necessary for effectually draining their parish or district.

They may provide and maintain public lavatories and ashpits, and public sanitary conveniences other than privies.

They may provide temporary or permanent hospitals.

They must provide and fit up mortuaries.

They may, and if required by the county council, must provide and maintain proper buildings for holding post-mortem examinations.

They may acquire by purchase or otherwise, lay out and maintain open spaces for purposes of recreation, &c.

They may by license of the Board of Trade or by Provisional Order confirmed by Parliament, supply electricity for any public or private purpose, and execute the necessary works.

Town Councils acting as Municipal Authorities.

Municipal authorities may undertake the erection of town halls, council houses, justice rooms, and any buildings necessary or proper for any of the purposes of the borough.

They are also empowered to construct roads, drains, walls, fences, or other works requisite for converting corporate land into sites for working-men's dwellings.

They may undertake the alteration, widening, repair, improvement, or re-construction of any bridge which they are legally bound to maintain or repair.

The execution of any works authorised to be constructed by trustees under local Acts, whose powers have been transferred to the town council under Section 136 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, may also be undertaken by the municipal authority.

In the case of county boroughs, lunatic asylums are provided by the councils, except when other provision is made.

Municipal authorities may provide buildings for the purposes of the Technical Instruction Acts, 1889 and 1890.

They may also construct any works authorised to be carried out by them in accordance with the provisions contained in local Acts and Provisional Orders (*e.g.*, works of sea defence, works for protecting foreshores, harbour works).

Urban and Rural District Councils.

Urban and rural district councils may provide such sewers and surface drains as are required for the proper drainage of their district. They may also execute works of sewage disposal, including the preparation of land and the erection of the necessary works and machinery.

They may execute works of water supply for their district, including the laying of mains, the construction of reservoirs, the sinking of wells, and all other necessary works. This power is subject to the restriction that notice must be given to every water company who have powers of supply, and the works cannot be constructed so long as any such company are able and willing to supply.

In all urban districts, and in those rural districts where the operation of Section 25 of the Local Government Act, 1894, has not been postponed, the district council have the duty of maintaining and repairing the highways. In the case of main roads, however, the maintenance and repair devolve upon the county council unless the work is undertaken by the district council, under Section 11 of the Local Government Act, 1888.

Urban and rural district councils may undertake or contract for the removal of house refuse from premises, and the cleansing of earth-closets, privies, ash-pits, and cesspools. They may provide refuse destructors.

They may frame schemes under Part II. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, for the re-construction of insanitary areas. They may also erect working class lodging-houses.

They may provide and lay out land for allotments and adapt it for letting by draining, fencing, and dividing the same, acquiring approaches, making roads, and otherwise preparing and improving the land.

They may acquire land and lay it out for cemetery purposes, with all necessary walls, buildings, drains, flower beds, paths.

They may provide offices for the transaction of their business; also hospitals, mortuaries, and post-mortem rooms.

Urban District Councils and also Rural District Councils, when Powers for the purpose are conferred on them by the Local Government Board.

Urban district councils may lay out pleasure grounds and open spaces. This work includes the provision or making of paths, flower beds, shrubberies, greenhouses, shelters, seats, conveniences, and the like.

They may cleanse and water the highways in their district.

They may serve notices upon the owners of land in private streets requiring them to sewer, level, pave, metal, flag, channel, make good and light such streets, and upon their default may execute the work.

They may frame schemes for the re-construction of insanitary areas under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 (Part I.). Such schemes must provide for proper sanitary arrangements, and for sufficient new dwellings for the working classes who will be displaced. The scheme may also provide for widening existing approaches, or otherwise, for opening out the area.

They may construct sea defences such as sea walls and groynes; also bridges and new streets.

They may establish depôts and store yards, gas works, and electric lighting works.

They may light the streets and public buildings within their district, and plant trees by the sides of the roads.

They may execute any works in connection with markets when the market rights are vested in them.

They may erect, alter, repair, extend, and fit up libraries, museums, reading-rooms, baths and washhouses, slaughter-houses, fire-stations, cabmen's shelters, public conveniences, gymnasiums, and technical schools.

Urban district councils, acting as burial boards, may also provide or extend burial grounds under the Burial Acts, and may enclose, lay out, and embellish the same. They may also erect chapels for the performance of the burial service and places for the reception of bodies until interment. In certain cases they may also repair and maintain closed churchyards and burial grounds.

Parish Councils.

Parish Councils may execute any work incidental to or consequential on the exercise of the powers possessed by them in relation to the following matters:—

(*a*) The provision or acquisition of buildings for public offices and meetings, and for any purposes connected with the parish business, or with the powers and duties of a parish council or parish meeting;

(*b*) The provision or acquisition of land for recreation grounds and public walks;

(*c*) Laying out, planting, improving, or maintaining recreation grounds, village greens, open spaces, or public walks under their control;

(*d*) The utilisation of any well, spring, or stream, and the provision of facilities for obtaining water therefrom; and

(*e*) The dealing with, (*i.e.*, the draining, cleansing, covering in, &c.) any pond, pool, open ditch, drain, or place containing or used for the collection of drainage, filth, stagnant water, or other matter likely to be prejudicial to health.

They may undertake the repair of any public footpath in the parish (not being a footpath at the side of a public road).

They may undertake the draining, fencing, and division of land, and the construction of roads or other works of improvement on land, hired by or assured to a parish council for purposes of allotments.

They may erect lamp posts, &c., and lay gas mains when the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833, has been adopted.

They may, where the Baths and Washhouses Acts have been adopted, undertake the erection, alteration, enlargement, repair, improvement, fitting-up, and furnishing of any buildings for public baths and washhouses, and the provision of works in connection with open bathing places.

They may form any public walk, exercise, or play-ground, and improve any open walk or footpath where the Public Improvement Act, 1860, is in force.

They may, where the Public Libraries Act, 1892, has been adopted, undertake the erection, re-construction, alteration, repair, extension, fitting-up, and furnishing of public libraries, museums, schools for science and art, and art galleries.

Where the Burial Acts have been adopted, or where the powers of a burial board have been transferred to the parish council, they may provide and lay out land for burial purposes, and may enclose and embellish the same, and build thereon chapels for the performance of the burial service, and they may provide houses for the reception of the dead previous to interment.

In certain cases, also, they are required to undertake the maintenance and repair of closed churchyards.

The exercise of these powers is subject to the limitation of expenditure by a parish council, which is imposed by the Local Government Act, 1894.

Highway Boards and Surveyors of Highways.

It is the duty of the Highway Boards and Surveyors of Highways, where the powers of these authorities have not become vested in the district councils, to maintain in good repair the highways within their districts.

Highway boards are also empowered to undertake certain works for the improvement of the highways within their jurisdiction.

APPENDIX, No. 32.

SCOTLAND.

LETTERS received from Local Authorities in reply to the following Circular Letter, addressed to them by the Local Government Board at the request of the Chairman of the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment.

Local Government Board for Scotland,
Edinburgh, 20 February 1895.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have received a communication from the Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Distress from Want of Employment, in which the Board are requested to issue a Circular to the Municipal and Parochial Authorities in Scotland requesting information with the least possible delay on the following points :—

(1) Whether there is any exceptional distress in the district, and how far this is due to circumstances peculiar to the locality or to the severe weather?

(2) What is being done to meet the distress by public authorities or by voluntary agencies, and the average daily number relieved by each of the agencies during the week ended Saturday the 16th February?

(3) Is an unemployed register maintained, and with what result?

(4) Have you any suggestions to make for the purpose of relieving such distress?

The Board will be much obliged by your furnishing them at the earliest possible moment with the information required by the Committee (on the form of Return herewith sent, or on a larger sheet if necessary), in as much detail as can promptly be given.

The Board rely on your immediately taking such steps as may be necessary for the purpose of furnishing the requisite particulars.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Malcolm M'Neill*, Secretary.

The Town Clerk.
[The Inspector of Poor.]

FORM OF RETURN as to Unemployed referred to in Circular Letter from Local Government Board (Scotland) of 20th February 1895.

BURGH [OR PARISH] OF , COUNTY OF .

1. Is there any exceptional distress in the district? If so, how far is this due to circumstances peculiar to the locality or to the severe weather?

2. (*a*) What is being done to meet the distress by public authorities or by voluntary agencies? (*b*) Give the average daily number relieved by each of the agencies during the week ended Saturday the 16th February.

3. Is an unemployed register maintained, and with what result?

4. Have you any suggestions to make for the purpose of relieving such distress?

(Signature) Town Clerk.
Date [Inspector of Poor.]

I.—BURGHS.

BURGH OF ABERCHIRDER, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,222. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £1,652.

Letter from *Henry Wilson*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is a good number of cases of distress within this district; all of whom are of the labouring class, who are wholly dependent on agricultural labour, which has been at a standstill for the past eight weeks owing to the severe snowstorm.

2. A soup kitchen has been started by the Burgh Commissioners, and carried on by public subscription, from which 95 rations of soup and bread are being distributed amongst the most needful three times a week. Other voluntary agents have been distributing coals, bread, and clothing.

Average daily number relieved by Commissioners - - - - 47 persons.
Average daily number relieved by other agencies - - - - 6 persons.

3. No.

4. Nothing further than the above statement.

BURGH OF ABERDEEN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 124,943. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £583,286.

Letter from *W. Gordon*, Town Clerk, 1st March 1895.

1. A CONSIDERABLE amount of distress has prevailed in Aberdeen during the last two months, due mainly to the severity of the weather, which seriously interfered with building operations and other out-door work, and thus threw an unusually large number of persons out of employment. The present dulness in shipbuilding also contributed to the distress.

2. The distress was not considered by the public authorities to be of such an extent or character as to render it necessary to provide relief works or resort to exceptional measures.

In addition to the relief afforded through the ordinary benevolent channels, the public responded liberally to appeals for assistance which were made through the medium of local agencies. Among these organisations may be mentioned the City Police Force, the Aberdeen United Trades Council, and the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. The amount of subscriptions (exclusive of provisions and clothing) received by the various bodies from the public is estimated at not less than 2,000*l.*

The local agencies referred to acted as distributing mediums, the average daily number of cases relieved during the week ended Saturday 16th February being as follows:—

1. The City Police - - - - - - - - - - - - - 250
2. Aberdeen United Trades Council - - - - - - - - - - 200
3. Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor - - - - - - - 70
4. Public Soup Kitchen - - - - - - - - - - 400 to 500
5. Miscellaneous - - - - - - - - - - - - - 20

These cases do not represent the actual number of persons relieved, as in the majority of instances those receiving aid had families dependent on them. The number is also exclusive of the cases dealt with by the parochial boards.

The Town Council voted a donation of 150*l.* towards the relief of the distress, and also empowered their Finance Committee to contribute a further sum of 100*l.* if the distress should continue. This last-mentioned sum, however, has up to the present date not been required.

3. An unemployed register, that is, a labour register, is kept at the office of the Aberdeen Trades Council, and also at the office of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and attended with good results. The establishment of labour registers throughout the country on a permanent basis would, it is believed, be attended with advantage to employers as well as to employed.

4. Owing to the improvement which has now taken place in the weather, and resumption of out-door work, there is no reason to anticipate any continuation of the distress.

It may be explained that apart from shipbuilding the general trade of the city is in a fairly flourishing condition, and that some of the industries have not been so fully employed for many years.

It is understood that a suggestion has been made to the effect that, in cases of exceptional distress, Government should be empowered by means of an imperial grant to subsidise local authorities in the carrying out of relief works. It is, however, the opinion of the magistrates that such a proposal could not fail to be attended with the most unfortunate results.

BURGH OF ABERFELDY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,469. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,758.

Letter from *Charles Munro*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.

2. The poor of Aberfeldy are remarkably well cared for. Only about 24 ask soup from the soup kitchen, which supplies it gratuitously.

3. No.

BURGH OF CHARLESTOWN OF ABERLOUR, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,012. Assessable Rental (1893-94), cannot be given.

Letter from *D. Morrison*, Clerk to the Commissioners, 25th February 1895.

1. SEVERE distress amongst the labouring classes, due entirely to the severity of the weather, which has stopped all out-door work for over eight weeks.

2. This burgh is included within the parish of Aberlour, and the burgh and parochial authorities have been combined in meeting the distress. A full report will be given by inspector of poor, and I beg to refer you to his report.

BURGH OF ABERNETHY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 852. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,514.

Letter from *James Easson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE since 11th current. Most of our male population are salmon fishers, and the net fishing on the Tay commencing on that date gave employment to nearly all our idle men.

2. Nothing has been required of the authorities here to meet the distress, although many who were idle previous to the above date have had to contract debts with the local shopkeepers, which they hope to clear off during the fishing season.

3. No register.

BURGH OF AIRDRIE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 19,135. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £47,941.

Letter from *James Chapman*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The present distress is caused by the severe weather.

2. The local authority gives employment daily to all those who are able to break stones.
Subscriptions are being received by the local authority towards that object.
Twenty-nine persons relieved daily by stone-breaking, and "eleven who are unable to break stones" by donations received.

3. Yes; giving the local authority a better opportunity of judging the most needful cases.

4. In a district such as this I approve of the present method.

BURGH OF ALLOA, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 10,754. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £45,175.

Letter from *J. W. Moir*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress in this district, and what little there is is mainly due to the severe weather. All the public works are working.

2. (*a*) There is a soup kitchen kept up by private subscription, and which is largely taken advantage of. A local gentleman gave a sum of 100*l.* the other day, which has been distributed among workmen who are out of employment on account of the frost. (*b*) The average daily number relieved by the soup kitchen, inclusive of women, children, and the poor generally, is 330.
Last week the burgh authorities agreed to give 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and dinner to men who would break stones, but few avail themselves of this proposal.

3. No register is kept. The number of unemployed is so small that such a register has not been considered necessary.

4. I have no suggestion to make, as private charity is quite able to cope with any distress that exists.

BURGH OF ALVA, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 5,225. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,273.

Letter from *Duncan Thomson*, pro Town Clerk, 8th March 1895.

1. THERE are a few exceptional cases among hand-loom weavers, trade having been bad for some time.

2. Cases have been met by voluntary contributions.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF ALYTH, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,322. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,351.

Letter from *J. Reid*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, but it is entirely owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Burgh Commissioners, along with a number of gentlemen, including the clergymen in the burgh, formed themselves into a relief committee, and organised relief works for the purpose of providing employment for

the unemployed at the rate of 2*s.* per day. (*b*) Average daily number relieved by such agency was 36 ; persons relieved being principally labourers, tradesmen out of employment not having yet applied for relief.

3. A register has been kept, with the result that a sum of 21*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* has been expended on relief works up to the week ending 16th February. Of this sum the Burgh Commission contributed 6*l.*, the balance being voluntary subscriptions. A further sum of 20*l.* has been distributed amongst the aged and infirm poor of the parish.

4. That a grant should be made by Parliament at once to relieve the existing distress. Such grant to be distributed by the local authority (1) for work done of a beneficial nature ; (2) in relieving the most deserving and necessitous cases of persons who on account of sex or other circumstances are unable to take part in the works.

BURGH OF ANNAN, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 3,478. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,267.

Letter from *James Skelton*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. YES ; wholly due to the exceptional severity of the weather.

2. (*a*) (1) Employment by the Burgh Commissioners for the purposes of removing snow from the streets ; and (2) by the opening of a soup kitchen and relief coal fund by voluntary agencies for the relief of necessitous poor.

(*b*) By public authority (exclusive of 11*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.* paid for cartage) : on 14th February, 4*l.* 5*s.* paid to 34 men at 2*s.* 6*d.* each ; on 15th February, 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* paid to 37 men at 2*s.* 6*d.* each ; on 16th February, 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* paid to 37 men at 2*s.* 6*d.* each.

Note.—These were the only three dates during the period stated that relief was given by the public authorities.

By voluntary agencies :—

1. At soup kitchen—average daily number - - - } 107
2. Relief coal fund—average daily number - - - }

3. No unemployed register kept.

4. No.

BURGH OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,142. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,552.

Letter from *William T. Jamieson*, Town Clerk, 1st March 1895.

1. So far as known, there are no cases of exceptional distress in this town, although a number of working people are unemployed in consequence of the severity of the weather.

2. Funds from various sources have been administered to those in charge of them, so as to relieve those who from any cause may be in somewhat straitened circumstances.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF ANSTRUTHER WESTER, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 538. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,592.

Letter from *William T. Jamieson*, Town Clerk, 5th March 1895.

1. YES ; it appears to be owing to both.

2. (*a*) The Town Council Authorities have not been in a position to do much more than distribute during December last a small fund of 5*l.* at their command amongst 17 individuals.

(*b*) There used to be a local soup kitchen, but, unfortunately, it has not been organised this season, and the relief has been left chiefly to voluntary individual efforts.

3. No register is kept.

4. Should any public funds be available, a small allocation would be desirable.

BURGH OF ARBROATH, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 22,821. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £81,408.

Letter from *W. K. Macdonald*, Town Clerk, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE was no exceptional distress in the district until the middle of February, and then only in consequence of the long continuance of the snowstorm and the very intense frost.

2. The

2. The magistrates met on 18th February, and as there was no appearance of any decided change in the weather they resolved to open a soup kitchen, and to ask a few of the leading inhabitants, on whose support they could rely, to subscribe the necessary funds. It is not contemplated to keep the soup kitchen open more than two or three weeks.

There is also a local association, whose object is to provide free breakfasts to a number of poor children on Sunday mornings. For some weeks past such free breakfasts have been provided daily, and 150 to 170 children have thus been receiving a warm breakfast every morning.

Previous to the opening of the soup kitchen a number of unemployed labourers were getting work from the public authorities in clearing the streets of snow and otherwise.

During the week ending 16th February 55 men not on the regular staff were getting partial employment in this way.

3. There is no unemployed register open at present.

4. The weather has now improved, and there is no distress beyond what can be easily dealt with by voluntary agencies.

Burgh of Ardrossan, County of Ayr.

Population (1891), 5,294. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £32,142.

Letter from *James Cook*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. This was the conclusion arrived at by a meeting of ladies and gentlemen held here last week.

3. No register.

4. The subject here is watched by a voluntary agency, which would, doubtless, be supplied with funds to cope with exceptional circumstances.

Burgh of Armadale, County of Linlithgow.

Population (1891), 3,190. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,877.

Letter from *James Thomson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress prevails here. Men for the most part employed in mining.

3. No.

Burgh of Auchterarder, County of Perth.

Population (1891), 2,524. Assessable Rental (1893–94), cannot be given.

Letter from *William L. Young*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There is a little exceptional distress in the district, owing to the protracted and severe storm ; in consequence of it, out-door labour has been stopped for about eight weeks. There is, too, not quite so much employment in manufacturing of cloth, the staple industry of the district, on account of the present depression in trade.

2. Nothing is being done by the public authorities. Private parties have made gifts of coals and provisions to the poor and unemployed. A soup kitchen was opened on the 23rd instant by an Evangelistic Association here, and a concert is being held to-night the proceeds of which will be applied for behoof of the unemployed. There has not been what can be described as "daily relief" given.

3. No register.

4. No.

Burgh of Auchtermuchty, County of Fife.

Population (1891), 665. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,448.

Letter from *Archibald Walker*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There is a want of work for out-door workers on account of the long storm ; but there are not many of them ; and most are of the well-to-do class.

2. (*a*) Private assistance.
(*b*) No note kept.

3. No, as it is unnecessary.

4. The circumstances are quite exceptional, and, with open weather, things should right themselves.

Burgh of Ayr, County of Ayr.

Population (1891), 24,944. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £133,665.

Letter from *A. G. Young*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There is exceptional distress, but it is to a very large extent occasioned by the severe weather.

2. The Town Council have opened a soup kitchen, at which over 800 are relieved daily. The Town Council are also distributing relief to the unemployed and necessitous poor in the shape of food and fuel at the rate of 70*l.* per week. The churches are also distributing relief to their poorer members.

3. No unemployed register has been kept; but the town has been divided into districts, and the administration of relief has been pretty strictly supervised.

4. I have no suggestions to make.

Burgh of Ballater, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 983. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,144.

Letter from *John Strath*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. A few isolated cases due to severe weather.

2. Relieved hitherto by private individuals, but a committee has now been formed to collect for their relief.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Banchory, County of Kincardine.

Population (1891), 1,400. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,130.

Letter from *Joseph Merson*, Clerk to Police Commissioners, 25th February 1895.

1. There must have been considerable privation amongst members of building trades, out-door workers, and labourers. This has resulted entirely from the weather.

2. Voluntary agencies have overtaken all relief work required. Soup kitchen has daily relieved a large number; average required about 90. Other agencies are intermittent.

3. No register.

4. The hardship is already moderating, and will disappear with the frost.

Burgh of Banff, County of Banff.

Population (1891), 3,876. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,943.

Letter from *Francis George*, Clerk to the Local Authority, 6th March 1895.

1. There is no doubt exceptional distress in this district, caused by circumstances not so much peculiar to the district as to the severity of the weather, which has continued for such a lengthened period.

2 The generosity of the inhabitants, through voluntary agencies, has been considered sufficient to cope with the distress up to the present, hence it has not been considered necessary to make any public organised effort. Through private agencies large quantities of coals have been distributed, the cost of which has been met from charitable funds and by private individuals. Money gifts have also been distributed in some cases, as well as groceries and other articles of food. It is impossible to give the numbers of persons thus relieved. The soup-kitchen, which is entirely kept up by private subscription, has been open free twice a week, when large numbers have been relieved. In the week ending 16th February last, 820 rations of beef, bread, and soup were given out. This would represent about 200 persons obtaining this kind of relief. As all poor are supplied at the kitchen free, the number of those unemployed cannot be easily ascertained, but, from close observation, very few of those thrown out of employment by the severity of the weather come to the kitchen.

3. No unemployed register has been kept.

4. No.

BURGH OF BARRHEAD, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 7,500. Assessable Rental (1893–94), cannot be given.

Letter from *John Pattison*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district beyond what is attributable to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Commissioners have opened a fund, and considerable donations were at once forthcoming.
(*b*) The fund only opened in the week referred to, and consequently it is difficult to give an average number supplied daily, but it would be fairly stated at 200.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF BATHGATE, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 5,331. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,372.

Letter from *Will Allan*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Any distress has been met by voluntary contribution. No record kept.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF BIGGAR, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 1,356. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,886.

Letter from *Andrew Smail*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THE district being an agricultural one, and their being no industrial works, the distress is comparatively small. The cases existing arise from the severe weather.

2. The Established and two U. P. Churches have collected funds, which they have been, and still are, distributing amongst those necessitous with provisions and coals. The local Curling Club, by a concert and other means, are raising funds, too, to supplement the foregoing efforts.

3. A register kept by the above churches, and all necessitous cases are being provided for.

4. I do not think anything further is meanwhile required.

BURGH OF BLAIRGOWRIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 3,714. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,110.

Letter from *Jno. B. Miller*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THE chief industry of the district is the spinning of flax and jute. That trade has been somewhat depressed for some time. It cannot be said that there has been "distress" in consequence. The severe weather has caused considerable distress.

2. The public authorities employed a half-dozen or thereby of the unemployed in casual work during part of the severe weather. A soup kitchen and other agencies were started by public subscription to relieve the destitute in consequence of the severity of the weather. About 150 were relieved daily for the week ended 16th February. These agencies will cease with the advent of milder weather.

3. No.

4. No. The only effectual relief would be a revival of the flax and jute industries. The distress occasioned by the severity of the weather will soon pass away.

BURGH OF BO'NESS, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 4,746. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,177.

Letter from *George C. Stewart*, Provost, 26th February 1895.

1. YES. Severe weather.

2. A public soup kitchen is in operation, supported by voluntary contributions.
About 300 daily, chiefly children.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF BONNYRIGG, COUNTY OF MIDLOTHIAN.

Population (1891), 2,514. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,693.

Letter from *Robert McBey*, Town Clerk, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is practically no distress in this burgh, the inhabitants being mostly carpet weavers and miners in full employment. The only unemployed are a very few labourers and out-door workers who are idle through the severe weather.

2. There is no necessity for anything being done by the authorities.
The Burgh Commissioners have just got up a fund amounting to nearly 30*l.*, which is now being distributed among the necessitous poor in provisions, coals, &c.

3. No.

BURGH OF BRECHIN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 8,955. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £27,311.

Letter from *James Scott*, Clerk to Local Authority, 27th February 1895.

1. ABOUT 150 men out of employment, almost entirely owing to severe weather. The number of unemployed here is believed to be greater than it would usually have been owing to the number of men engaged in the construction of a new railway in the district.

2. Relief fund by public subscriptions, about 100 families being relieved.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 3,207. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,102.

Letter from *Eben. Morrison*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. NOTHING exceptional.

2. Nothing by Police Commissioners. I am not aware of anything being done specially by any other local authority and voluntary agency.

3. No.

4. Nothing.

BURGH OF BROUGHTY FERRY, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 9,010. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £48,862.

Letter from *Edward Cowan*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE except what has been due to the severity of the weather.

2. Coals, and in some cases food, has been provided by the magistrates. Each church has its poor fund and has been actively employed, but it is impossible to give statistics.

3. No register.

4. No suggestions.

BURGH OF BUCKHAVEN METHIL AND INNERLEVEN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 4,006. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,462.

Letter from *W. T. Ketchen*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. NOT much in excess of former years. What has been was caused by the recent severe weather.

2. Nothing publicly.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF BUCKIE, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 5,849. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,151.

Letter from *John L. McNaughton*, Clerk to Commissioners, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; principally from the very severe weather, but also, in some measure, from coincident poor results from the white fishing, which is the staple industry of the town during winter.

2. (*a*) (1.) The Burgh Commissioners instructed their Surveyor to employ, at breaking metal for roads, all applicants; but only some half-dozen or so applied and got work. These received the ordinary wages for breaking road metal.
(2.) Under the auspices of the Provost and magistrates, a public voluntary committee has (i.) dispensed soup, beef, and bread from a soup kitchen; (ii.) given three distributions of coals in quantities of 1 cwt.; and (iii.) given quantities of groceries of the average value of 2*s.* 6*d.* to each family. The soup kitchen has been in operation for three weeks ending 25th February, but is to stop on Saturday, 2nd March, if the weather continues open.

(*b*) (1.) Public authority—average daily number relieved, 6 (by work and wages).
(2.) Voluntary committee „ „ 311

3. No.

4. The local voluntary effort has proved amply sufficient to cope with the exceptional distress; and I believe there will be no difficulty in instituting the same measures, with like success, should occasion unfortunately again arise.

BURGH OF BURNTISLAND, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 4,993. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £19,262.

Letter from *Thomas A. Wallace*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. IT is understood there is some distress felt in the district owing to want of out-door work and depression in the shipping at the harbour. But no applications have been received by the authorities for relief, and in a week or two it is believed the more pressing wants will be supplied.

2. No steps have been taken by any of the public authorities to give relief. Private help has been given in certain quarters.

3. No register kept.

4. No suggestions to offer in absence of applications for help and information as to extent of individual distress. Clergymen, through Kirk Sessions, and medical men are more likely to be of use in ascertaining where distress is felt, and some united action on their part taken promptly would be valuable in the direction of organised assistance.

BURGH OF CALLANDER, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,538. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,993.

Letter from *William McMichael*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress in this district. Owing to the severe weather there are about 40 working men out of employment, but their necessities have been fairly met by voluntary agencies.

2. Voluntary agencies have been sufficient to relieve all necessitous cases without the public authorities requiring to do anything.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF CAMPBELTOWN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 8,291. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £33,324.

Letter from *Dan Mactaggart*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is, in the opinion of the local authority, no exceptional distress in this burgh at present.

3. No.

BURGH OF CARNOUSTIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 4,134. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,155.

Letter from *William Cæsar*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this burgh, nor in the parishes of Panbride and Barry. The public works give employment to those resident in the burgh and district. These works are a linen manufactory, chemical and manure works, two boot and shoe manufactories, a bleachfield work, &c.

2. (*a*) The Burgh Commissioners have for the past two winters given employment to some out of work in breaking stones for macadamising the streets in the burgh. As regards the poor and the aged, coals have been freely distributed since Christmas, the expenses attending the distribution being defrayed by one or two donors who regularly every year give a sum of money for such purposes. In consequence of the severe weather this year, and on account of its duration, a concert was got up on Saturday the 23rd current, when over 12*l.* was realised, and the distribution of coals is being continued. The concert was got up by Mr. Hugh Hanton, the Inspector of Poor for the parish of Barry. Each year tea and sugar are given out to the poor and aged by the various churches in the burgh and parishes.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestions to offer, as, in my opinion, all real cases of distress are relieved by one or other of the voluntary agencies.

BURGH OF CASTLE-DOUGLAS, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 2,851. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,908.

Letter from *John Dunn*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, but such distress as there is, is a little more pronounced than usual. This is owing to the severity of the weather.

2. A soup kitchen has been opened by voluntary agency for relief of the labouring classes who have been out of employment, and small sums have been distributed amongst unemployed tradesmen with families. The average daily number relieved by the first of these agencies is 120.

3. No.

BURGH OF CLYDEBANK, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 10,014. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £48,924.

Letter from *John Hepburn*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress. A few out-door workers in the shipyards were thrown idle during the severe frost, but only temporarily.

2. The public authorities have seen no necessity for opening relief works. A public fund exists, and a meeting of the trustees was held on 15th instant, but none of the trustees knew of any cases requiring relief.

3. None.

4. None.

BURGH OF COATBRIDGE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 30,034. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £131,674.

Letter from *John M. Alston*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No, beyond the fact that, owing to the severe weather, a number of labourers connected with the building trade has been thrown out of employment.

2. Nothing was done up to 16th February, but a meeting of magistrates was held on 21st February to look into the matter of the unemployed due to the severe weather, and, so far, some 20 or 30 families have been relieved up to the present moment. Further inquiries are, however, being made by the Chief Constable. The magistrates are receiving money by public subscription.

3. No.

4. No, beyond answer to No. 2.

BURGH OF COCKENZIE, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,578. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,974.

Letter from *R. H. Hunter*, Town Clerk, 23rd February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

3. No.

BURGH OF COLDSTREAM, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,535. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,883.

Letter from *John Scott*, Town Clerk, 1st March 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress in this district, and what distress there is, is largely due to the severity of the weather.

2. The burgh authorities have given employment to several workmen with families, in digging for frozen water pipes.
The soup kitchen, which has been largely supported by voluntary contributions, whereby over 60 families have been supplied with free dinners and bread three times a week since December last.

3. No.

4. A change in the weather would cure what distress there is. No suggestions.

BURGH OF COUPAR ANGUS, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,106. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,606.

Letter from *R. Watson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY distress that there is is entirely due to the severe weather.

2. A soup kitchen has been established by a committee, and maintained by voluntary subscriptions. About 125 persons are daily relieved; besides, soup is sold at a cheap rate to those persons who otherwise might not be able to obtain a hot diet. In some cases fuel is also distributed.

3. No.

4. The assistance rendered must be continued even for some weeks after the break of the storm. Another appeal to the public will require to be made, but as the result of the call is at any time very uncertain, a more satisfactory way of obtaining funds will require to be resorted to. A Parliamentary grant would not be out of place.

BURGH OF COVE AND KILCREGGAN, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 946. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,719.

Letter from *Wm. M'Cracken*, Town Clerk 25th February 1895.

1. No distress whatever.

2. Nothing required.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF COWDENBEATH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 4,249. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,858.

Letter from *Geo. Terris*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress whatever except what is due to the pits going short time, the result of the re-action caused by the strike.

3. No applications.

BURGH OF CRAIL, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,119. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,904.

Letter from *John Guthrie*, Joint Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF CRIEFF, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 4,902. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £25,574.

Letter from *Chas. E. Colville*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, caused solely by the severity of the weather.

2. An average of 100 loaves distributed daily, and in addition an average of 71 persons supplied with soup and bread. Work is given to about 49 unemployed men daily on an average.

3. No register is kept. Every man belonging to the town gets work on applying for it.

4. The arrangements are so satisfactory that I have nothing to suggest.

BURGH OF CROMARTY, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,338. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,813.

Letter from *T. J. McLeay*, Town Clerk, 4th March, 1895.

1. NONE, except in case of the fishermen, who, owing to the severe weather, are unable to go to sea.

2. No general fund for relief. Several charities throughout town, but no knowledge of who gets such.

3. No.

BURGH OF CULLEN, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 2,100. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,062.

Letter from *Alex. Sim*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. VERY little, except, perhaps, in the sea-town, which is never altogether clear of distress in stormy weather, when the boats cannot get to sea.

2. A daily average of 35 men were employed at relief works, while a daily average of 16 persons received grants of coals and other necessaries during the week ended 16th instant.

3. There is a register kept of the unemployed who apply for work. The number thereon averaged during the past four weeks 37, and were allowed 3*d*. per hour for relief works provided by the public authorities and voluntary agencies.

4. There has been no difficulty in relieving distress in the district in the way indicated by the foregoing answers.

BURGH OF CULROSS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 370. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £1,629.

Letter from *Alex. Gentle*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. No distress.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF CUMNOCK AND HOLMHEAD, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,104. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,619.

Letter from *Arch. Brakenridge*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE has been exceptional distress among out-door workers such as drainers and labourers, but only to a very limited extent, the numbers being few. It was due to the severe and continued frost which prevented out-door work.

2. Nothing, except that the burgh commissioners gave employment to some men in clearing the streets of snow and opening up streets where bursts in water pipes occurred.

3. No.

4. No. The frost having gone, out-door work will be resumed.

BURGH OF CUPAR, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 4,729. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,583.

Letter from *H. Matthew*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress has prevailed here for a considerable time (nine weeks), and still prevails. This is wholly attributable to the severity of the weather having put a stop to almost all descriptions of out-door work, on which a large number of families are dependent for their means of existence.

2. (*a*) The Town Council, out of a fund of about 100*l.* available for the relief of the poor (representing the accumulated savings in administration of 15 years), devoted 50*l.* towards the alleviation of the condition of the distressed poor in the town. The several religious bodies have as usual given some relief to impoverished members of their respective congregations, but the amount expended is unknown to me. Under the auspices of Provost MacQueen, about 60*l.* has been obtained from private individuals for the purpose of supplying coals to the poor. During the week ended 16 February, over 200 parties were relieved out of the sums voted by the Town Council, and raised by the Provost as above mentioned.

3. No.

4. No. Everything that local effort can do has been done. The only source from which further relief can be looked to is the Imperial Exchequer.

BURGH OF DALBEATTIE, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 3,149. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,324.

Letter from *James Little*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE was exceptional distress in this burgh during the last three weeks, due solely to the severe weather. Labourers at the quarries and other works, which had to be closed, were thrown out of employment.

2. After the great snowstorm of Wednesday, 6th February, the Burgh Commissioners employed all labourers who applied in clearing the footpaths of the snow, and during the last two weeks the men were employed by a relief committee formed some years ago to relieve distress, and whose funds were this year augmented to meet the present circumstances. The men were engaged to clear the streets and roads of snow, and do any other useful work which could be found. They were paid 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. During the week ended 16th February, the average daily number relieved in this way by the relief committee was 38. A soup kitchen has also been in operation in this burgh, and the average daily number relieved during the week ended 16th February (including school children) was 95. These agencies were the means of mitigating the distress to a very considerable extent. The quarries and other works are now open, and these will employ the most of the men who were thrown out of employment.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF DALKEITH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 6,952. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £29,136.

Letter from *Thos. Sturrock*, Town Clerk, 28th February 1895.

1. No ; so far as can be ascertained.

2. Upwards of 100*l.* has been collected by voluntary subscription to purchase coals for the poor and for soup kitchens. Three hundred persons have been supplied with coals since 1st January last.

3. No such register is kept here, and no applications for relief have been made from the unemployed.

4. I think the well-to-do inhabitants will do all that is required. A committee has been formed for the purpose.

BURGH OF DARVEL, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 2,024. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,445.

Letter from *Andrew Cameron*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No ; the hands in the lace factories are well employed. Some railway workers not natives of the district, but at present working here in the formation of a railway, are idle owing to the frost.

2. (*a*) The distress is slight, but has been met by voluntary contributions in the shape of meal, tea, and sugar.

(*b*) No official agency.

3. No ; do not think this necessary.

4. No ; do not think it necessary for the authorities to do anything.

BURGH OF DENNY AND DUNIPACE, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 4,161. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,279.

Letter from *John Archibald*, Clerk to Commissioners, 13th March 1895.

1. THERE has been no unusual increase in the numbers of the unemployed.

BURGH OF DINGWALL, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 2,300. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,148.

Letter from *Alex. Dewar*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, due to severe weather. The severe weather having now broken up to a considerable degree it cannot be said, I think, that there is any exceptional distress in this community.

2. (*a*) A private gentleman sent the Provost a cheque for 10*l.*, and the Town Council voted 10*l.* from the funds of the common good, and the amount (20*l.*) was distributed among some 70 of the unemployed. The Town Council further arranged for a subscription in the community for funds to augment the amount referred to, but it was not found necessary to resort to this form of appeal.
(*b*) Daily payments are not made.

3. No.

4. I think there should be some National Fund from which exceptional distress could be relieved.

BURGH OF DOLLAR, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 1,807. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,815.

Letter from *J. S. Henderson*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. No.

2. The Commissioners of the burgh offered work at stone-breaking by public handbill at the usual rates for such work, but only one person applied.

3. No.

4. No.

Note.—I believe the view entertained by the Commission Board is that where parties are able to work they should be required to do so as a condition of getting assistance. In Dollar, which is a small burgh, the really necessitous are generally known, and it is believed there is a good deal of private charity.

BURGH OF DORNOCH, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 514. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,012.

Letter from *Hector M. Mackay*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Private charity has hitherto been able to cope with such distress as there is.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF DOUNE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 940. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,800.

Letter from *James A. McLean*, Town Clerk, 23rd February, 1895.

1. THERE is not.

2. A few exceptional cases of a temporary character have been relieved by private individuals.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF DUFFTOWN, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,469. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,851.

Letter from *A. Walkinshaw*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress in the burgh. The unemployed, which is solely due to the weather, is confined to a few mason &c. labourers, and out-door female workers.

2. Nothing been done by local authority.
A soup kitchen, voluntarily supported, supplied a daily average of 70 families with soup and bread.
Besides coals, meal, sugar, tea, and clothing have been given at different times during the snowstorm to the necessitous poor.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF DUMBARTON, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 16,927. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £57,900.

Letter from *John Henderson*, Chief Constable, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Due entirely to the frost and severe weather.

2. The Town Council of this burgh gave a grant of 10*l.* to the Benevolent Society, which is the principal agency in this town for giving relief to unemployed. The society is kept up by voluntary contributions. The average daily number relieved by this society for week ended 16 February 1895, was 101 individuals, including men, women, and children. Twenty-seven of the above number, being able-bodied men, were employed three days per week, and paid at the rate of 2*s.* per day of eight hours.

3. No.

4. I am of opinion that it would be of considerable use to have an unemployed register kept for the burgh. From my own experience, I find that it is the improvident, and those addicted to drink, who are always the first to ask for relief, especially during dull trade or extreme weather, as take, for example, the past two months. I think the town authorities should have power to employ men at a reduced rate of pay when they cannot find employment elsewhere. I am entirely against giving relief indiscriminately.

Note.—Through the kindness of several ladies, the Chief Constable has been enabled to supply 104 children with boots, stockings, and clothing where necessary, and is still giving to needful cases.
He has also given blankets to six families, and coals have been supplied to 217 families, in quantities of 3 cwt. and upwards.
There is also a "Dorcas" society here, managed by ladies, and maintained by voluntary contribution. During the winter time about 50*l.* is spent amongst the deserving poor in the town in this way.

BURGH OF DUMFRIES, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 12,947. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £64,620.

Letter from *Sam. Brown*, Town Clerk Depute, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Due solely to severity of weather.

2. (*a*) Employment given in cleaning streets and footpaths by Burgh Commissioners. Average number 60 men. Soup kitchen supplies soup; average, 200 men, women, and children. Poor Association gives tickets for groceries and coals. Average, 100 householders.

3. No.

4. No. Local efforts sufficient to meet the emergency.

BURGH OF DUNBAR, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 3,561. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,878.

Letter from *Charles Notman*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress; severe weather interfered with out-door occupation to a considerable extent.

2. Soup kitchen from funds contributed by Burgh Authorities and voluntary subscription in operation for ten days; average daily rations, 180.

3. No.

Burgh of Dunblane, County of Perth.

Population (1891), 2,186. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,090.

Letter from *James Watt*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. There is no exceptional distress in the district. On account of the severe weather a good many tradesmen have been thrown out of work.

2. There is a soup kitchen open three days of the week; the expense being met by voluntary subscriptions. The average relieved on each of the three days is 150.

3. No unemployed register maintained.

4. No.

Burgh of Dundee, County of Forfar.

Population (as extended on 1st August 1892), 154,118. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £699,067.

Letter from Sir *T. Thornton*, Town Clerk, 28th February 1895.

1. There is no exceptional distress in this district at present.

2. (*a*) There is nothing being done by the local authority to relieve distress beyond clearing the streets of snow which fell during the late storm, but the usual relief is being granted by the Parochial Board, and by the Dundee Charity Organization Society.
(*b*) Average number employed by the local authority clearing streets, 197 per day; average number relieved by the Parochial Board, 13 per day; average number relieved by Charity Organization Society, 10 per day.

3. No.

4. Where practicable, in times of exceptional distress, relief works might be started by the local authority, consisting of road-making and stone-breaking principally. In addition, in cases of exceptional distress, relief might be afforded by such organizations as the Dundee Charity Organization Society.

Burgh of Dunfermline, County of Fife.

Population (1891), 22,157. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £72,254.

Letter from *Wm. Simpson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There has been some distress, wholly attributable to masons' labourers, and other out-door workers, being thrown idle through the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Burgh Commissioners have given employment at stone-breaking to all able-bodied applicants at 2*s.* per day, and a fund in the hands of the magistrates has been distributed to necessitous families in shape of provisions and coals.
The *Dunfermline Journal* Relief Fund relieved about 70 cases, giving them provisions and coals of the value of from 3*s.* to 4*s.* per week, and other 30 cases have been relieved since the 16th.
Forty pounds has been raised since the 16th by a concert, and this is to be administered by the Dunfermline United Temperance Council by way of a soup kitchen.
(*b*) The average number employed in stone-breaking during the week ending 16th February 1895, was 55.

3. Yes, a register is kept, with the result that the number of unemployed has increased from 55 on 16th February to 128, which was the number employed at stone-breaking on 23rd inst.

4. The arrangements which have been made in this burgh for the relief of distress have been found quite adequate to meet the prevailing temporary distress.

Burgh of Dunoon, County of Argyll.

Population (1891), 5,283. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £45,378.

Letter from *J. Valrose Clery*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. There was exceptional distress, largely due to the severe weather.

2. The corporation have given work to the unemployed at the water works to the number of 31.
Voluntary agencies. Soup kitchen opened daily, from which were issued rations of soup and bread numbering 150 to 200, in addition to coals and provisions.

3. No.

4. The need for relief will largely pass away with milder weather.
No further than the procedure detailed in answer to Question No. 2.

BURGH OF DUNS, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 2,198. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,672.

Letter from *James Millar*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been some exceptional distress in the burgh, owing entirely to the severe weather. Prior to that there was plenty of work, and with the return of soft weather the labouring classes are likely to be well employed.

2. No special action has been found necessary by public authorities.
A soup kitchen, got up by voluntary subscription, has been open during the severe weather on two days a week.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF DYSART, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 3,022. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,722.

Letter from *James Herd*, Town Clerk, received 28th February 1895.

1. NO.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF EARLSFERRY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 304. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,736.

Letter from *James Waddell*, Town Clerk, 23rd February 1895.

1. NONE, except owing to the severe weather.

2. Nothing has been done except by some private voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. After the severe weather ceases, persons who were in temporary distress will be relieved by getting full employment.

BURGH OF EAST LINTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 865. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,833.

Letter from *Arthur E. Robertson*, Town Clerk, 7th March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. People nearly all working now.

2. The parish minister started a soup kitchen, which was very slightly taken advantage of.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF EDINBURGH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 261,225. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,980,409.

Letter from *Thomas Hunter*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. YES; due almost entirely to the protracted frost.

2. Agencies for relieving Distress in Edinburgh :—

Name of Agency.	Average Daily Number relieved during Week ending 16th February 1895.	Remarks.
Edinburgh Municipal Authorities :		
Roads Department	209·	For 14th, 15th, and 16th February 1895.
Cleansing Department	35·	For 12th, 13th, and 14th February 1895.
"The Help" or Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor	143·	
The Society for Relief of Destitute Sick	62·5	Rather over the average of ordinary years.
Edinburgh Soup Kitchen	650·	
Simon Square Soup Kitchen	367·	
St. Cuthbert's Soup Kitchen	191·	
Northern District Public Soup Kitchen	100·	
The Vennel Feeding School	200·	(Chiefly children).
Newington Parish Soup Kitchen	44·2	
House of Refuge, Canongate	39·	This is not above the ordinary average.
Night Asylum and Strangers' Friend Society	46·4	

The secretaries of soup kitchens all state that there is a marked increase in the number of persons supplied this year compared with former years.

Note.—This does not include the relief given by the Parochial Boards in the city, with whom there is no perceptible difference.

3. No.

4. The City Police have been extensively employed in assisting in the distribution of help to the unemployed with great advantage, both to the unemployed and to the organizations charitably engaged.

Burgh of Elgin, County of Elgin.

Population (1891), 7,646. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £29,322.

Letter from *Hugh Stewart*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. Nothing exceptional, beyond the usual distress caused by the prolonged snowstorm.

2. A soup kitchen under the authority and management of the Town Council in daily operation supported by voluntary subscriptions, at which an average of 150 supplied daily.

A meal, bread, and coal fund, also under the authority and management of the Town Council and supported by voluntary contributions, from which weekly distributions made to an average of 150 families.

Work is also given to unemployed men by the Town Council in cleaning streets, &c., at 3*d*. per hour.

3. No.

4. The Town Council have as yet been able to cope with the distress.

Burgh of Elie, County of Fife.

Population (1891), 723. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,173.

Letter from *W. R. Ketchen*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The recent severe weather put an end to building operations; but in a few days such is expected to be re-commenced

2. No occasion for such here.

3. No. In ordinary circumstances full employment easily obtained.

4. No.

Burgh of Ellon, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 1,254. Assessable Rental (1893–94), cannot be given.

Letter from *A. J. Raeburn*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. Yes. Due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) About 11*l*. subscribed by voluntary contribution. About 20*l*. contributed by Kirk Session of Ellon.
(*b*) From 16 to 20 married men } by joint contributions.
,, 8 ,, 10 unmarried men }

3. No.

4. No. Ample bequests remain in the hands of the Kirk Session for the relief of such distress.

BURGH OF EYEMOUTH, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 2,576. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,373.

Letter from *John Donaldson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, owing to depressed state of the fishing, and labourers being out of work through severe weather.

2. For nearly a month past about 90 persons have been daily furnished with a good hot meal; coals have also been given to all poor people. This has been done through voluntary agencies, under the supervision of burgh magistrates. Relief ceased meantime, but funds ready to start again if required.
Average daily number relieved during week ended 16th February, 90.

3. No.

4. We are quite able to deal with it meantime.

BURGH OF FALKIRK, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 17,312. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £54,877.

Letter from *J. Wilson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, there is more distress than usual at this season, apparently arising from the long frost.

2. A soup kitchen has been open for several weeks, supported by voluntary contributions, at which from 130 to 180 individuals have got dinner daily. Work at stone-breaking has also been provided for able-bodied men, for which they are paid the usual rate of wages.

3. No register of unemployed is kept, but a register of those who apply for relief.

4. None. The means adopted seem to have been successful in meeting the necessity.

BURGH OF FALKLAND, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 959. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,009.

Letter from *Charles Gulland*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; mainly due to the severe weather. Last week the minister of the parish called upon me, urging extraneous help on this account.

2. Voluntary agencies (not public authorities) have been at work. Several gentlemen in the district have, within the last two months, given donations for coals and groceries. This is not given *daily*, but once for all. Then there is "The Dr. Guland Bequest" Fund, from which 31*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* was given among nearly 100 people this month, but more cannot be given from this source until May. I think there will be from 80 to 100 very poor people here, many of whom are unemployed.

3. No register.

4. A sum might be sent here, either to the Reverend John Barrack, the minister of the Parish of Falkland, or to myself, as Town Clerk of Falkland. Either of us would be willing and ready to distribute. The minister and I both know the deserving poor of Falkland, and the unemployed.

BURGH OF FORFAR, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 12,057. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £38,334.

Letter from *William Gordon*, Police Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, but only owing to the severity of the weather.

2. The distress is being met by the public authorities providing work for the unemployed and by voluntary agencies. 181 families got supplies from the soup kitchen on 16th February (the opening day), and the same number still.

3. No.

4. Nothing further is necessary than is being done. So soon as the frost gives way, there will be abundance of work, as there was up to the new year, and would have continued but for the frost.

BURGH OF FORRES, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 3,971. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,784.

Letter from *Robert Urquhart*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. TEMPORARY distress exists amongst out-door labourers and workmen owing entirely to the severity of the weather. In open weather there is ample employment for working people.

2. (*a*) Funds have been raised by concerts and voluntary subscriptions, and the Town Council has voted a sum, not exceeding 25*l*., to relieve distress. Part of money has been spent in relief works, part in a soup kitchen, and balance distributed chiefly amongst females dependent on out-door labour.
(*b*) About 50 to 60.

3. No formal register, but strict inquiry made into each case.

4. The weather has now moderated, and it is expected that no further relief will be necessary this winter.

BURGH OF FORTROSE, COUNTY OF ROSS.

Population (1891), 871. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,746.

Letter from *John Henderson*, Town Clerk, 11th March 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, due chiefly to the severe weather.

2. Local effort is made to meet extreme cases, of which fortunately there are not many.

3. No.

4. As it is only temporary no suggestions are offered in the meantime.

BURGH OF FORT WILLIAM, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,870. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,316.

Letter from *Hector Fraser*, Clerk to the Commissioners, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE are very few, if any, cases of exceptional distress.

2. The public authorities have not moved in the matter, but meal and coals have been distributed on several occasions among the poorer inhabitants of the burgh, and there is considerable relief given privately.

3. There is no unemployed register maintained.

4. Metal-breaking and collecting gravel for the public roads; the material could be stored in some convenient place and used in years to come.

BURGH OF FRASERBURGH, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 7,466. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £28,757.

Letter from *John Proctor*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE has been distress amongst the native labouring class, owing to the long-continued severity of the weather, and also amongst a number of navvies, who had come to town in expectation of getting work at the harbour improvements.

2. The Burgh Commissioners are giving employment to 75 men, at 4*d*. per hour. They commenced working on 15th February. Voluntary agencies have been providing relief in the shape of food and lodging for some of the strangers. A soup kitchen and coal fund have been established for many years in this town, supported by voluntary subscription, and a large number of families and aged poor have been daily provided for by this means, with the addition of sugar, tea, and groceries.

3. No register kept, except a time-book.

4. None.

BURGH OF GALASHIELS, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 17,252. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £65,663.

Letter from *Richard Lees*, Town Clerk, 5th March 1895.

1. YES. It is almost entirely due to the stagnation of trade owing to the severe weather; but there is usually a certain amount of distress at this season of the year in Galashiels.

2. The

2. The Town Council are employing a large number of the unemployed in clearing snow from the streets; the wages paid varying from the minimum of 2*s.* to the maximum of 3*s.* per day of nine hours. During the week ended 16th February, the number so employed was 64, and the amount paid in wages, 38*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* Up to the present date, 167*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* has been expended by the Town Council in this employment. The Town Council have the administration of a bequest of 500*l.* for supplying coals to the deserving poor of the district, which yields about 19*l.* per annum. During the week ended 16th February, five tons of coal were distributed amongst 10 persons, each receiving 10 cwt. Since the month of January, 48 half-tons of coal have been so distributed at a total cost of 20*l.* There is a Voluntary Relief Committee, who have since the 11th of January last been granting relief to deserving persons. They started with a balance of 40*l.* from last year, and the income since up to the present date (including 100*l.* the free proceeds from a concert for the unemployed) has been 129*l.*, together 169*l.* Of this 90*l.* has been expended. Altogether they have granted 392 relief tickets. During the week ending 16th February, the committee granted 83 relief tickets at a cost of 12*l.* 9*s.* The same committee organised on the 24th January a soup kitchen for children. An average of 300 dinners per day are given; the cost of many of such dinners being borne by ladies and gentlemen in the town. During the week ended 16th February, 2,100 dinners or thereby were given at an approximate cost of 13*l.* There are many private sources from which relief is obtained, but of which the Town Council are unable to give any details. The Parochial Board of the parish Galashiels, which embraces the burgh, has also been giving relief of an exceptional kind to the unemployed; but as a communication will have also been addressed to the inspector of poor, it is unnecessary to refer to that agency here. Care has been taken to obviate overlapping by the two authorities.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Galston, County of Ayr.

Population (1891), 4,296. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,880.

Letter from *Robert Blair*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district, except among out-door unemployed, due to severity of the weather.

2. Commissioners of Galston have instituted a fund by voluntary subscription, which has been liberally responded to, and are dealing with the necessitous cases reported to them. Average number relieved, 36.

3. No register kept except for those above referred to.

4. None. Should a favourable change in the weather shortly take place out-door work will be resumed, and the distress will then disappear.

Burgh of Gatehouse, County of Kirkcudbright.

Population (1891), 1,226. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,695.

Letter from *Henry D. Glover*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There has been exceptional distress in this district. This has entirely arisen in consequence of the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Provost caused a voluntary subscription to be raised, which the public responded to liberally.
(*b*) About 50.

3. No.

4. None.

Burgh of Girvan, County of Ayr.

Population (1891) 4,081. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,376.

Letter from *Peter McKenna*, Town Clerk, 5th March 1895.

1. Yes. The population, with the exception of a small number employed at handloom weaving, which is in a state of chronic depression, depend principally on agricultural labour and fishing, and both of these forms of industry were brought to a complete standstill through the severity of the weather.

2. (*a*) An influential committee of a most representative character, including members of the Police Commission and Parochial Board, raised a fund for the relief of the unemployed and destitute.
(*b*) The total number relieved by the Committee with coals, lines for provisions, &c., was 409½; of this number about 270 received coals only.

3. No.

4. No. Happily such acute distress occurs here only at rare intervals.

BURGH OF GLASGOW, COUNTY OF CITY OF GLASGOW.

Population (1891 *), 658,198. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,725,307.

Letter from *James G. Monro*, Town Clerk Depute, 27th February 1895.

1. ON 10th January last the Town Council authorised the magistrates to make inquiries regarding the existence of undue want of work, and, if it should be found that an exceptional amount of distress existed from that cause, authorised them to take any steps they might consider necessary with a view to giving relief in deserving cases. The magistrates at once put themselves in communication with the larger employers in the several branches of trade, and also with the various public bodies and organisations from which they considered they were most likely to obtain reliable information to enable them to form an accurate opinion as to the actual state of matters, and on 28th ultimo, having considered the whole information received in answer to the inquiries they had made, the magistrates were unanimously of opinion that it did not disclose the existence of any exceptional distress. Looking, however, to the then present extreme severity of the weather, they resolved to give a limited amount of work for a short time, as on and from the Monday following, at stone-breaking (which was the only employment the magistrates had at their disposal) for the relief of deserving unemployed citizens. The magistrates were of opinion that the exceptional distress was entirely caused by the exceptional severity of the weather. In consequence of the severe weather continuing, and the increasing number of parties applying for relief, the magistrates resolved, on 11th instant, to expend a sum of 50*l.* in issuing one shilling orders for food and in opening two soup kitchens.

On 13th instant they authorised that provision should be made for affording warm shelter and accommodation night and day in all the police offices for destitute persons; that additional food tickets should be issued, and that a number of additional soup kitchens should be opened. At the same time, an appeal was made to the citizens for subscriptions to meet the expense of providing food, &c.

Under the direction of the magistrates, during the week ended 16th instant, the average daily number of men employed at the stone-breaking stations was 1,020. During the succeeding week the average daily number increased to 2,202. These men received one shilling a day (with an extra twopence per day on Saturday for each of the days they had worked during the week), with breakfast and dinner, and latterly, through the generosity of the Lord Provost, they also received a third meal before leaving for the day.

During the week ending 16th instant, daily orders for soup and bread were issued from the Central Relief Office on one of the soup kitchens, to the wives and families of men who were reported as having actually started work, and, as soon as their circumstances were investigated by officers of experience, weekly tickets in all deserving cases were issued instead. Three hundred such tickets were issued during the week ending 16th instant. Supplies of groceries, clothing, &c., which had been sent to the central offices in response to the Lord Provost's appeal, were also freely given to needy families of the men actually employed on the relief works. Through the various police offices a great many families in necessitous circumstances, whose breadwinners were not engaged on the relief works, were also supplied with orders for groceries, fuel, and medical assistance, after their circumstances had been investigated by the officers of the police force.

Altogether, nine soup kitchens have been opened, at which thousands of needy men, women, and children were daily supplied with soup and bread by merely applying.

3. There is no unemployed register kept in Glasgow except the register of applications for the stone-breaking work.

4. I am not in a position to make any suggestions for the purpose of relieving such distress, but the communication will be submitted to the magistrates at their next meeting.

BURGH OF GOUROCK, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 4,475. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £30,702.

Letter from *James Glen*, Town Clerk, received 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district.

BURGH OF GOVAN, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 61,589. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £239,436.

Letter from *A. Macdonald*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is some distress, which is due largely to the prolonged severe frost. Work is not scarce, although the shipbuilding trade might be much brisker; but workmen have been unable to continue their employment, and the labouring class has consequently suffered. The wages of that class are small, so that they are able to save little or nothing for periods such as that which is just passed.

2. (*a*) The public authorities have not taken steps involving expenditure of the rates to meet the distress, but the Provost has organised through the police a relief fund by which clothing, coals, bread, and grocery tickets (value 1*s.*), are being distributed among the needy. Subscriptions having been called for, have come in readily to the amount of about 400*l.*, besides the private benefactions indicated in my letters to Secretary of Local Government Board of 12th and 13th current, Poor Law No. 568-95. There are also the two soup kitchens conducted by agencies unconnected with the burgh.

(*b*) The average number of families relieved from the Provost Fund for week ending 16th February was 209. Relief is distributed twice a week, on Tuesday and Saturday, new applications being dealt with on being received. The average daily number of dinners given out from soup kitchens in the burgh for same week was 270.

3. There is at present no unemployed register. In connection with the Provost Relief Fund, all applications are registered and indexed, and this book may in a general way be described as a register of the unemployed.

4. No.

---

* As extended on 1st November 1891.

BURGH OF GRANGEMOUTH, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 6,354. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £40,191.

Letter from *Alexander Tait*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.

2. The few cases, which are almost entirely chronic or due to illness, are attended to by the Committee of Grangemouth Charitable Fund.
Cases of other deserving poor have also been attended to by other charitable agencies.
The cases referred to have been well attended to.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF GREENOCK, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 63,423. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £285,267.

Letter from *Colin MacCulloch*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are very few cases of exceptional distress in this district, and these are due to the late very severe weather acting upon trades requiring out-of-door work.

2. Public authorities have started men on stone-breaking, and on clearing the public streets of snow, giving a wage of 2*s.* per day.
The average daily number relieved was as follows :—

Stone-breaking	23.
Street-cleaning	61.
By charitable society acting through the police	80 cases.

3. At present there is no unemployed register maintained, as, generally speaking, there is no necessity for it.

4. As there is not a great amount of exceptional distress in this town, and all the cases can readily be met by local agencies, there are no suggestions to make.

BURGH OF HADDINGTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 3,771. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,216.

Letter from *G. H. Stevenson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is in the burgh a certain amount of distress, owing to the long continuance of the severe weather. The distress is mainly confined to women who earn their livelihood by outside work, but I cannot characterise it as very extraordinary distress.

2. (*a*) The soup kitchen, which is conducted under the auspices of the Parochial Board and kept up by voluntary contributions, has been open since 8th February, and this, combined with a certain amount of liberality on the part of private individuals in particular cases, seems to meet the requirements of the burgh. (*b*) Fifty-seven cases, with about 100 dependants.

3. No ; except as regards the soup kitchen, from which register statistics are being supplied by the Inspector of Poor, and from which the answer to query 2 (*b*) is taken.

4. No. I am of opinion that the relieving of such distress as exists is being adequately attended to.

BURGH OF HAMILTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 24,859. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £82,268.

Letter from *P. M. Kirkpatrick*, Joint Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress in this burgh is caused by the long-continued and severe frost, which is causing almost all out-door work to be stopped.

2. The Town Council are employing the men idle in making road, &c., on ground which is to be formed into a public park, paying them at the rate of 2*s.* per day of eight hours.
Fifty tons of coal in quantities of 10 cwt., given by the Cadzow Coal Company, were distributed by Provost Wylie.
The average number of men employed daily by the Council for week ending 16th February, was 58.

3. A register of the men employed by the Council is kept by Mr. Watson, Burgh Surveyor. The average daily number for last week was 71. Men belonging to this burgh get the preference. To-day 58 men are employed.

4. None.

BURGH OF HAWICK, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 19,204. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £64,536.

Letter from *Robert Purdom*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; due partly to bad trade and partly to the severe and prolonged winter.

2. (*a*) The Town Council have organised (1) a voluntary subscription; (2) amateur concerts; and (3) church collections, from which sources about 300*l.* has been received, and distributed in coals, provisions, bread, and soup.
(*b*) About 200 families weekly.

3. Yes, about 150 names are registered, and work has been found for these, as far as possible, at 2*s.* per day in removing snow from footpaths, breaking stones, and spreading sewage manure on town's farm.

4. From 25 years' experience I have a very strong opinion that in future this matter should be placed in the hands of the parish councils, with full power to open soup kitchens, coal, meal, and bread depôts, and yards for breaking stones, splitting firewood, &c. It is a glaring anomaly that the poor-house authorities should simply fold their hands when an emergency like the present arises, and trust to outsiders doing the work which they are specially qualified to do. The transfer of the parochial board's duties to the parish councils affords a favourable opportunity of giving powers to the latter on the lines indicated.

BURGH OF HELENSBURGH, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 8,409. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £56,891.

Letter from *George Maclachlan*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a considerable amount of distress in this burgh, owing to the severe weather and the suspension of out-door labour since Christmas. The distress is not due to any circumstance peculiar to the locality.

2. (*a*) The authorities have organised relief works. Over 100 men have been provided with employment at breaking metal and in other ways; 137*l.* paid in wages for three weeks round by voluntary subscription. The Association for Improving Condition of Poor has distributed soup, provisions, and coals.
(*b*) Relieved by authorities, 102; by association, 350.

3. Yes. A Committee of the Police Commission meet twice daily, and the result has been most satisfactory. The wages paid are (1) married men with wives and families, 2*s.* per day; married men with wives only, 1*s.* 6*d.*; unmarried men, 1*s.*

4. We have found the providing of employment the most satisfactory plan, as it preserves the men's independence. There has been no abuse of the help rendered.

BURGH OF HUNTLY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 3,760. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,668.

Letter from *T. A. Duff*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. A CERTAIN amount of distress prevails among the out-door labouring class, as many of them have been precluded from earning anything for over eight weeks on account of the severe and protracted weather.

2. The Burgh Commissioners have of late been employing the unemployed in clearing the streets of snow, under which scheme a very considerable amount of relief has been given, while under the agency of a soup kitchen organized by the Provost, and maintained by voluntary effort, special good work has been done. Certain public entertainments have also been the means of supplying coals and grants in money.
The average number employed on streets might be put at 20.
The soup kitchen is open only on three days a week, viz.:—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; 828 rations were served during the week ended 16th February; and as each ration was considered sufficient for two days, the average would stand at 276 per day.

3. No.

4. Voluntary local effort has, and will be amply sufficient to meet the distress.

BURGH OF INNERLEITHEN, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 2,501. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,731.

Letter from *William Stobie*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; due to severe weather entirely.

2. A relief committee of prominent citizens has been formed, who have received subscriptions, and are giving relief twice weekly in the shape of bread, groceries, and coal. The commissioners have also been employing extra men to clear the streets of snow, &c. The names on committee's list number 70.

3. No.

3. No.

4. The distress is being adequately coped with by the above measures.
It is to be noted that those in receipt of regular relief from parochial board are the most necessitous cases, and are included in the above number.

Burgh of Inveraray, County of Argyll.

Population (1891), 743. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,407.

Letter from *Arch. Henderson*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing required to be done.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Inverbervie, County of Kincardine.

Population (1891), 1,195. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,221.

Letter from *A. W. Kinnear*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.
People only a little longer out of employment than usual, owing to the protracted winter.

2. Nothing beyond voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Invergordon, County of Ross and Cromarty.

Population (1891), 1,117. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,263.

Letter from *Robt. S. Ross*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No ; except as referred to in No. 2.

2. The exceptionally severe weather may have thrown a few workmen out of employment, but there is no real distress among them. Voluntary agencies have been supplying a few of the more needy with soup and coals.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Inverkeithing, County of Fife.

Population (1891) 1,676. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,516.

Letter from *John R. Menzies*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There has been some exceptional distress since the beginning of the year among out-door workers and their families, due mainly to the severe weather.

2. A Committee was formed from among members of Town Council, who raised voluntary subscriptions in the district, and from this fund a soup kitchen was opened, the average daily number relieved being 70, and a half-ton of coal each has been sent to 63 families.

3. No unemployed register maintained.

4. The distress being mainly temporary, the existing agencies will in all likelihood be able to meet it.

Burgh of Inverness, County of Inverness.

Population (1891), 19,303. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £94,803.

Letter from *Rod. Paterson*, Depute Town Clerk, 1st March 1895.

1. There does not appear to be exceptional distress in this burgh, and what does exist is due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The

2. (*a*) The Town Council opened a subscription list for a fund for the relief of the unemployed, which has been pretty largely contributed to by the public, and the money is being distributed under the direction of the Council and its officials. The Council are also providing work for those of the unemployed who are able to work. Besides the above, there is a fund in the Provost's name out of which supplies of coal are provided for the poor. There are also private individuals rendering assistance to the poor.

(*b*) During the week ending 16th February 1895, 122 persons were employed on works provided by the town; 372 received two stones of oatmeal each; and 125 received a 4-lb. loaf each.

3. There is an unemployed register kept. It shows that a large number of the unemployed have availed themselves of the work provided by the Council.

4. I have nothing to add to what is stated above.

BURGH OF INVERURIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,549. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,224.

Letter from *C. B. Davidson*, Town Clerk, 28th February 1895.

1. ANY distress in this district is caused by the severe weather.

2. Since the 6th of January of this year there has been distributed 65*l.* in money, 33 tons of coal. The soup kitchen is open three days in the week, where soup is distributed to between 70 and 80 poor persons, with or without money. There has also been a good deal of private charity in the shape of tea, sugar, bread, &c. Blankets have also been privately given.

3. We have no unemployed register in our burgh.

4. No suggestions to offer.

BURGH OF IRVINE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 9,086. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £36,224.

Letter from *Jas. Dickie*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. SOME exceptional distress, due to the severe weather.

2. The corporation has been making efforts to provide out-door employment for about 50 men. A soup kitchen has been in operation during the winter. At first it was open only two days per week, but for some time past it has been open four days per week. It is supported by the Countess of Eglinton, and by the provost and magistrates from a subscription by the corporation and contributions from private individuals. All are served who apply—the supplies of soup being carried home for the use of the families of the applicants.

3. No.

The number of unemployed is diminishing, at least the number applying for work is much less within the last ten days. It appears some of the men object to being employed at stone-breaking.

BURGH OF JEDBURGH, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 3,397. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,702.

Letter from *James Stedman*, Town Clerk, 1st March 1895.

1. THERE is considerable distress in the town, which is almost entirely due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) A relief fund has been opened by the magistrates, and about 100*l.* has been raised and distributed. Coals have been given by Lord Stratheden and Lord Lothian. A soup kitchen is opened, at which about sixty persons are daily supplied with soup. (*b*) About sixty persons daily.

3. No register is kept.

4. It is thought that the agencies mentioned in No. 2 above are sufficient to cope with the distress.

BURGH OF JOHNSTONE, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 9,668. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,805.

Letter from *Will. Reid*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. Exceptional distress prevails in this district, consequent upon the severity of the weather, which continues to prevent out-door labour, a source from which a large number in this district are dependent.

2. (*a*) The

2. (*a*) The Police Commissioners have raised a fund by voluntary public subscriptions, with which they are providing food and fuel to the most necessitous cases.
(*b*) The average number relieved daily by the agency (which is the only one) is about 350 persons.

3. No.

4. I would suggest as approved of by my Commissioners, that a grant should be given by the Treasury or Government towards the fund above referred to, or if possible that public work for the unemployed should be given, but the Commissioners of this burgh are unable to do this as they do not possess any common land.

BURGH OF KEITH, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 4,622. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,258.

Letter from *John G. Fleming*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, owing solely to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing by public authorities. A soup kitchen has been open for three days a week since 8th January until 12th February, and daily from that date. A public subscription of about 125*l.* was divided among the most necessitous cases. Besides which over 100*l.* in money and coals have been given to the poor from local charitable endowments. The paupers in the burgh have received coals of the value of 17*l.* beyond their regular allowances. Over 100 daily have been supplied at soup kitchen, and over 100 by provision tickets.

3. No.

4. The distress in this burgh has been met by local effort.

BURGH OF KELSO, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,184. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,268.

Letter from *G. S. Douglas*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. A GOOD many have been out of work since the frost began, but it can hardly be said that "exceptional distress" prevails.

2. (*a*) The authorities and a privately organised relief committee have been giving employment so far as it could be found, and a soup kitchen has been started. Besides these agencies private charity had been at work.
(*b*) Number not procurable.

3. No.

4. As the distress (such as it is) will disappear when good weather sets in, I have nothing to say under this head.

BURGH OF KILMARNOCK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 28,447. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £113,106.

Letter from *W. Middlemas*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. THERE is undoubtedly a great deal of destitution and distress in the burgh, but this is principally on account of the severe weather which we have had.

2. The Corporation have given employment to a number of persons on the streets; and a relief committee has been appointed who have given out free dinners daily to about 650 persons, and have distributed twice weekly tickets for food and coals through voluntary subscriptions.

3. No.

4. It is considered that if the frost and severe weather would disappear so would the distress, as the unemployed are mostly of the labouring class.

BURGH OF KILRENNY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,610. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,722.

Letter from *Will. T. Jamieson*, Joint Town Clerk, 14th March 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, which is partly due to both causes.

2. The local authorities have no funds at their disposal to meet this distress; but in September and December supplies of coals, tea, and sugar were distributed amongst upwards of a hundred of the poor people from voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF KILSYTH, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 6,073. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,773.

Letter from *R. M. Lennox*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, arising from the want of employment in the locality, both owing to the late storm and general dulness of trade.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) Nothing.

3. No.

4. General powers might be given to local authorities to provide work for the unemployed.

BURGH OF KILWINNING, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,835. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,200.

Letter from *Robert C. King*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the district, solely caused by the severe weather.

2. The Commissioners of Police have raised money by voluntary subscription for the relief of the distress, by means of a soup kitchen. Between 70 and 80 persons daily receive soup, for the relief on an average of four members of their families each, making in all about 300 persons relieved daily during the week specified.

3. No. A register is kept of those receiving relief.

4. What is being done is considered sufficient.

BURGH OF KINGHORN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891) 2,036. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,538.

Letter from *Wm. Millie Dow*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. YES. A number of men, principally masons and labourers, have been thrown out of work through the severity of the weather. The distress is solely due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Corporation employed all such on the roads, &c., at 4*d*. per hour, and retained them so long as the necessity of each case demanded.
(*b*) The average daily number relieved during the week ending 16th February was 10.

3. As the burgh is small, and all such cases well known, no unemployed register was required.

4. No further suggestions are necessary, as all urgent cases have been relieved.

BURGH OF KINGUSSIE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 740. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,258.

Letter from *A. Warren*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE are no exceptional cases of distress in the burgh so far as I am aware, but such may come to be the case if the present severe weather continues much longer. Labourers of all kinds, as well as masons and others, have not now been able to do any work for about nine weeks owing to the severity of the weather, and they must, without doubt, be very much stinted in consequence.

2. The Commissioners have employed about 25 of the unemployed to clear the snow off the streets. The expenses of this will be paid out of the proceeds of a public entertainment which is being got up for the purpose. I have reason to know that a good deal of relief has been given by private parties, but I am not in a position to say to what extent.

3. There is no unemployed register kept.

4. I would suggest that the District Committee of the County Council should give work to the unemployed in clearing the roads of snow so as to make them fit for traffic. The roads in the district have been opened in a sort of way already. This was done by the unemployed, but I regret to say that it was done gratis, and so was of no benefit in relieving the prevailing distress. The roads are still quite unfit for regular traffic, and in some places they are quite blocked up.

BURGH OF KINNING PARK, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 13,679. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £55,517.

Letter from *William Lucas*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. No. Almost entirely to the severe weather.

2. The Provost called a meeting of the Commissioners for the burgh, the clergymen, and some gentlemen connected with the burgh. This was held on 15th February. They formed themselves into a committee to organise relief and procure subscriptions. Under the superintendence of a sub-committee the Sanitary Inspector and Superintendent of Police a soup kitchen was got up and orders were given to shopkeepers to any people needing assistance. The soup kitchen was wholly supplied with butcher meat and vegetables gratis by the shopkeepers in the burgh.

One hundred and fifty families (about 750 people) were supplied with soup and bread daily; 287 orders for goods amounting to about 40*l.* were given: coal also was given, and a breakfast of coffee, bread, cheese, and ham was supplied to between 300 and 400 children last Sunday. Very little, however, was done before 16th February.

3. No. A register is kept of those to whom orders for goods were given.

4. No. The Commissioners could not organise any works that I could think of for the relief of the unemployed. There was a sum of 31*l.* left over from subscriptions for a similar purpose half-a-dozen years ago, and subscriptions have been given to about 150*l.* A good deal more could be got, but it is not likely the half of this will be required. Any subsequent distress could be met by this balance or other subscriptions. It may not be the best fashion of relief, but none other occurs to me as applicable to Kinning Park.

BURGH OF KINROSS, COUNTY OF KINROSS.

Population (1891), 1,902. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,360.

Letter from *W. K. Falconer*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a good deal of distress prevailing in the district arising principally from the severe weather, which has thrown idle a considerable number of tradesmen and labourers.

2. Nothing is being done by the public authorities, but relief is being given by the various church organizations and other charitable institutions connected with the district. I have not information sufficient to give the average number daily relieved.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF KINTORE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 686. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,814.

Letter from *David Edwards*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress known to the authorities beyond what might happen in any severe winter.

2. (*a*) Private charities including church relief have given assistance to the most urgent and needful cases.

3. There is no register kept.

4. No definite suggestions beyond that of providing work where possible to the unemployed. In this district, however, a change of weather for the better will put an end to the temporary distress lately experienced by permitting the men to return to their ordinary occupations.

BURGH OF KIRKCALDY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 27,155. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £103,000.

Letter from *Wm. Macindoe*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress in this burgh is due chiefly to the severity of the weather, and is confined principally to the labouring class, of which there is not a great number.

2. (*a*) Soup kitchens have been established by voluntary agency, public bodies taking the lead. Coals, provisions, and other necessary comforts are being distributed.

(*b*) There are three agencies. During the week ended 23rd February (they only commenced on the 13th February) the average daily number relieved was 600, but that is for three days of the week only. This number includes all the members of a family. It is the chronic poor who take most advantage of the relief.

3. No register is maintained.

4. I have no suggestions to make. It is considered that the relief that is being given is sufficient, in fact, ample to cope with the distress. It is expected that the relief will cease with this week.

BURGH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 2,533. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,128.

Letter from *John Gibson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. Until the recent snowstorm the working men were in full employment at their ordinary work, and since the storm they have been employed clearing the streets and roads.

2. A soup kitchen has been established, which is supported by voluntary contributions. The average daily number relieved during said week was 130 families.

3. No register maintained.

4. None except that a grant might be given towards the funds of the soup kitchen.

BURGH OF KIRKINTILLOCH, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 9,314. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £27,821.

Letter from *David Patrick*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress has been caused by the severe weather. No exceptional distress due to any other cause exists here.

2. (*a*) Nothing is being done by public authorities as such. These, however, are well represented on the voluntary agencies. The Inspector of Poor and the Inspector of Police both lent valuable aid to the committee.
(*b*) About 140 cases were dealt with during the week in question. In general, relief for a week was given in each case. A family is counted as a unit in the 140.
In addition, a Roman Catholic Temperance Society gave relief in about 60 cases during the same week.

3. No. A note of the names of the applicants for relief is kept, and of the relief given.

4. No.

BURGH OF KIRKWALL, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 3,926. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,040.

Letter from *Wm. Cowper*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS nothing to speak of. If any, owing to present severe weather.

2. Anything being done is by private charity.

3. No unemployed register kept; not requisite.

4. No.

BURGH OF KIRRIEMUIR, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 2,782. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,789.

Letter from *Archd. Smith*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. During the last 10 days unemployed men have been engaged cleaning the streets, pavement, and channels in the burgh, and the expense is being paid for equally by the Commissioners of the burgh and a distress fund committee established some years ago.

3. No.

4. The authorities seem to be able to deal with it in the meantime.

BURGH OF LADYBANK, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,198. Gross Rental (1892–93), £3,313. Return of Assessable Rental (1893–94) not available.

Letter from *W. Geddes Taylor*, Town Clerk, 13th March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress, the protracted frost having little effect on the working population of the burgh, who are mainly artisans, railway servants, and factory operatives.

2. Nothing done towards relief, as no demand has been made.

3. No.

4. For the reason stated in No. 1 no unusual distress exists.

BURGH OF LANARK, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 4,579. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,954.

Letter from *William Annan*, Joint Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, due entirely to the severe weather.

2. The Police Commissioners have supplied labour to men and lads—about 45. Public subscriptions have been collected for the relief chiefly in provisions and coals for women, out-door workers chiefly—about 50.

3. No.

4. The plan adopted seems to have been sufficient for the purpose.

BURGH OF LANGHOLM, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 3,643. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,849.

Letter from *A. Johnstone*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this burgh, but on account of the late severe weather there are more outworkers unemployed than there generally are. There are few unemployed who have not some members of their families employed.

2. The only thing which has been done in this burgh to aid the unemployed has been to hold a concert, at which about 40*l.* was raised. That sum has been supplemented by about 10*l.* of private subscriptions. These sums have been divided among the unemployed. It has not been found necessary to do more.

3. No unemployed register has been kept.

4. There is not in this burgh any distress existing requiring exceptional measures to be taken for its relief.

BURGH OF LARGS, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,187. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £21,855.

Letter from *James Fleck*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress here, due to the severe weather.

2. The Police Commissioners of the burgh have arranged to employ all willing to work at breaking road metal, and a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions. The average number relieved would be 25 families.

3. No register maintained, as the persons are all known.

4. Each place should locally arrange to give employment and start, say, soup kitchens.

BURGH OF LASSWADE, COUNTY OF MIDLOTHIAN.

Population (1891), 1,006. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,642.

Letter from *David B. Tod*, Burgh Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY distress here exists in connection with the building trades, and is owing to the severe weather; this cannot be said to apply to more than a few labourers.

2. The labourers out of their regular employment are, for the most part, engaged in connection with the work entailed by the derangement of water works, pipes, &c., consequent on the severe frost.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF LAUDER, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 719. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,176.

Letter from *Geo. Rankin*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district.

3. There is no unemployed register maintained.

BURGH OF LAURENCEKIRK, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,426. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,740.

Letter from *John Craig*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE appears to be very little exceptional distress in this district; any that may exist is caused by the severe weather.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities. Voluntary agencies have been at work, and are able to cope with and alleviate the distress. There is no regular daily relief.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF LEITH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 68,707. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £319,027.

Letter from *T. B. Laing*, Town Clerk, 6th March 1895.

1. THERE is a certain amount of distress, owing to the severe weather.

2. The Council have made large contributions to the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor in Leith, and to the various soup kitchens. These soup kitchens are three in number, and a fourth for the unemployed has also been in operation, all by private benevolence, and at these soup kitchens hundreds have been daily fed.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF LERWICK, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 3,889. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,337.

Letter from *A. Sandison*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. No distress.

3. No register necessary.

BURGH OF LESLIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,177. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,659.

Letter from *Robert Archibald*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district.

2. The local authority (the Commissioners) have employed a number of men rendered unemployed by the severe weather, at the rate of 2*s.* a day, principally in clearing the streets of snow and ice. More would have been employed, but the men refused to take that wage.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF LEVEN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891) 3,998. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,550.

Letter from *Alexander C. Dewar*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. No. Of course, workmen and labourers connected with the building trades have been out of employment since this year began, but this is solely due to the exceptionally long period of frosty weather.

2. Nothing of the kind is evidently required.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF LINLITHGOW, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 4,155. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,678.

Letter from *John Thom*, Clerk to Police Commissioners, 5th March 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress to the peculiarity of the locality; all the public works have been kept going during the storm; but labourers and other out-workers have been exposed to distress because of the long continuance of the storm.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities; a relief committee, composed of a number of the public men of the place, have been relieving the distress of the district by distributing money and provisions among the unemployed from funds voluntarily subscribed.

3. No formal register; but all the unemployed are well known to members of the committee.

4. The means at the disposal of the committee have been sufficient to cope with the distress of this locality.

BURGH OF LOANHEAD, COUNTY OF MIDLOTHIAN.

Population (1891), 3,244. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,777.

Letter from *William Macfarlane*, Town Clerk, 23rd February 1895.

1. OWING to the long-continued severity of the weather there has been exceptional distress among masons, slaters, and all kinds of out-door workers. The effects of the unfortunate coal strike and the dulness of the mineral oil trade are also apparent in the greater distress this year of many families.

2. A subscription list was started, under the auspices of the Commissioners, to provide coals, &c., and 90 families have been so aided.

3. No. There are few, if any, entirely unemployed persons in this locality.

4. None.

BURGH OF LOCHGELLY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 4,133. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,711.

Letter from *John Small*, Town Clerk, 23rd February 1895.

1. No cases of exceptional distress have been brought under the notice of the authorities.

2. Nothing has been done in the matter.

3. No register of such.

4. No.

BURGH OF LOCHGILPHEAD, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,320. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,074.

Letter from *D. MacLachlan*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. There has been no necessity for the public authorities or voluntary agencies to do anything to meet distress.

3. No.

BURGH OF LOCHMABEN, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,038. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,600.

Letter from *Edward B. Rae*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. CONSIDERABLE distress in burgh, but not exceptional. Distress due solely to severe weather, many of the inhabitants being workers in a neighbouring quarry.

2. Distress

2. Distress met by voluntary agencies. Soup kitchen open three times a week, and a relief committee formed on 18th February, and considerable assistance given to unemployed in the form of provisions, &c. Ninety-five persons (mostly householders) on roll of relief. The Police Commissioners on 25th February engaged unemployed to break road metal, but advantage not taken to any extent of the offer made.

3. No.

4. By means of voluntary agencies and, where practicable, the providing of work to unemployed by public authorities

---

BURGH OF LOCKERBIE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 2,391. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,385.

Letter from *David McJerrow*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. Any little distress there is arises entirely from the severe weather, which has prevented masons, plasterers, and labourers from working for nearly nine weeks.

2. The unemployed have been set to clear snow from the roads, and are paid at the rate of 2*s.* 8*d.* per day. A voluntary fund has been raised, which supplies soup daily to the unemployed, and, in addition, the worst cases receive 5*s.* worth of groceries each week, besides coals.

3. No ; it is not felt to be necessary.

4. The unemployed in this district are very well off, as the response of the public to the temporary relief fund has been most ample. Except when prevented by frost, there is plenty of work here for anyone who wishes it.

BURGH OF LOSSIEMOUTH, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 3,846. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,990.

Letter from *J. Hay Glennie*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE has been exceptional distress in the district for the past two months or so amongst the poorer class from want of employment, consequent upon the protracted severe state of the weather.

2. A public meeting was called about a fortnight ago, under the auspices of the Burgh Commissioners, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken with the view of raising funds by public subscription to alleviate the distress. About 60*l.* has been raised by public subscription, and about 30*l.* of this has already been distributed in meat, coals, and other provisions, on two occasions—about 15*l.* on 15th inst., and about 15*l.* on 22nd inst., the average number getting relief being about 60.

3. A list of the unemployed and deserving poor was made up by the committee in charge of the fund.

4. No.

BURGH OF MACDUFF, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 3,722. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,217.

Letter from *John Jas. George*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE has been much exceptional distress in this district this year, arising almost entirely from the extraordinary and exceptionally prolonged severe weather.

2. In this burgh the normal poor are well looked after. During the last two months the public soup kitchen has been opened on an average of twice a week. This is much taken advantage of. The poor children attending a school called Murray's Institution, which is endowed with a fund for the purpose, receive hot dinners almost all the year round. The Town Council raised a fund for the unemployed by public subscription of over £40. This was taken advantage of by about 50 workmen, who were employed to clear the streets at the rate of 3*d.* an hour. In addition to this, there are other funds which go to provide coals for the poor annually. There was a triple supply of coals given this winter.

3. No.

4. The population of the burgh of Macduff is under 4,000, and in such cases I think local authorities should be able to cope themselves with the unemployed question ; but help from any other source would be very acceptable.

BURGH OF MARKINCH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,350. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,720.

Letter from *Wm. Shepherd*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

BURGH OF MAXWELLTOWN, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 4,975. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,264.

Letter from *Alex. Sharpe*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ONLY a small number of out-door labourers, who have been unemployed for about six weeks, and that on account of the severe weather only.

2. A voluntary association for relief of the unemployed has expended 42*l.* 11*s.* up to this date for that purpose, and the Town Council have supplemented that by expending about 10*l.* for work done on the streets. The average daily number of unemployed relieved for the week ending 16th inst. was 36. A soup kitchen has also been in operation, and about 70 families have received soup, a piece of butcher meat and bread daily for about six weeks. About 50 tons of coals have also been distributed amongst the most necessitous poor. The soup kitchen and coals are voluntary agencies, and are annually in operation during severe winter storms.

3. A register of the unemployed relieved is kept by the burgh officer.

4. None. It is only temporary, and is expected to cease as soon as the stormy weather is over.

BURGH OF MAYBOLE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 5,470. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,431.

Letter from *James Gibson*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. THERE are some exceptional cases of distress arising from the severe weather among the class of the population engaged in out-door work.

2. Provision tickets and soup tickets are being issued by the Burgh Commissioners—say 45 to 50.

3. No.

4. The Commissioners are of opinion that all arrangements for relieving distress should emanate from one central responsible source.

BURGH OF MELROSE, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,432. Assessable Rental (1893-94) cannot be given.

Letter from *Ralph Dunn*, Interim Town Clerk, 1st March 1895.

1. NONE.

2. An annual fund is subscribed by the gentlemen in the town and administered by a committee.

3. None.

4. None required.

BURGH OF MILLPORT, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 1,668. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,921.

Letter from *Robert Wood*, Town Clerk, 2nd March 1895.

1. No.

BURGH OF MILNGAVIE, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 3,103. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,609.

Letter from *John Cranmer*, Town Clerk, 5th March 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Although inquiry has been made, no cases of distress have come to the knowledge of the authorities.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF MOFFAT, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 2,291. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,563.

Letter from *Thomas Tait*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress but what is caused by the severe weather.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities or voluntary agencies; but more than ordinary charitable efforts have been used to mitigate the distress.

3. No register maintained.

4. None. There is no public work or trade employing a large number of persons in the district, and there are not many unemployed.

BURGH OF MONIFIETH, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,835. Assessable Rental (1893–94), cannot be given.

Letter from *David Gowans*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. No unusual distress so far as known to the authorities. The poorer population who are affected by the severe weather get special attention from the Established and Free Church bodies in the burgh and charitably-disposed people; no organised agency.

3. No unemployed register.

4. None.

BURGH OF MONTROSE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 13,079. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £52,717.

Letter from *D. C. Wills*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. IT was exceptionally high this year, following on the unusual endurance of severe weather and consequent want of work.

2. (*a*) The Town Council for employment ordered a roadway to be formed and levelling of ground over Bent hillocks on sea coast (30). The ordinary soup kitchen privileges to the poor were extended (25). Private charity was considerably increased (20).
(*b*) Relieving on an average during above week about 75.

3. No, not considered needful.

4. The wants of unemployed have been fairly met in Montrose, and there is no suggestion for outside assistance.

BURGH OF MOTHERWELL, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 18,726. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £72,876.

Letter from *James Burns*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. TRIFLING—wholly due to severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing by public authorities. Charity Organisation Society of district dealing with exceptional cases.

3. No; not necessary.

4. No; unnecessary.

BURGH OF MUSSELBURGH, COUNTY OF MIDLOTHIAN.

Population (1891), 8,888. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,617.

Letter from *A. D. Macfarlane*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the district, due entirely to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Town Council have employed a few of the men in public work; and coals and soup have been distributed by voluntary agencies.
(*b.*) Forty by public authority, viz., the Town Council.

3. This being exceptional distress, no register is kept.

4. The Town Council here have always found some kind of work for the unemployed in exceptional circumstances.

BURGH OF NAIRN, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

Population (1891), 4,014. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,176.

Letter from *William Laing*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE has been exceptional distress, but it has been caused entirely by the inclemency of the weather.

2. (*a.*) Soup kitchen with distribution of bread and oatmeal managed by a voluntary agency in concert with the police.

(*b.*) Two hundred received soup and bread; and in addition 1*l.* per diem expended for oatmeal in greater or lesser quantities according to numbers in the respective families.

3. No. No unemployed in open weather.

4. No.

BURGH OF NEWBURGH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,506. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,379.

Letter from *A. M. Sueddon*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is *no* exceptional distress in the district except what is due to the severe weather.

2. The magistrates gave some employment in cleaning the streets and otherwise, and by voluntary agencies, subscriptions were collected and relief given to the necessitous. It is impossible to give the numbers, as no note was kept.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 391. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,250.

Letter from *Robert Johnstone*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress here, but the labouring classes have been assisted by local efforts, such as voluntary subscriptions, &c., distribution of coals, bread, &c.

2. Nothing by public authorities.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF NEWMILNS AND GREENHOLM, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,704. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,035.

Letter from *Jas. Cunningham*, Town Clerk, 28th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress, but there is a number of people idle in consequence of the long-continued frost. These are principally workmen on a railway in course of construction here.

2. Money is being raised by voluntary agencies by means of local concerts, and local private subscriptions for the relief of the unemployed. Fifty got a weekly allowance on Saturday 16th February, and Saturday 23rd February 1895.

3. No register. The most of people out of employment known to committee taking charge of funds, and have got assistance.

4. Local concerts and local public subscriptions, as the committee have been doing. The committee see their way to cope with the matter in this district at this time.

BURGH OF NEWPORT, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,548. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,294.

Letter from *John Scrimgeour*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. The severe weather has, of course, prevented masons, gardeners, &c., from working, but there are not many of these classes in the community.

2. No call for the public authorities to do anything, and there have been no special voluntary agencies, though some of the Churches have as usual distributed coal, &c., to poor people.

3. No register.

4. No.

BURGH OF NEWTON STEWART, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,332. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,623.

Letter from *Robert Carson*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. YES, to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) A relief committee, consisting of the Town Commissioners with the addition of the clergy and principal ladies and others convened by the Provost of the Burgh, have given weekly for three weeks tickets of the value of 2*s.* each to upwards of 50 poor people not in receipt of parochial relief, these tickets being to grocers to furnish provisions for which the committee will be responsible. Then the unemployed men have been provided by the Town Commissioners with work at 2*s.* per day clearing the streets of snow, &c., which work was publicly offered to all who would accept it.

(*b.*) About 25 men would be thus employed, and 56 poor get provisions.

3. No. The committee carefully inquire from time to time and get much assistance from the ladies of the town as to cases requiring attention.

4. Where possible the giving of work is preferable to any other method, but there are cases which cannot be met in that way. Local committees, if properly organised, should know best the most suitable means of relief in their different districts.

BURGH OF NORTH BERWICK, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,998. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,364.

Letter from *A. D. Wallace*, Town Clerk, 2nd March 1895.

1. NOTHING further than is due to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The public authorities from charity funds in their hands distributed during the week mentioned to all needy and deserving cases known to them, grocery goods to the value of 3*s.* 6*d.* In addition there is a public soup kitchen supported by voluntary contribution, from which soup and bread are supplied in any quantity free, or at a merely nominal charge. In addition, there has been both from denominational funds and from voluntary grants otherwise coal distributions among the needy. With the exception of the 3*s.* 6*d.* from funds under the charge of the Corporation, the other charges have been supplied by voluntary subscriptions.

(*b.*) The average daily number who got soup and bread during the week ended 16th February was 12 (exclusive of children).

3. No, not required.

4. But for the severe weather there would have been comparatively little distress and no unemployed. The building and allied trades are all brisk here at present.

BURGH OF OBAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 4,946. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £36,627.

Letter from *Martin B. Lawrence*, Town Clerk, 2nd March 1895.

1. YES, due entirely to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The Town Council have employed about 30 men to clean the beach for six hours a day, at 4*d.* per hour.

(*b.*) Several voluntary agencies have been in operation, but it is impossible to ascertain with accuracy the numbers relieved thereby.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF OLD MELDRUM, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,236. Assessable Rental (1893-94), cannot be given.

Letter from *William Baxter*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY distress that exists in this district has been caused by the severity of the weather, and the fact that the majority of the population are employed out of doors.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities, as there were no cases calling for such action. Any little distress that did exist has been alleviated by a voluntary subscription.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Paisley, County of Renfrew.

Population (1891), 66,425. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £269,476.

Letter from *Young & Martin*, Town Clerks, 27th February 1895.

1. There is exceptional distress at present attributable to the recent severity of the weather.

2. (*a.*) Funds for the relief of the unemployed and destitute have been provided by public subscription out of which coals have been provided and soup kitchens opened worked by the poor-house officials. Stone-breaking has also been provided by the authorities.
(*b.*) Up till 16th instant 350 portions of coal of 2 cwt. each were distributed. The average number of portions of soup, &c., distributed during the three days prior to and including 16th instant during which the kitchens were open was 843. These portions consisted of 1 pint soup, 3 oz. beef, 1 lb. bread and 4 oz. oatmeal. The average number of men employed at stonebreaking up to 16th instant was 57. These were paid 1*s.* 6*d.* for six hours and 2*s.* for eight hours work. There have also been 61 men employed at street cleaning, who were paid at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* for six hours, and 2*s.* for eight hours work.

3. If by a register is meant a Labour Bureau there is no such register kept. There is, of course, a list kept of the unemployed.

4. It is suggested that Scotland should have the same powers as are possessed by the English authorities for the relief of able-bodied poor from the rates.

Burgh of Partick, County of Lanark.

Population (1891), 36,538. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £178,607.

Letter from *James Donaldson*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. There is an exceptional distress in the burgh owing to the severity of the weather.

2. (*a.*) The Provost of the burgh opened a relief fund on 15th current, upwards of 250*l.* was subscribed. In addition large supplies of meal, bread, &c., were given by shopkeepers in the burgh.
(*b.*) On Saturday 16th February current, 2 cwt. of coal were delivered to each of 135 families, which represents 686 persons, each of which got a supply of soup and bread daily. During the week ending 23rd current the numbers increased to 350 families, and 1,600 persons who were supplied daily with soup and bread, and got a supply of coals, meal, tea, sugar, beef and fish, also 1*s.* and 2*s.* lines for groceries.

3. No register is kept of the unemployed.

4. I have none. There has hitherto been no difficulty in meeting such distress by public subscriptions and private charity.

Burgh of Peebles, County of Peebles.

Population (1891), 4,704. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £21,896.

Letter from *William Buchan*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. There is no exceptional distress. What distress there is, is due to the long-continued severe weather.

2. A soup kitchen instituted by the Town Council and supported by voluntary contributions. The Town Council also give employment on the streets to those out of work. About 60.

3. No.

4. No.

Burgh of Penicuik, County of Midlothian.

Population (1891), 3,002. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,882.

Letter from *John Alexander*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. No. A few labourers (not over a dozen) are out of work through the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) Subscription has been opened by the Commissioners.
(*b.*) None.

3. No register is maintained.

4. None. (The subscription opened resulted in a sum of over 7*l.* being collected. It has been distributed in orders for provisions, &c., among the unemployed.)

Burgh of Perth, County of Perth.

Population (1891), 29,919. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £133,768.

Letter from *William MacLeish*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress except such as is due to the prolonged storm.

2. The Police Commission have been finding employment for many labourers out of work Local societies have been very carefully watching for and relieving cases of distress, and recently a special committee was appointed to believe sufferers, about 100*l.* being immediately subscribed. The City of Perth Co-operative Society also voted 100*l.* to relieve distress. It is believed now that there is complete provision for the unemployed in this burgh.

3. No. There seems to be no occasion for such a register in Perth.

4. No.

Burgh of Peterhead, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 12,226. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £34,831.

Letter from *David Martin*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. Yes. It is due to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The Town Council adopted measures to relieve the distress on Monday, the 11th February, by providing work (the removal of snow from the streets, and the breaking of road metal) for the unemployed able-bodied men who chose to apply for it, and by raising by voluntary subscriptions a relief fund (amounting at this date to 201*l.* odd) for the others in distress consisting chiefly of aged widows and females who earn a living by fish cleaning, washing of clothes and other out-door occupations applicable to females.

(*b.*) (1.) Work Agency.—The average daily number employed during the week ending Saturday 16th February is :—

12 men carting snow and quarrying stones.
23 men clearing pavements, &c.
22 men breaking road metal.

57

(2.) Voluntary Agency.—In this case the relief was not begun until 13th February. The average daily number relieved during the period ending Saturday the 16th is 74. The aggregate number to whom assistance has been given up to date is 325.

3. No.

4. That the authorities should have ample powers to provide works of public utility, and to lay on a special assessment therefor, and to borrow on the security of that assessment.

Burgh of Pittenweem, County of Fife.

Population (1891), 1,962. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,563.

Letter from *A. C. Mackintosh*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. The staple industry of fishing is in a depressed condition ; and the severe weather has thrown out of work masons, labourers, and field workers ; but the distress resulting has not been exceptional.

2. There is a soup kitchen, supported by voluntary contributions. Average number relieved for week mentioned was fifty families, one hundred persons twice weekly. There has been no increase of casual relief by the Parochial Board, showing that the conditions are not yet exceptional.

3. No.

4. The circumstances do not, it is thought, demand anything beyond what is being done at present.

Burgh of Pollokshaws, County of Renfrew.

Population (1891), 10,228. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £26,660.

Letter from *John Campbell*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. There is exceptional distress, due to the severe weather.

2. The Town Council and Parochial Board have jointly established a soup kitchen, and in addition are supplying groceries, provisions and coals, in necessitous cases. They are giving supplies for 700 persons, inclusive of children. The expense is being met by voluntary subscription. Relief was started on 15th February. The number of 700 applies to the week ending 22nd February.

3. A register has been kept since 15th February, on which 40 names appear. They have been employed in removing snow and ice from the roads and streets, for which they are paid 3*d.* per hour, with food and coals.

4. On this, and former occasions of the kind, the distress has been amply met by voluntary contributions, and these may be relied upon in the future.

BURGH OF PORT GLASGOW, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 14,685. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £51,866.

Letter from *David Maclelland*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. OWING to a slackness in shipbuilding, which is the principal trade in Port Glasgow, there has been a large number of people unemployed for several months.

2. Many of these parties have been assisted privately. Since December last the Town Council have employed on an average 60 men in quarrying metal at Port Glasgow Cemetery, and in quarrying metal and enlarging one of their reservoirs. The recent severe weather increased the number of unemployed, and the Town Council opened an unemployed relief fund which has been sufficient to enable the council, and a committee acting along with them, to relieve all cases that have come under their notice.

3. No.

4. None.

BURGH OF PORTOBELLO, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 8,182. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £45,943.

Letter from *A. Brand*, Provost, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY distress in the burgh arises almost entirely from the continued severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The most of the unemployed are engaged at present by the local authority breaking stones, &c., and a soup kitchen supplies a dinner daily to about 130 children.

(*b.*) A voluntary subscription gave relief to 46 applicants, in sums varying from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*

3. No register is kept; but the town overseer receives applications from the unemployed, and at no time have they exceeded 24 in number.

4. The sick and destitute society and the various churches in the burgh have up to the present time been successful in coping with such distress.

BURGH OF PORTSOY, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 2,061. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,248.

Letter from *James Young*, Town Clerk, 7th March 1895.

1. THERE was during February some distress, caused by the severe weather which prevented workmen engaging in their employments.

2. A committee was formed, who raised voluntary subscriptions, and set on foot and conducted a soup kitchen. About 185 rations were daily given out. Private individuals in the burgh also found work for a number of the unemployed.

3. No register kept.

4. The course adopted was considered the best for the place. The distress is now relieved, the weather having improved.

BURGH OF PRESTONPANS, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,606. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,962.

Letter from *R. H. Hunter*, Town Clerk, 23rd February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

3. No.

BURGH OF PULTENEYTOWN, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 3,550. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,551.

Letter from *David Cormack*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. YES; the fishing industry has been a decided failure this winter, especially the herring fishing; and added to this, the loss of one boat on the occasion of the severe blizzard on 6th February with her entire crew of nine men. The severe weather, both on land and at sea, have greatly intensified the distress in this exposed locality this year. For weeks outside labour had been suspended.

2. Nothing by public authorities, but by voluntary agencies of a private nature extensive exertions have been made to meet the distress. A general disaster fund exists in the locality, and this is being largely augmented on account of the boat's crew on 6th February above referred to, whereby, six widows and 19 children, besides many other dependants, have been left in many cases destitute. The number relieved during the week ended Saturday the 16th February from all cases of distress cannot have been less than 105, or a daily average of 15 persons.

3. No unemployed register maintained.

4. The State ought greatly to assist in providing a fund for the purpose of relieving such distress, to be dispensed through the respective local public authorities on well-arranged rules, especially to fishing and exposed localities, whereby the people may have food and clothing and suitable work provided in cases of exceptional distress. Legislation might with advantage not only countenance, but encourage, home industries more than it has done heretofore.

BURGH OF QUEENSFERRY, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 1,531. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,550.

Letter from *Peter Miller*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress, but a certain amount of distress has arisen through the severe weather.

2. A relief fund amounting to 11*l.* has been raised by voluntary contributions. There is also a public soup kitchen supported by voluntary effort.

3. There is no unemployed register.

4. The above agencies have been able to relieve such cases of distress as have occurred.

BURGH OF RATTRAY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,225. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,158.

Letter from *James Lochhead*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been considerable distress in Rattray for 18 months or more, but this has been caused by the dulness of the staple industry, the flax and jute trade; but with the exception of several workers engaged in out-door trades, the severe weather has not been the cause of exceptional distress.

2. (*a.*) Nothing has been done by the public authorities, but a voluntary effort has been made by persons resident in the district, and food, clothing, and coal, have been distributed to those in need.

(*b.*) Nearly 200 persons have been relieved daily during the week in question.

3. No such register has been kept.

4. It is thought that the present efforts are sufficient to meet what may be called the exceptional distress.

BURGH OF RENFREW, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 6,777. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,935.

Letter from *W. Herron*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a good deal of exceptional distress in the district, due almost entirely to the severity of the weather.

2. The magistrates have endeavoured as far as possible to meet the distress by voluntary subscriptions. They issued a circular to the shopkeepers, employers of labour, and others connected with the town, which was generously responded to; a sum of considerably over 100*l.* being handed in within a few days. That money is being expended in supplying coals and provisions to needful cases, and in providing a free dinner to children whose parents are in destitute circumstances. The relief was commenced to be given about the 13th February, and since that date about 150 children are daily getting dinner, and about 50 adults have been supplied with coals and provisions. The police have been instructed to report any cases requiring relief they may hear of.

3. No.

4. No; the distress being almost entirely occasioned by the severity of the weather, it will disappear with a change therein. The magistrates have sufficient funds in hand to meet the distress in the meantime, or any that is likely to occur during the present winter.

BURGH OF ROSEHEARTY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,179. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,299.

Letter from *Andrew Ritchie*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this burgh; our principal industry being a fishing industry, the stormy weather has caused hard times.

2. It has not been thought necessary any special agencies to be organised.

February month more favourable than January.

3. No unemployed register kept.

BURGH OF ROTHES, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,548. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,214.

Letter from *John Smith*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, due to severe weather entirely.
2. (*a.*) Small grants of money, coals and meal, and a soup kitchen, all by voluntary agencies.
   (*b.*) About 220.
3. No.
4. No; the distress will disappear with return of good weather.

BURGH OF ROTHESAY, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 9,108. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £57,488.

Letter from *John T. Wilson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress has been caused by the recent severe weather, and exists amongst masons, labourers' and out-door workmen, whose work was stopped by the snow.

2. (*a.*) A soup kitchen has been started, and a second distribution of coals among the poor.

(*b.*) At the soup kitchen there were during the week mentioned an average of 113 relieved with supplies for 255 individuals. The bulk of these appear to be the ordinary out-of-work people, who always during winter have little work. Very few appear to be those whom the recent severe weather has prevented earning.

3. No.

4. There are no manufactures or trades of any consequence in the burgh, and its position as a summer resort causes a press of work during the spring and summer and a corresponding want of work during winter, and this will continue to be the case. There appears, however, no reason but thriftlessness to prevent the working classes in Rothesay, as a rule and in ordinary seasons, keeping themselves and their families during the whole year with their earnings when they have work.

BURGH OF RUTHERGLEN, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 12,020. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £34,007.

Letter from *George Gray*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is undoubtedly exceptional distress in the burgh, due entirely to the severe weather, which has caused the stoppage in many trades and of all out-door labour.

2. (*a.*) The Magistrates and Town Council have appointed themselves (18 in number) to deal with all cases of distress brought under their notice, and meet in the town hall twice a week for this purpose, when tickets are issued to applicants for bread, meal, and coals.

(*b.*) During week ending 16th February, 65 persons were relieved on 14th February and 98 were relieved on 16th inst.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF ST. ANDREWS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 6,853. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £41,179.

Letter from *C. S. Grace*, Depute Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in district. The only unemployed in this place are masons, labourers, and others connected with building trades, who have been out of work in consequence of severe frost.

2. (*a.*) The authorities employed those who were idle in clearing streets of snow. There is a soup kitchen. Voluntary agency.

(*b.*) 150 to 160 per diem.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF SALTCOATS, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 5,895. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,740.

Letter from *James Campbell*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE, except what is due to long-continued frost.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF SANQUHAR, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,315. Assessable Rental, (1893-94), £2,873.

Letter from *G. B. Carruthers*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ONLY slight. The severe weather has stopped out-door work, such as brick-making, &c.
2. Voluntary donations have been amply sufficient to relieve all cases of distress.
3. No.
4. None necessary.

BURGH OF SELKIRK, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 5,662. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £23,022.

Letter from *John Pollok*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, a little exceptional distress due to the severity of the weather.

2. (*a.*) Public authority engaging a few of the unemployed on the streets. A relief committee has been giving employment to labourers, &c., and paying them from fund raised by voluntary subscriptions.
The committee also on 16th instant opened a soup kitchen.

(*b.*) About 30 men altogether engaged in work. Average number supplied through soup kitchen, about 200 daily.

3. No.
4. No.

BURGH OF STEWARTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 2,687. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,437.

Letter from *John Halliday*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is distress of a limited character, due partly to the exceptionally severe weather and partly to a depression of our local industry.

2. (*a.*) The local authority have employed 20 unemployed in cleaning our streets of snow and ice, at a remuneration of 4*d.* (four pence) per hour, from charitable and benevolent institutions in town ; and from private sources £100 stg. have been distributed among the deserving poor, besides about 100 ton coals.

3. No.

4. That Parliament should endeavour to cope with the general question, especially in times of exceptional distress like the present, by finding employment for the unemployed on waste lands or in any way which in their wisdom may seem best.

BURGH OF STIRLING, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 16,781. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £82,397.

Letter from *Thomas L. Galbraith*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Chiefly owing to severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The Stirling Soup Kitchen Association has made the following distributions : 1st (ordinary), meals at free table ; 2nd, soup to use at home ; 3rd (special), supplies of provisions for which Town Council contributed 5*l.*

(*b.*) 347.

N.B.—During week ended 23rd February over 200*l.* has been raised by subscriptions and entertainments. This is now being distributed and applied in the manner above stated, and also by giving supplies of coals under supervision of Municipal Ward Committees and the Provost of Stirling.

3. No.
4. The methods adopted here are found suitable.

BURGH OF STONEHAVEN, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 4,500. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £14,727.

Letter from *Robert Falconer*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress here, except that caused amongst out-door workers, who have been prevented from working by the long-continued snow storm.

2. Assistance has been given through the agency of the Public Soup Kitchen, and by voluntary agencies working under the advice of the Chief Constable.

3. No.

4. No ; the snow has now disappeared, and it is expected that out-door work will be plentiful.

BURGH OF STORNOWAY, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 3,386. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £14,836.

Letter from *John Ross*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. YES, some exceptional distress still, but more, recently. Partly due to both circumstances.

2. Nothing by public authorities. This burgh has no Common Good; some soup kitchens have been opened by private individuals and coals purchased by private subscriptions and distributed. Unable to give the average daily number relieved.

Within the last three weeks a fair fishing has set in, and a considerable amount of the distress has thereby been relieved.

3. No unemployed register maintained.

BURGH OF STRANRAER, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 6,193. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £20,908.

Letter from *Wm. Black*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been owing to severity of weather in general and disastrous storm of 21st and 22nd December 1894 in particular, by such storm the fishing boats belonging to the fishing population were much damaged, and in some cases destroyed

2. A relief fund for the fishermen was subscribed out of which boats were repaired and other boats acquired by which along with fishing gear purchased, the fishermen are now in a position to earn a livelihood. For six weeks the families of the fishermen were supplied with provisions every week out of the fund.

A soup kitchen got up by public subscription is at present doing good work for the relief of the hungry.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF STROMNESS, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,698. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,324.

Letter from *Jas. Brown*, Town Clerk, 5th March 1895.

1. IN consequence of severe weather a number of working men have been practically idle for eight weeks.

2. Nothing done.

3. No.

4. Any distress was exceptional on account of weather.

BURGH OF TAIN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,636. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,257.

Letter from *John Mackenzie*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; workmen (tradesmen and labourers) long out of employment owing to long continuance of intense cold.

2. (*a.*) Last week work given by town council to all willing to work on public streets clearing snow off, and this week coals will be distributed to poor and unemployed, the expense being met by public subscription.

(*b.*) None relieved in week referred to.

3. No register kept.

4. Now that weather is milder all tradesmen and workmen can get their ordinary employment.

BURGH OF TAYPORT, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,871. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,549.

Letter from *Peter K. White*, Town Clerk, 27th February 1895.

1. THE only distress in the district is caused by the exceptionally severe weather preventing masons, joiners, and other tradesmen from working.

2. No.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF THURSO, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 3,936. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,611.

Letter from *Andrew Manson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS arising from severity of weather, and consequent want of employment, but not exceptionally severe.

2. Soup kitchen set on foot and carried on by voluntary subscription. Average daily number supplied about 300.

3. No.

4. Hope distress will pass away if the weather, which is fine to-day, continues favourable.

BURGH OF TILLICOULTRY, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 3,939. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,402.

Letter from *Charles Thomson*, Town Clerk, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is not any exceptional distress in Tillicoultry at present.

2. Voluntary agencies are dealing efficiently with any distress that exists.

3. No.

4. Nothing further than is referred to under Question No. 2.

BURGH OF TOBERMORY, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,154. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,118.

Letter from *John MacLachlan*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

2. Nothing, but the usual distribution at this season, among the very poor, of meal, groceries, and coals by private individuals

3. No.

4. None. The sea fishing here has been good of late and the people are fairly well supplied with salt fish and potatoes

---

BURGH OF TRANENT, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 2,389. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,480.

Letter from *John Richardson*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No ; mostly mining population, but no exceptional or general distress.

2. No need.

3. No.

BURGH OF TURRIFF, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,341. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,722.

Letter from *William F. Stewart*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. ON account of the severity of the weather a considerable number of men have been out of employment, but the distress has not been very great.

2. There is a soup kitchen, at which an average of over 100 got free dinners three times a week. A sum of 10*l.* has been subscribed by the Kirk Session of the parish, and 30*l.* by a public concert, and these sums are being spent in relief of the unemployed. There is also more private relief by individuals.

3. No ; but the constables of the burgh have given the matter close attention and have reported all cases of distress to the committee in charge of the above funds.

4 The distress is likely to be met by the above agencies, unless the present severe weather is much prolonged.

BURGH OF WHITBURN, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 1,185. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,341.

Letter from *James Pender*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. THERE is no special need for any relief, there is no exceptional distress in the district.

BURGH OF WHITHORN, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,403. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,762.

Letter from *Robert C. Lawrie*, Town Clerk, 4th March 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. During the severe weather loaves and other articles of food were voluntarily subscribed for by private parties, including the public authorities, and distributed amongst those thought to be in necessitous circumstances.

3. No.

4. No.

BURGH OF WICK, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 2,962. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,187.

Letter from *Hector Sutherland*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, exceptional distress due to both. Not easy to determine how much due to one and how much to the other. Capital has been frightened out of the land and from commerce for some years past, and hence there is a want of cash to give employment to labouring men.

2. Nothing done by public authorities or by voluntary agencies more than usual during the period referred to. Public authorities have no funds for this purpose. The rates imposed are for special purposes of which this is not one, and these rates are heavy.

4. I should say that wherever a citizen requires food or clothing, and is willing to work therefor, it is the duty of the State, through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to provide meat, food, clothing, or work. Further, as the great bulk of our manufactured goods and produce comes from abroad, it necessarily follows that our home workpeople must, to a corresponding extent, be unemployed.

BURGH OF WIGTOWN, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,509. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,457.

Letter from *Will. McClure*, Town Clerk, 25th February 1895.

1. No The agricultural out-door workers were getting pinched by the long frost, but since the snow storm, *i.e.*, from 7th instant, all males have found ready employment from the railway and road authorities in cutting the snow drifts and opening up the railways and roads.

2. (*a.*) The Parochial Board and Kirk Session have made large distributions of coal, and a considerable quantity has also been provided by voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. No. Snow is gradually disappearing, and there are indications of more moderate weather which will admit of field work being resumed.

BURGH OF WISHAW, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 15,252. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £32,000.

Letter from *J. Logan*, Town Clerk, 2nd March 1895.

1. THERE are about 100 working men idle on account of the severe weather.

2. The magistrates of the burgh got voluntary subscriptions to enable them to meet the distress. About 50 per day have been relieved since the beginning of February.

3. No.

4. There is sufficient funds in hand to meet the distress until the middle of March, and it is hoped by that time the weather will be such as to allow working men to carry on their usual employment.

II.—COUNTIES.

Parish of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 51,748. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £207,905.

Letter from *James Wallace*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. There is exceptional distress in the town, and has been for some weeks, not so much on account of scarcity of employment as on account of the prolonged severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The Town Council has voted 200*l.* towards relieving the unemployed. Voluntary agencies have distributed very large sums of money as well as all kinds of provisions—liberally supplied them. Clothing also, where necessary, has been given.

(*b.*) The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 70
The Police Force - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 250
The Trades Council - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 200

3. The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor keeps a register and is a recognised medium for persons out of employment. The Local Secretary of the Trades Council also keeps one, and both show good results.

4. No. Since the severe weather set in only one application by an able-bodied man for relief has been made at this office. He was granted relief to the extent required.

Parish of Aberdour, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 1,898. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,407.

Letter from *John S. Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. Yes; due to the severe weather.

2. Voluntary agencies—distribution of coals, tea, &c., and, since Monday 11th inst., a soup kitchen has been in daily operation. Average receiving soup, 50.

3. No.

4. The soup kitchen seems to be meeting all the necessities of the case. Nothing of the kind has ever been in operation in Aberdour before, and it is being generously supported by the public of all denominations.

Parish of Aboyne, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 1,403. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,198.

Letter from *Peter Grant*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. Not to any great extent; owing to the severe weather.

2. Nothing—public authorities or voluntary agencies. A few private individuals have helped the most needy.

3. No.

Parish of Alford, County of Aberdeen.

Population (1891), 1,402. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,245.

Letter from *James Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. Very slight distress, caused by the excessive severity of the weather. Sufferers are chiefly old and decayed people.

2. Aid has been supplied by private individuals and by clubs, in the form of coal, meal, &c. About 23 persons have been relieved.

3. None kept. The parish is entirely agricultural, and the labourers mostly engaged for the six months.

4. To relieve the snow block on public roads the County Council might have supplied work for half the time for all unemployed labourers suffering nearly, in making such roads passable.

PARISH OF AUCHINDOIR, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,374. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,627.

Letter from *James Wallace*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. CONSIDERABLE distress caused solely by the severe weather.

2. An average of 14 labourers relieved each day during the week by voluntary agencies by giving work, clearing the snow from the street and roads.

3. No register maintained.

4. Cannot suggest any remedy, but find, in a good many cases, the more you give the more it is relied upon and looked for. The spirit of independence is lost.

PARISH OF AUCHTERLESS, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,853. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,657.

Letter from *James Beattie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. This district is purely agricultural and mostly all servants are engaged half-yearly, so that the prolonged snowstorm does not affect them. There are only one or two day labourers in the parish that are not occupied on the roads or other such work that has not been stopped.

2. There is nothing required.

3. No.

4. There are no suggestions to make as there are no special wants.

PARISH OF BELHELVIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,613. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,474.

Letter from *Robert Rae*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been a little distress in the parish among the labouring class which was due to the severe weather.

2. There has been nothing done by public or voluntary agencies for the purpose of relieving the distress at this time.

3. No.

4. In a rural district like this a little casual relief should be given to destitute families.

PARISH OF BIRSE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,154. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,420.

Letter from *James Cassie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress through want of employment in the parish as all out-door workers are mostly employed by the half-year, and, therefore, the weather does not affect them. Those who are day labourers get work from the proprietors and always have work.

2. Nothing is being done as apparently nothing is required.

3. No.

PARISH OF BOURTIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 454. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,474. (Parish not assessed.)

Letter from *William Moir, jun.*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No particular distress in this parish. There is no village in this parish.

PARISH OF CAIRNEY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,399. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,572.

Letter from *James Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. CAIRNEY. This being solely an agricultural district, no exceptional distress has been felt by the unemployed during the severe snowstorm, and when such was likely to arise from sickness or otherwise, the Parochial Board being appealed to has given temporary relief.

PARISH OF CHAPEL OF GARIOCH, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,690. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,040.

Letter from *James Diack, jun.*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.
2. Nil.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF CLATT, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 458. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,162.

Letter from *John Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Most of labouring class here have a bit of land, and are not altogether dependent on day work.
2. Nothing.
3. No.

PARISH OF CLUNY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,196. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,596.

Letter from *John Mitchell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I HAVE heard of no case of real want in parish, although the snowstorm has been protracted and severe.

PARISH OF COULL, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 746. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,704.

Letter from *William Kennedy*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is some exceptional distress in this district. Said distress is due to the severe winter; but I am bound to state, in the case of the able-bodied at least that it is more due to a want of prudence and economy. This I can vouch from records, and talks which I have had with aged industrious men. One man told me that he reared an average number of a family, built his own house, and reclaimed a croft on a hillside. Also he had a small sum in bank; his trade was a carpenter; being a good hand he was foreman, and his highest wages ever earned by him was 9*s.* a week and his food. Another man showed me that as a farm-servant he had reared a family of four, and also built his house and reclaimed a croft. In his youth he rarely had up to 7*l.* a half-year. Now, men of his sort are getting more than double that wages. He often paid 28*s.* and 30*s.* a boll for meal, and the price here this winter has been 12*s.* and 13*s.*, &c., &c., &c.

2. (*a.*) The

2. (*a.*) The public authorities have done nothing to meet the distress as no application has been made. The Minister of this parish (who is also Chairman of the Parochial Board) has some funds at his disposal, which he is distributing to the pressing cases. Also an agriculturalist in the district asked me if I knew of any bad case which was not being attended to. I told him of the only case I was aware of, so he offered him temporary employment.

(*b.*) The average number daily relieved by the whole of the agencies during the week ended 16th February would not exceed four.

3. No.

4. If they had to be relieved from the rates I would suggest that, in this district at any rate, it should be granted as a sort of loan. Otherwise it would be very unfair to the small landholders who have to pay rates, for I am confident that the labouring class pass far more money through their hands in a year than most of these landholders I refer to.

PARISH OF CRATHIE AND BRAEMAR, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,534. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,041.

Letter from *William Michie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, almost wholly due to the severe weather.

2. Nothing is done by public authorities, unless Kirk Sessions be included in that category. The Kirk Sessions and private individuals have been assisting the most needful as their cases became known. There is no weekly or daily distribution of assistance to the unemployed. Therefore, the number relieved during the week ended 16th February cannot be given.

3. No register is kept.

4. The distress being almost wholly due to the severe weather, there would be no want of employment did the weather permit of outdoor work being resumed. But there is no appearance of that in the meantime. I would suggest that the County Councils, or their District Committees, give the unemployed some work clearing their main roads of snow to admit of traffic being resumed, which of itself would increase employment.

PARISH OF CRIMOND, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 825. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,345.

Letter from *W. B. Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. There being no exceptional distress, so far as is known nothing is required to be done; there are no unemployed.

3. No.

3. *See* Answer 2.

PARISH OF CRUDEN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 3,593. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,803.

Letter from *John Charles*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOTHING particularly acute. Parish being chiefly agricultural a little distress perhaps among day labourers and quarriers owing to eight weeks snowstorm. Work now resumed.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF CULSALMOND, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 791. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,066.

Letter from *William Elder*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF DAVIOT, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 520. Gross Rental (1893–94), £4,890. (Parish not assessed.)

Letter from *William Johnston*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF NEW DEER, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 4,434. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,522.

Letter from *William Greig*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
3. No.

PARISH OF OLD DEER, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 4,694. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £25,823.

Letter from *James Wallace*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. YES; due to the severe and protracted snowstorm, in consequence of which out-door work has been suspended for eight weeks.

	Average Number daily.
2. The Kirk Session of the parish church have made distributions of money, coals, and meal	40
By soup kitchens (private charity) there were relieved	48
Partly from a charitable bequest and partly from private subscriptions, coals and meal were distributed to	60
	148

3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF DRUMBLADE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 956. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,524.

Letter from *T. A. Duff*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No distress. There being no villages in this parish, and the population being almost entirely agricultural, the severe weather is not felt by the farm labourers, as they have steady wages and allowances.

PARISH OF DRUMOAK, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 869. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,197.

Letter from *William Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress in the district
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF DYCE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,343. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,164.

Letter from *R. D. Williamson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No; it has existed since the depression in agriculture began.

2. Voluntary charity is the means employed in this district.

3. No.

4. The deplorable condition of the agriculturist is at the root of the whole matter. No improvements can be thought of now, consequently labourers leave the country and go to towns, and there increase the number of the unemployed. The only remedy is that the Government do something to improve the farmers' position; labourers would then be employed, and little distress would exist.

PARISH OF ECHT, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,207. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,807.

Letter from *A. Ledingham*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF ELLON, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 3,998. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,320.

Letter from *James Walker*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No. Nothing but what follows an unusually severe and prolonged snow-storm.

2. (*a.*) Voluntary contributions, and kirk session and extra parochial relief.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF FINTRAY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 999. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,637.

Letter from *William Cumming*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district that I am aware of.

PARISH OF FORGUE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,239. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,902.

Letter from *George Winton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I MAY say there is no exceptional distress in this parish, only two cases having come under my knowledge where relief was required on account of the severity of the weather, the reason being that here few depend on their living altogether from day's wages, the greater part of the labouring population being farm servants and others receiving weekly wages and almost constant employment.

2. (*a.*) One of above cases was relieved temporarily by the parochial board, and the other from funds at the disposal of the Kirk Session.

3. No.

PARISH OF FOVERAN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891) 1,945. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,327.

Letter from *George G. Crevie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this parish.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities as there is no particular distress.

PARISH OF FRASERBURGH, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 8,092. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £34,337.

Letter from *Wm. Pressley*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. ANY little distress there may be is due more to the severe weather than to want of employment. There are with us, however, a number of strangers unemployed, mostly navvies come to seek work at harbour deepening, for whom the contractors are not quite ready, the works not being sufficiently far advanced.

2. (*a.*) By local authorities, work (quarrying and breaking stones) has been provided for which the men are paid at the rate of 4*d.* an hour. The quarriers would make about 14*s.* and the stonebreakers 16*s.* weekly. As to voluntary agencies, a public committee and the local soup kitchen committee, acting conjointly, have been giving assistance in the shape of provisions, &c.

(*b.*) The authorities have arranged for daily employment to 75 men. About 60 of these are strangers. The joint committee referred to gave, during the week mentioned and the first three days of the following week, coal to 180 (value 23*l.*) and food to 100 cases (value 18*l.*). From the soup kitchen, soup and bread were given daily to 15 strangers and to 40 local cases.

3. No.

4. None. The distress may now be regarded as almost at an end.

PARISH OF FYVIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 4,049. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £22,638.

Letter from *James Strachan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. VERY little ; and the little that is, is, of course, due to the exceptionally severe winter depriving a few labourers of work, and rendering more fuel necessary.

2. The church has some funds at its disposal, and the minister of the parish church and his kirk session have attended to the more necessitous cases.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF GARTLY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 928. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,562.

Letter from *James Horne*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. ON account of the severity of the weather there are a few cases of distress.

2. Voluntary agencies are relieving all cases of distress. About twelve have got temporary relief.

3. There are hardly any unemployed in the district.

PARISH OF GLASS, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 964. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,981.

Letter from *J. Simon*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. CANNOT say there is any exceptional distress. It is true the protracted snowstorm has kept some labourers out of employment, but they are all crofters and have meal and milk.

PARISH OF GLENBUCKET, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 408. Assessable Rental (1893-94) £1,710.

Letter from *Alexander Callam*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish.

PARISH OF GLENMUICK, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,299. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £19,394.

Letter from *J. Riach*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY isolated cases approaching distress in this district have been among the labouring class, and up to this date have been cheerfully responded to by sympathising friends and neighbours.
The severity of the weather has been the sole cause of any distress having been felt here.

2. It has not as yet been found necessary to take any public steps, and if weather clear up and a thaw set in soon no such steps will be necessary, as employment is quite plentiful for all classes. But if the snowstorm, which has now existed for eight weeks, prevail much longer I have no doubt but that distress will to a certain extent be felt here.

3. No.

4. Nothing in the meantime.

PARISH OF HUNTLY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 4,583. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,512.

Letter from *William Leslie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the district, but not to any great extent. It is due entirely to the prolonged snowstorm.

2. A soup kitchen has been open three days every week since 1st January. Work has been given in clearing the streets of snow. Entertainments have been got up, and subscriptions received in aid of the unemployed.

3. No.

4. I consider the local efforts quite sufficient to cope with the existing distress.

PARISH OF INSCH, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,384. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,739.

Letter from *George Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional cases of distress. There are a few cases of unemployed, owing to the severe weather, but their wants have been attended to by local contributions.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF INVERURIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,954. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,537.

Letter from *Joseph Hopkins*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been exceptional distress in this district for the last two months, entirely due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The public authorities have been distributing coals and money from funds under their charge. The soup kitchen supported by voluntary contributions has been open twice a week, and for the last two weeks three times a week. There has also been one distribution of coals by voluntary contribution. Money has also been distributed by private individuals.
(*b*) From 60 to 70 families took advantage of the soup kitchen each of the three days it was open during the week mentioned.

3. No register kept. There was one distribution of coals during same week to about 80 families. Of those relieved through the above agencies only about half required it owing to unemployment. There is sufficient work in the district if weather permitted.

4. The means used seem to give general satisfaction. It is sometimes difficult to know in some cases if they are really in need.
The ministers of the different denominations in a district like this should be best able to pick out proper cases for relief.

PARISH OF KEIG, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 748. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,524.

Letter from *Charles M'Intosh*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No; there are very few day labourers in this parish, and we hear of no distress.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None scarcely needed, as any unemployed are clearing roads of snow.

PARISH OF KEITHHALL, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 822. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,035.

Letter from *William Craig*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of any exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF KEMNAY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,799. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,489.

Letter from *A. Whyte*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is, so far as I am aware, no exceptional distress in this district. Although the weather has been exceptionally severe, the exceptional briskness of the building trade has kept the quarries working most of the winter without much break.

2. Nothing hitherto has been required.

3. No register is kept.

PARISH OF KILDRUMMY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 569. Gross Rental (1893–94), £4,125 (Parish not assessed).

Letter from *George B. Watt*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No; there has been no exceptional distress in this parish during the winter.

3. No; there are no unemployed persons in this parish at present.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE O'NEIL, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,830. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,294.

Letter from *A. Simpson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress prevails in this district, although we have passed through a rather prolonged snowstorm of more than usual severity.

2. Private benevolence, but no organised effort considered necessary.

3. Not considered necessary in a district such as this.

4. When any exceptional case of distress is known to exist an amateur concert, or such like, is usually found to yield funds to meet the difficulty.

PARISH OF KING EDWARD, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,714. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,669.

Letter from *William Fraser*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.

2. Nothing by public authorities.
There is an annual distribution of about 30*l.* of trust funds amongst the poor.

3. There is no unemployed register maintained.

PARISH OF KINELLAR, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 580. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,643.

Letter from *Alex. Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Being an agricultural district, and the labouring class mostly farm servants with yearly or half-yearly wages, they have not suffered as day labourers have done. There is a stone quarry adjacent to the parish, and a few of the workers are housed in the village of Blackburn, but no special case of distress has appeared among them.

2. Under the circumstances no action required.

3. Not necessary.

PARISH OF KINNETHMONT, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 932. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,734.

Letter from *John Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOT that I am aware of. There are not many day labourers here ; most of them get partial employment.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF KINTORE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,409. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,076.

Letter from *Alex. Roger*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional cases of distress known to the authorities, further than what might occur in any severe winter.

2. Private charities have been extended to various most neccessitous cases.

3. No register kept.

4. No very definite suggestions beyond furnishing work where possible to those presently idle. The now change of weather will do away with any temporary distress that may have been lately experienced in this district.

PARISH OF LEOCHEL-CUSHNIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,146. Gross Rental (1893-94), £7,672 (parish not assessed).

Letter from *James Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE in particular.

2. Two pedlars relieved by Parochial Board owing to severe weather.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF LESLIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 461. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,756.

Letter from *W. Ingram*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district, parish being purely agricultural and day labourers the exception.

2. *See* above.

3. No.

PARISH OF LOGIE BUCHAN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 763. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,323.

Letter from *William Jaffrey*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. There are only three or four day labourers in the parish, and they are well to do. With the above exception the working class in this parish are farm servants, and get their wages whether they are working or not.

2. The few old people in the parish, who are not on the poor roll, and who are in need of any help, get a good allowance at Christmas from the funds at the disposal of the Kirk Session.
The poor on the poor roll are quite well off.

3. No need of any unemployed register in this parish.

4. There is no case of distress in this parish.

PARISH OF LOGIE COLDSTONE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 938. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,908.

Letter from *Alex. Farquharson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. I have not had a single application for parochial relief. Workmen being scarce and wages consequently high they have been able previously to provide sufficient means for their support till such time as a change in the weather will enable them to resume work.

2. (*a*) There is no necessity as yet for anything being done.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF LONGSIDE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 3,031. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £16,111.

Letter from *Alfred Wedderburn*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish. There are, it is true, a number of working men (labourers) who have not had steady employment for two months back owing to the severe weather, but not one, so far as I can learn, is in want or distress. Some of these men have small crofts and others have by carefulness saved something in the good weather.

2. In the village of Mintlaw, where there are a few unemployed men, a distribution of coals and groceries was given by the better-to-do inhabitants to the value of about 2*s.* 6*d.* each. This was given once.

3. No.

PARISH OF LONMAY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,286. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,571.

Letter from *James W. Forbes*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE distress which has prevailed in the parish for the last seven or eight weeks has been entirely due to the severe weather.

2. The Kirk Session after a careful inquiry throughout the parish made a distribution of its funds about the 10th of January, and again on the 18th February; about 35 necessitous cases were relieved at each distribution. The

The storm seems now at an end, and with the present fresh weather there will soon be plenty of work for the labouring classes, and no further distress is expected.

3. No register kept.

4. It is rather late now, but much could have been done by the County Authorities, when the distress was at its worst, by employing men to clear the roads of snow, some of the principal roads being blocked for weeks. It is to be hoped that this matter will be considered before another winter.

PARISH OF LUMPHANAN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 992. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,704.

Letter from *John Milne*, jun., Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

2. The Kirk Session and School Board Clerk have the management of a sum of money left by the late Mr. Smith of Glenmillan for distribution among the necessitous poor not on the roll; one distribution has been made, but none of the cases were in any sense of the word destitute.

3. No unemployed heard of in the district, or any one in need of relief by the system you refer to.

PARISH OF NEW MACHAR, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,432. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,492.

Letter from *Peter McAllan*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district.

2. *See* No. 1.

3. *See* No. 1.

4. *See* No. 1.

PARISH OF OLD MACHAR, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 71,579. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £280,695.

Letter from *Thos. Skene*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. What there is must be attributed almost wholly to the long period of severe weather, which caused a total cessation of out-door work.

2. (*a*) Town Council employed from 100 to 200 men clearing snow off streets, &c.

(*b*) The Poor's Association about 70 daily.
The Police Force „ 300 „
The Trades Council from 150 to 200 daily.

There is no information obtainable how many of the above were relieved more than once by Police and by Trades Council.

3. One is kept by Trades Council, and one by the Poor's Association, with fairly good results.

4. So far as I can learn there is quite plenty of work once the weather gets milder. The unemployed appear to be all provided for by one or other of above agencies, to whom there is already a marked decrease in the number of applications.

PARISH OF MELDRUM, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,019. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,652.

Letter from *William Den*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, to a limited extent, and arises solely from the long-continued severity of the weather.

2. Soup kitchen open three times a week, from which rations are served out to all who choose to avail themselves of it, the unemployed included, which it is ascertained would amount to about 28.
A sum of 20*l.*, raised by voluntary subscription, has been expended on coals to the same number of unemployed, along with the other poor of the burgh.

3. No unemployed register kept, the number being so small and so well known that a register is unnecessary.

4. The distress here can and will, I am sure, be easily overtaken by voluntary effort; any distress existing being confined to the burgh, the district being agricultural, there is no reason to suppose that there is any exceptional distress existing there.

PARISH OF METHLICK, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,905. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,023.

Letter from *James Allan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district just now due to the severe weather.

2. A coal fund has been organised, and a good few families have received coal; that is all that has been done to meet the distress.

3. No.

4. A good supply of coals would relieve any distress in this parish at present.

PARISH OF MIDMAR, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,081. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,467.

Letter from *Alex. Shewan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. There is nothing being done, or, as yet, required to be done, by public authorities, or by voluntary agencies, therefore there has been none relieved during the week ended Saturday, the 16th February.

3. No.

4. No distress that I know of, or have heard of, in this parish.

PARISH OF MONQUHITTER, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,512. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,860.

Letter from *Andrew Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is not much exceptional distress in the district; what there is, is due to the severe weather, which has continued for eight weeks. The labouring people are mostly employed in agriculture, and being engaged by the half-year, their incomes have not been reduced by the severity of the weather. Road labourers and others have been employed in clearing the roads of snow.

2. (*a*) The distress up to this date has not been so great as to call for being taken up by public authorities. A voluntary agency has been promoted by the Rev. Robert McDerment, the parish minister, which has been the means of relieving the distress among the unemployed in the villages of Cuminestown and Garmond, where they mostly reside.

(*b*) On two days of the week ended the 16th February, 45 families were supplied with bread and soup by that agency.

3. No unemployed register has been maintained.

4. An appeal might be made to all those who are able to contribute in money, provisions, clothing, and shoes; and for that purpose collectors might be employed to get subscriptions should the severe weather continue.

PARISH OF MONYMUSK, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,025. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,851.

Letter from *Wm. L. Chivas*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are no acute cases of distress in this parish. A few quarriers are out of work by reason of the weather, but they are mostly crofters, so that they are not destitute, having sufficient to tide over the crisis.

2. Certain funds bequeathed to the parish in aid of poor not on the roll are managed by the Kirk Session and distributed as occasion may arise. An extra supply of coals was given by the parochial board.

3. No; practically no unemployed. No applications have been made.

4. No experience of aggravated distress the same as in towns.

PARISH OF NEWHILLS, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 5,526. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £22,819.

Letter from *John Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. FOR some time back there has been exceptional distress, entirely owing to the severity of the weather, which has put a stop to out-door work.

2. A large voluntary committee was formed, and the parish divided into wards and visited. About 80 families were relieved, more or less, by money, coals, or provisions, the expenditure being over 80*l*.

3 There is no formal register kept, and no necessity for such in ordinary times; there are two large paper works in the locality in full employment. Those working at the granite quarries have been the chief sufferers.

4. The distress here is but temporary.

PARISH OF OYNE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 883. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,475.

Letter from *Alex. Christie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

4. There is no exceptional distress in this parish, and very few unemployed, and these are not in any way in want.

PARISH OF PETERCULTER, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 3,629. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £28,628.

Letter from *J. R. Allardyce*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. Any distress that may be is due to the severe weather, there being abundance of work.

2. Any help rendered has been by private individuals.

3. No.

4. No; all have resumed work.

PARISH OF PETERHEAD, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 15,830. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £48,015.

Letter from *William L. Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE; but arises from the very severe snowstorm, and that has now gone so far that outside labour is now being carried on among masons, quarrymen, railway navvies, &c., &c.

2. The Town Council provided labour removing snow from the streets. They also collected subscriptions, and supplied coals, groceries, meal, and bread; but that has now ceased, being unnecessary, on 23rd February 1895.

3. The Town Council opened and kept a list during the time they gave relief; but there is no other. Many of our unemployed getting relief labour are persons who do not work in good weather, but loaf and idle about, and work only sufficient to enable them to drink.

4. No, none; as the relief given was only for a temporary distress, which has for the present ceased. We still continue a public soup kitchen and public coal fund, and there are various charitable institutions in the town.

PARISH OF PITSLIGO, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,290. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,213.

Letter from *William Laing*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. Some relief has been given by private individuals in cases of ill-health, and to widows. This is a seafaring place, and very few labourers.

4. No.

PARISH OF PREMNAY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 930. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,226.

Letter from *Alexander Mennie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES, there is exceptional distress in this district. It is almost altogether due to the severe weather, there being a fair supply of work for unskilled workers all the year round, and at some seasons of the year workmen are difficult to get.

2. (*a*) Very little has been done publicly to relieve the distress. Individuals have here and there given to those whom they had reason to suppose were suffering. (*b*) No answer.

3. No register kept.

4. In my opinion the most feasible scheme for relieving distress in inland county districts would be for the County Council to set aside a fund for clearing snow-blocked roads. In many country districts much inconvenience is caused by the roads being blocked for weeks on end. It might almost be asserted that snowstorms, blocked roads, and distress go hand in hand. A tax of one penny per £. would be quite sufficient to meet an ordinary expenditure, and if the fund were allowed to accumulate to a sum equal to twice the amount, possibly ¼*d.* per £. would keep such a fund in working order.

PARISH OF RATHEN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,627. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,399.

Letter from *John Jack*, Interim Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

2. Several concerts have been held in aid of the poor in Inverallochy and Cairnbulg, and money, blankets and flannel have been distributed among the most needy by the Kirk Session.

3. No.

PARISH OF RAYNE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

Population (1891), 1,225. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £8,148.

Letter from *George Beattie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE severe weather has caused some distress in this parish owing to out-door work being stopped for the last two months by the protracted snowstorm.

2. Mrs. Gordon, of Newton, has given relief to some through the Inspector of Poor. Mrs. Gordon, of Rayne, has given relief through the minister. The Kirk Session gave help to all whom they could find in want. There were nine different families who got relief.

3. The Inspector of Poor went through the parish to try and find out where any relief was required. The Kirk Session published that they would give relief to anyone who was in distress.

4. There are very few in this parish, and the few that are are out-door labourers whom this severe snowstorm has kept from getting work.

PARISH OF RHYNIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,043. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,679.

Letter from *Alexander Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress, although a few are not so well off as usual, owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing by public authorities; something, say about 10*l.*, has been raised by public entertainments.

3. No.

4. No. The parish is quite capable of coping with any suffering that may arise.

PARISH OF ST. FERGUS, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,318. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,700.

Letter from *Alex. Greig*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOT to a large extent. Seven or eight families, where the head of the house is a day-labourer, would be affected by the severe weather to some extent.

2. No relief has been given or required, further than that the Kirk Session gave a boll of meal each to eight persons.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF SKENE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,673. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,559.

Letter from *John Wyness*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

4. The parish is purely agricultural. The small cottages are almost wholly occupied by farm servants. Distress in severe weather is almost unknown.

PARISH OF SLAINS, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,279. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,512.

Letter from *John Sangster*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress has come under my observation here. Weather has been exceptionally severe, and lasting, which with the irksomeness of the times is being felt more or less by some, no doubt.

2. Nothing beyond ordinary charities, and parochial casual aid.

3. No register maintained.

4. The population of this parish being partly agricultural and partly fishing, I would suggest the re-establishment of small farms, crofts and patches of ground in the former instance, and in the latter instance, plenty of sea ground, the same not to be disturbed by beam trawl.

PARISH OF STRATHDON, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,220. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,465.

Letter from *James Kennedy*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. EVERY person and animal has been suffering from the severity of the weather. Those who are improvident and also the poor must have felt it more keenly. I have not heard of any special case of distress and want.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities. None relieved. Charitably disposed parties have been giving to the poor around. Men out of employment in this rural district get supplies from the merchants till they earn wages.

3. No.

4. To the able-bodied I would give no relief without work being done. The loafers will not work. The improvident will make no provision for such a season. These two classes are entirely beyond the capacity of man to say what can be done for them, and they cry earliest and loudest.

PARISH OF STRICHEN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,552. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,675.

Letter from *George Mark*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Entirely due to the severe weather. The really unemployed numbered about 25; the others on account of the weather were assisted.

2. (*a*) Voluntary agency. A soup kitchen instituted and in operation three days weekly. Bread given with rations of soup; about 90 supplied from soup kitchen, and 25 of the unemployed day labourers are receiving meal and groceries. In addition the owner of the estate made a distribution of coals to about 80 individuals.

3. No.

4. Neighbourhood purely rural, and day labourers only affected.

PARISH OF TARLAND, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 736. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,829.

Letter from *William Simpson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. (*a*) There is nothing required in the parish. (*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF TARVES, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,344. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,077.

Letter from *Wm. Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO.

2. Any one in distress has been relieved by the Kirk Session from a fund called the Hatt Fund.

3. No.

PARISH OF TOUGH, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 675. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,549.

Letter from *Alex. Dow*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. With the exception of a very few large farms, the whole parish is composed of small farms and crofts, and no exceptional distress exists in the meantime. There certainly is a depression *felt*, but not a single application for relief has as yet been made.

2. Nothing is required in the meantime.
No applications.

3. No register required.

4. No.

PARISH OF TOWIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 939. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,933.

Letter from *Alex. Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in our district, few labourers residing in it.

2. None necessary.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF TULLYNESSLE AND FORBES, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 975. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,598.

Letter from *James McC. Pithie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish at present. During the long-continued and very severe storm labour has been entirely suspended up to this date, but the labouring classes seem to have been prepared for it, as no application for relief has been made by any one.

2 (*a*) Nothing

2. (*a*) Nothing is being done by the public authorities beyond the usual consideration of applications when made, but there has been no application for relief of any kind. There are no voluntary agencies. One of the proprietors generally makes a distribution of coals in the beginning of winter.
(*b*) None relieved.

3. No unemployed register has ever been kept in this parish.

4. I can suggest no means of relieving exceptional distress except by means of the Parochial Board and voluntary charity.

PARISH OF TURRIFF, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 4,253. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,884.

Letter from *John L. Keith*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. YES. Almost entirely occasioned by the severe weather, hence want of employment.

2. Soup kitchen, supported by subscriptions, open several times a week and would be taken advantage of by about 100 persons. Occasionally there are free dinners.
Upwards of 60 persons have been relieved by means of voluntary subscriptions. About 40*l.* was collected, the greater part of which has already been disbursed in kind. There are also yearly distributions of coals and meal to the poor and needy.

3. No.

4. Providing of employment.

PARISH OF TYRIE, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 2,843. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,301.

Letter from *Wm. Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been somewhat exceptional distress in this parish in consequence of the protracted severe weather.

2. The local charities in the district have been largely devoted by the managers to meet the distress prevalent.

3. No.

4. I am of opinion that no steps are meantime required to be taken, as local effort is quite sufficient to cope with the distress.

PARISH OF UDNY, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.

Population (1891), 1,677. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,165.

Letter from *Thos. Duguid*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress in the district is due to the lengthened severity of the weather. The proportion is so very small that they are looked after by the charitably-disposed people in their own immediate locality.

PARISH OF ARDCHATTAN &c., COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,975. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £17,114.

Letter from *A. M. Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. A good number of workers at Banawl Quarries were prevented for some time by the frost from working, but the change of weather will now enable them to resume work.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. I do not think any action necessary.

PARISH OF ARDNAMURCHAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL AND INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 3,636. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,300.

Letter from *D. Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CAMPBELTOWN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 10,260. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £49,135.

Letter from *John Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress. The applications for parochial relief since 28th January have only been four, smaller than usual. There is a fairly good herring fishing since the New Year and good prices ruling.

2. (*a*) Public authorities, *nil*. Voluntary agencies, the usual doings.
(*b*) No statistics.

3. No.

PARISH OF COLL, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 522. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,663.

Letter from *James A. Clement*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE. In this island those who are not crofters are in regular employment on the farms, or are in the employment of the proprietor of Coll estate.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. So far as this parish is concerned, there is nothing abnormal in the condition or surroundings of the inhabitants, and there has been no extra application made for parochial relief.

PARISH OF COLONSAY AND ORONSAY, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 381. Gross Rental (1893–94), £2,799 (Parish not assessed).

Letter from *Neil MacMillan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is not believed to be any exceptional distress.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CRAIGNISH, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 389. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,751.

Letter from *Thomas Kay*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOTHING exceptional, though those engaged in outside work have been able to earn little or nothing for seven weeks back.

2. (*a*) Nothing by either.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF DUNOON AND KILMUN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 8,683. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £63,876.

Letter from *William Christie*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. YES; due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Employment given by the Police Commissioners, and soup kitchens started by voluntary agencies.
(*b*) 31 men accepted employment from Police Commissioners, and 175 individuals were supplied with soup and bread.

3. No.

4. No suggestions beyond what is indicated in answer 2.

Note.—The above answers apply only to the police burgh of Dunoon. There has been no exceptional distress in the landward part of the parish.

PARISH OF GIGHA AND CARA, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 401. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,063.

Letter from *Charles Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 5th March 1895.

1. No.

2. No.

PARISH OF GLASSARY, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 3,836. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,535.

Letter from *Hugh McDiarmid*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE has been exceptional distress in this district during the last two months. A number of people were unable to work owing to the severe weather, and I have no doubt a few suffered a little for the time; but now that the weather has taken a decided change for the better, work has been renewed. I refer chiefly to tradesmen, such as masons, &c., who are not connected with estates, but they are not a numerous class. The landward part consists chiefly of an agricultural and fishing population. While admitting there may have been a few cases of hardship, and such cases will be met with any winter, I am not prepared to say that there has been distress of an exceptional character. I may state with regard to applications for parochial relief, that there is no increase as compared with former years, and that no application resulting from non-employment has been made.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities. I am aware that a considerable sum derived from private sources has been distributed among the most necessitous poor in the burgh of Lochgilphead. A few of the unemployed received some assistance privately, but I am not able to give the number.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF GLENORCHY, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,641. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,056.

Letter from *John Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No distress in this district.

INISHAIL DISTRICT, PARISH OF GLENORCHY &C., COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), —. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £— (included in Glenorchy).

Letter from *A. M. Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. The change in the weather will now enable everyone, who is willing, to work.

PARISH OF INVERARAY, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,466. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,187.

Letter from *John Rodger*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. (*a*) None.
(*b*) *Nil.*

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF INVERCHAOLAIN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 359. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,021 (Parish unassessed).

Letter from *Thomas McNab*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in the district.

3. There are no unemployed.

PARISH OF JURA, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 724. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,476 (Parish unassessed).

Letter from *John McGillivray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish; in fact, no distress at all exists.

2. *Nil.*

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KILARROW, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 2,660. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,449.

Letter from *M. Mactaggart*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE are annually a good number of unemployed persons, but there is no exceptional distress this year. The cause of so many people being unemployed is due to the want of any industry in the winter time. The people are either engaged in agricultural labour or fishing, with the exception of a small number employed in the distilleries. In winter time there is very little farm labour required, and no fishing is done.

2. (*a*) There are no voluntary agencies, and nothing is being done. The Islay estate employs at relief works a good number of men who would otherwise be unemployed.

3. None.

4. I can only suggest the establishment of some work in the winter time to keep the agricultural labourers and the fishermen employed.

PARISH OF KILBRANDON, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,574. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,296.

Letter from *Don. McDougall*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. There is nothing done, as there was no marked distress in the parish.

3. There is no unemployed register kept. There is ample employment in the parish for any person willing to work, and there is a number of strangers employed over and above the inhabitants. The snow and frost did not interrupt the State works to any extent. There are very few workmen depending on farm work.

PARISH OF KILCALMONELL, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,901. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,099.

Letter from *A. M'Dougall*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE fishing industry, upon which the majority of the population of the district depend, has been for successive seasons nearly a failure, and were it not that the merchants continue to supply them with provisions, in the hope that next season will be more successful, the distress would be great. Distributions of food, coal, and clothing from several sources have already been made.

2. The proprietor of the district has employed this and last year the most needful of the men for making roads. About 18 have been at work during the past fortnight, and it is expected that double that number will be employed next week. Thirty-four were engaged at similar work last year.

3. None kept.

4. With the exception of the foregoing remarks, I have no further suggestions to make.

PARISH OF KILCHOMAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 2,697. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,251.

Letter from *M. Mactaggart*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE are annually a good number of unemployed persons, but there is no exceptional distress this year. The cause of so many people being unemployed is due to the want of any industry in the winter time. The people are either engaged in agricultural labour or fishing, with the exception of a small number employed in the distilleries. In winter time there is very little farm labour required, and no fishing is done.

2. (*a*) There are no voluntary agencies, and nothing is being done.

3. None.

4. I can only suggest the establishment of some work in the winter time to keep the agricultural labourers and the fishermen employed.

PARISH OF KILCHRENAN &c., COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 415. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,248.

Letter from *A. M. Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. I do not consider any action necessary.

PARISH OF KILDALTON, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 2,027. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,181.

Letter from *Colin Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES. Distress due principally to severe weather; many families have been rendered homeless, their houses blown down by storm upon 28th and 29th December. Some three or four fishermen lost boats and gear (two, boats and gear completely, and others, partial loss of gear and damage to boats). Labour hindered much by severe weather.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities till 25th instant, when 5*l.* of a fund at the disposal of the Parochial Board voted for the relief of the distressed. Previous to that time the prevailing distress was partially relieved by voluntary agencies. No account having been kept, no definite information can be given further than that the number relieved up till 16th instant was: in food, clothing, and fuel, (Mrs. Ramsay), 67; in Friendly Society, (Masonic Lodge), 64.

3. No.

Note.—The labour market here is always uniform and, therefore, there are few unemployed (or at any rate there should be few).

4. None. Further than that I think, if there is a fund disposable, that it should be applied towards the providing of some employment to those unemployed, and for some useful purpose such as the forming of a boatslip or winter quarters for fishing boats. A matter of 300*l.* paid out in this direction would tend to prevent the disasters which have taken place this year, as the fishermen could use smaller boats in winter and a smaller quantity of nets and other gear, and to relieve the distressed.

PARISH OF KILFINAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 2,074. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,924.

Letter from *Alexander Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. YES, and mostly due to severe weather and failure of the fishing industry. The cause of the latter is generally attributed in this quarter to the practice of seine trawling for herring, which is extensively carried on about Lochfyne and the neighbouring waters of the Firth of Clyde, and which, it seems to be generally admitted, is ruinous to the herring fishing industry and militates very badly against drift net fishing. The trawlers would gladly return to the system of drift net fishing, but are too poor to acquire nets, &c.

2. Nothing by public authorities ; private parties have distributed coals and groceries to needful persons as far as known, but many of the natives here would almost rather die than plead poverty.

3. No.

4. As the severe weather seems now to be at end several buildings will be gone on with in the district immediately, and probably those out of employment will get work. This will keep the fishermen employed till the fishing season arrives. The main cause of their utter destitution is their being landless.

PARISH OF KILFINICHAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,745. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,540.

Letter from *Alexander M'Gregor*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in one part of the parish, at Creich, principally due to the stoppage of Tormore Granite Quarries, owing to the severe weather. They will resume next week.

2. A voluntary soup kitchen was started at Bunessan some few weeks ago, and eight persons only of the working classes receive free dinners daily.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KILLEAN AND KILCHENZIE, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,293. Assessable Rental (1893-4), £11,976.

Letter from *Charles Mackinven*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF KILMARTIN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 695. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,625.

Letter from *Malcolm Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE whatever.

PARISH OF KILMODAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 351. Gross Rental (1893-94), £4,105 (Parish unassessed).

Letter from *J. MacInnes* Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF KILMORE AND KILBRIDE, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 5,729. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £39,828.

Letter from *Hugh Skinner*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ALL the distress that there has been has been owing to the exceptionally severe weather.

2. The Town Council and other local agencies have made provision to meet the existing distress. As to the number relieved I have to refer you to the information given by our Town Clerk.

3. None that I am aware of.

4. I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF KILNINIAN AND KILMORE, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 2,344. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,048.

Letter from *Niel Morison*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. NOT aware of any distress in this parish.

PARISH OF KILNINVER &c., COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 407. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,629.

Letter from *John Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. This parish being almost entirely pastoral, the distress prevalent in many other districts is not felt here, I am thankful to say.

PARISH OF NORTH KNAPDALE, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 867. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,173.

Letter from *Hugh McDiarmid*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No distress of an exceptional character exists in this parish.

PARISH OF SOUTH KNAPDALE, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 3,017. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,361.

Letter from *Alex. L. MacGilp*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district, the district being dependent to a great extent on the fishing industry; and the fishing season being practically closed annually in December. The effect of the severe weather since December has not so much to do with any case of actual distress as a bad fishing season.

2. There has been no demand or call for public authorities to intervene.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF LISMORE AND APPIN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 3,135. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,903.

Letter from *D. Macintyre*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOT in a pronounced form, but the long spell of severe weather has doubtless made itself felt by the labouring class.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF LOCHGOILHEAD AND KILMORICH, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 787. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,798.

Letter from *William Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No distress of any kind.

PARISH OF MORVEN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 820. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,580.

Letter from *Arch. Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this district, because all the working people are fully employed. During the severe weather in the month of January outside work was only suspended for a couple of days. No destitution of any kind in the parish.

2. No action on the part of the authorities necessary.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF SADDELL AND SKIPNESS, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 1,156. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,677.

Letter from *Charles Mackinven*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No

PARISH OF SOUTHEND, COUNTY OF ARGYLL

Population (1891), 844. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,515.

Letter from *John Barbour*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE are no unemployed in the parish. It is wholly agricultural. There is no surplus population.

PARISH OF STRACHUR, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 478. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,109.

Letter from *Arch. Weir*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF STRALACHLAN, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 270. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,919.

Letter from *Arch. Crawford*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress among the people in this parish.

PARISH OF TOROSAY, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 987. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,325.

Letter from *Alexander Macdougall*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NOTHING exceptional. There is not much work going on here at any time.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. Should any distress arise, I think Government ought to give grants for roads and light railways, thus providing employment and opening up the country.

PARISH OF TIREE, COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

Population (1891), 2,452. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,932.

Letter from *D. Macphail*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress known to exist in this district.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ARDROSSAN, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 9,880. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £50,208.

Letter from *Andrew B. Armour*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF AUCHINLECK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 6,202. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £24,935.

Letter from *David Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress has existed only to a very small extent, and that has been due to the severity of the weather.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF AYR, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 11,179. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £77,637.

Letter from *David Caldwell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the district on account of the severe weather.

2. The municipal authorities have opened soup kitchens, to which the charitable public subscribe, and I am informed that 800 rations are daily supplied. The unemployed and necessitous poor are relieved to the extent of about 70*l.* per week.

3. No.

4. It is quite exceptional the severe weather that we are at present suffering from, because, as a rule, the winters here are very open. For this reason no suggestion can be made of a permanent nature, further than statutory authority might be granted to municipal or other authorities to make provision for exceptional distress when it occurs.

PARISH OF BALLANTRAE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,268. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,851.

Letter from *James Wason*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, due to the severity of the weather and the failure of the winter cod and herring fishing.

2. There is no organised authority here having power to deal with such a question. The better-to-do are considerate and kind to the poor, but as such kindness is without ostentation statistics cannot be given. It would, however, I think, be correct to say that no acute case of distress continues to exist for any length of time for the reasons stated.

3. No.

4. Yes. The abolition of seine trawling on the Ballantrae Banks would establish Ballantrae a small Eldorado where poverty, at any rate, would be unknown.

PARISH OF BARR, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 549. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,159.

Letter from *Adam Caldwell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Very few poor people in the place except paupers, and these and others have been relieved by different parties at various times in the shape of coals, money, tea, and tobacco, and cannot state the exact number.

3. No register of unemployed is kept in the place, as there are few poor people except paupers.

4. None.

PARISH OF BEITH, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 7,126. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £28,796.

Letter from *Sam. Kerr*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES, on account of the severe weather, and one of the largest factories being burned down.

2. Over 120*l.* has been raised by voluntary subscription in the town; a few employed for a few days removing snow off the streets. Three soup kitchens were started on the 13th February and still continue, over 100 being served daily. Tickets are also being distributed throughout the town for provisions.

3. All the parties who receive tickets for provisions are registered.

4. No, except what is being done as stated above

PARISH OF COLMONELL, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,900. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £22,451.

Letter from *John M'William*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF COYLTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 2,667. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,529.

Letter from *John Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. The population consists of farmers and their labourers, and miners. The miners are in full work.

2. Nothing being done, because there is not the slightest occasion for it.

3. No.

4. No distress.

PARISH OF CRAIGIE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 552. Gross Rental (1893–94), £10,408 (Parish unassessed).

Letter from *Andrew McFarlane*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

2. (*a*) Nothing needed.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. No distress.

PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 4,419. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £30,036.

Letter from *Alexander Moodie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE are a few exceptional cases in the parish, the cause of which is chiefly through the illness of the parents, and the children, in consequence, are suffering from want of food and clothing.

2. A committee has been formed of voluntary agents, who are appealing to the public for subscriptions in aid of those cases above mentioned.
The Curling Club have also been relieving the more necessitous cases by distribution of loaves and oatmeal to upwards of 60 persons.

3. There is no register of unemployed in this district. The only class of unemployed are a few stonemasons and labourers. None of them, even although they had been idle during the last eight weeks, are complaining of urgent distress or poverty.

4. The committee have arranged, and have secured funds sufficiently to meet all urgent and necessitous cases of this kind in the meantime.

PARISH OF OLD CUMNOCK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 4,712. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,291.

Letter from *David Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been a little exceptional distress, but only on account of the severity of the weather.

2. Nothing by Parochial Board, a little by voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DAILLY, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,830. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,164.

Letter from *Archibald Ritchie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. The out-door workers have certainly been hard pressed, owing to severe weather, but have been making no complaints.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF DALMELLINGTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 5,034. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,874.

Letter from *Alexander S. Glass*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DALRY, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 8,164. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £35,631.

Letter from *Alexander Comrie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. In this parish, in consequence of the great majority of workers being engaged in mining, and their children in factories, there are very few unemployed, and the severe weather has not affected the wages of the great body of inhabitants.

2. Nothing has been done by the Public Authorities, but the Kirk Session and the authorities of Dissenting Bodies have made a liberal allowance of coals to the poor. The curlers have also distributed from 16*l.* to 20*l.* among the few unemployed and the poor people, but this is done almost annually.

3. As there are practically no unemployed in the parish, no unemployed register has been kept.

4. Having really no great distress in the parish, I have no suggestions to make. In many cases those who have received voluntary contributions would have been better without them, as in several cases they have been misused.

PARISH OF DALRYMPLE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,338. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,966.

Letter from *William Clark*, Inspector of Poor, 5th March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. Heads of families in village nearly all in constant employment (railway surfacemen, foresters, &c.).

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DREGHORN, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 4,057. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £20,493.

Letter from *Ninian Auld*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the parish meantime.

PARISH OF DUNDONALD, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 9,545. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £50,147.

Letter from *R. F. Black*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE. The long-continued and exceptionally severe weather stops out-door employment.

2. The burgh of Irvine is about one-half in Dundonald parish and one-half in Irvine parish. The burgh authorities employed about 50 men daily on week ending 16th February clearing the streets of snow and ice. The number of unemployed who could be procured for this sort of work is diminishing; during last week ending 23rd February, 26 men was the most that could be procured on any day. The Countess of Eglinton provided a soup kitchen, giving free dinners two days weekly. The magistrates supplemented this, and it was kept open four days weekly for the past two weeks; all who apply are served. Seventy applied, and were served with soup and bread on Thursday, 21st February. This is the greatest number of any day during this winter.

3. None.

4. No.

PARISH OF DUNLOP, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,410. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £14,548.

Letter from *James Stevenson*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. I AM pleased to report that there has been no exceptional distress in this parish at this time. Being almost entirely

entirely an agricultural district, labourers, &c., are employed as a rule by the year or half-year as the case may be. Work, of course, has certainly been greatly delayed.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) Nil.

3. No unemployed register.

4. Not necessary under present circumstances.

PARISH OF FENWICK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,007. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,807.

Letter from *William Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. A few out-door labourers have been idle since near the New Year from the severity of the weather, but have managed to maintain themselves.

2. No.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF GALSTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 6,408. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £27,754.

Letter from *John Roxburgh*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress, except with out-door unemployed through the severity of the weather.

2. Commissioners of Burgh of Galston have instituted fund by public subscription, which has been liberally responded to, and necessitous cases dealt with according to requirements. No distress in landward part of the parish.
Average number of cases dealt with 36.

3. No register except in connection with the above.

4. None. Should the weather shortly take a favourable change, out-door work will be resumed, and the distress will then disappear.

PARISH OF GIRVAN, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 4,906. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,331.

Letter from *W. S. M'Arthur*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. YES. Almost entirely due to the severe weather.
With the exception of a small number employed at handloom weaving, which is in a state of chronic depression, the population depends principally on agricultural labour and fishing, both forms of industry having been brought to a complete standstill through the severity of the weather.

2. (*a*) An influential committee of a most representative character, including members of the Police Commission and Parochial Board, was formed, and raised a fund for the relief of the unemployed and destitute.
(*b*) The total number relieved by this committee, with coals, lines for provisions, &c., being 409, of this number about 270 were relieved with coal only.

3. No.

4. No. Happily such acute distress occurs here only at long intervals.

PARISH OF IRVINE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 6,141. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,680.

Letter from *A. W. Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. What distress there was, or is, has been almost entirely attributable to severe weather; the recent coal strike may have had some little to do with any suffering.

2. Unemployed men are being employed by the corporation in improving their works, and between that, private subscriptions, and a "soup kitchen," want has been fairly well met. Week ended 16th February, 50 men got 2*s.* per day from the corporation; all who applied got work, less or more.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF KILBIRNIE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 5,468. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,568.

Letter from *Robert Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. AT present there is no unemployed in the district except what has been caused by the severity of the weather. A considerable number of labourers, masons and others have been idle from this cause, but, as a rule, they had some of their families employed in the public works, so that there was no absolute want.

2. There was a great deal of destitution in the Glengarnock district, caused by the coal miners' strike for 22 weeks. Mr. Cuningham provided a soup kitchen for an average of 150, including women and children; there was also a public subscription raised to supply the poor children with breakfasts, shoes, and clothing. About 110 were thus supplied for about 14 weeks, but now that the furnaces and steel works are again started, these things are come to an end, and there is no unemployed in the district.

3. No.

4. I am of opinion that if Board of Conciliation were instituted, to which both parties were obliged to submit, it might be the means of preventing such disastrous strikes as have occurred of late.

PARISH OF WEST KILBRIDE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 2,302. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £22,618.

Letter from *William A. Millar*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE severe weather from which we have suffered for the last eight weeks has thrown a large number of masons' labourers and others out of employment, but with the return of open weather, matters will be mended.

2. A soup kitchen was started fully two weeks ago. About 40 families were relieved daily by this agency during the past and previous weeks. Several wealthy gentlemen in the parish have, to my knowledge, given both money and goods to relieve the existing distress. The Northern District Committee, through the road surveyor, employed a large number of men at 3*s.* 4*d.* per day, clearing the roads, &c., of snow.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KILMARNOCK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 27,968. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £97,416.

Letter from *John Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish except that caused by the severity of the weather. The relief granted is more than is required, as many are receiving relief who do not belong to the unemployed. We are trying to get this put right in future.

2. A voluntary subscription has been raised amounting to fully 400*l.*, and under the direction of the Provost and Town Council, relief has been granted by giving small sums of money and coals, and a free dinner every day. About 200 men and 400 children get relief daily. The supply of food is lavish. I believe many of the children belong to parents in good employment. The fund is only about 400*l.*, including clothing, grants of coals, and bread, but subscriptions are still being sent in.

3. No. But there ought to be a register kept, as I am satisfied that nearly one-half of the men relieved here do not belong to this district. It appears there is a branch railway being formed near Darvel, about 10 miles from this, who are unable to work owing to the frost, and the free dinners bring them here, as no provision has been made for them in Darvel.

4. I think the fund should be dispensed only to the unemployed; their names and addresses should be taken, and also name of their last employer. I have examined the lists of those who have got money and coal, and I find that many of them are in receipt of parochial relief. I have pointed this out to the committee, and expect this will be avoided in future.

COUNTY OF KILMAURS, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 4,453. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,266.

Letter from *William Lindsay*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress in the parish or district, but a good many tramp labourers, or workers from other places, have been going about begging of late, stating that they could not get employment owing to the severe weather and continued frost.

2. No agencies at work during the week mentioned, but efforts have since been made to get funds for a soup kitchen.

3. No unemployed register kept.

4. The soup kitchen supply goes furthest, and was found most beneficial during the recent miners' strike.

PARISH OF KILWINNING, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 7,007. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £35,600.

Letter from *John Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE distress in this parish is very great at the present time, but it is entirely due to the state of the weather, all out-door work being entirely suspended.

2. The Provost and Commissioners have opened a relief fund, and public soup kitchens have been opened. Subscriptions in aid of the same are freely given by private individuals. About 74 families, or 258 persons, are daily supplied with soup and bread.

3. No.

4. The relief fund meets the distress pretty well in this parish. None.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,870. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,147.

Letter from *R. Andrew*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. IN the villages of Kirkmichael and Crosshill amongst a few of the labouring men there has been exceptional distress, due wholly to the severe weather, and in these cases, I fear, are depending much on credit with their grocer.

2. Nothing, and there has been no applications.

3. No.

4. Open weather would give all employment.

PARISH OF KIRKOSWALD, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,652. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,262.

Letter from *Alex. Herron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of any exceptional distress in the district, due to circumstances peculiar to the locality or to the severe weather.

3. No.

PARISH OF LARGS, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 5,320. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £41,295.

Letter from *Bryce Barr*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is annually a certain amount of distress through masons and labourers being unable to work. That distress is much aggravated by the long continued severe weather this year. Much has been done both in the past and present season to mitigate it, by the distribution of coals, money, &c., by the different churches and by private individuals.

2. (*a.*) In addition to the usual fortnightly out-door relief, my board instructed me at a meeting on 15th to send 4 cwt. coal to each pauper.
The Police Commissioners provided work, breaking and quarrying stones. As some were unable to do that kind of work, they were sent to clear away snow, and I am informed that by to-morrow no man who is willing to work need be idle.
It is also proposed to open a soup kitchen by private charity.

(*b.*) No information.

3. No.

4. I consider in providing work as they have done, the Commissioners have done their duty. The only regret is that it was not done sooner. It might be pointed out to local authorities the advisability of having some suitable work provided to meet such contingencies.

PARISH OF LOUDOUN, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 6,379. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £23,015.

Letter from *James Morton*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. (1) ORDINARY winter distress aggravated by length of severe weather. (2) Entirely due to severe weather; distress principally amongst out-door workers.

2. Severity not considered sufficient to cause public authorities to interfere; action taken by voluntary agencies, by way of concerts, entertainments, and private subscriptions in Newmilns, where about 50 have been assisted weekly for past two weeks. Hope of similar assistance for next two weeks.
Darvel has not thought it necessary to take any action.

3. No.

4. Am of opinion that with breaking up of frost within a reasonable time, voluntary agencies are able to cope with the distress. The trade (lace curtain weaving) is good in the district, and the average citizen in fairly comfortable circumstances.

PARISH OF MAUCHLINE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 2,339. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £14,106.

Letter from *William Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district. Labour in the district is at present good. Quarrymen and out-door workers are suffering from the long frost, but no applications for relief of any kind have been made.

2. Nothing being done.

3. No.

4. A good thaw would make all out-door workers very busy in this district.

PARISH OF MAYBOLE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 7,569. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £33,660.

Letter from *John Anderson*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. THE only exceptional distress in the district is due to the severe weather.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities. Any pressing needs are being relieved by private individuals.

3. No unemployed register is kept.

4. As there are no urgent cases on hand, I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF MONKTON AND PRESTWICK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 2,608. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £16,992.

Letter from *Hugh Boyd*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE distress in this district is not very much greater than in ordinary winter weather. It is entirely due to the protracted severe frost preventing agricultural and building operations.

2. A soup kitchen in each of the villages of Monkton and Prestwick has been in operation voluntarily, in the former all winter, and in the latter for the last few weeks. A supply of coal has twice been distributed among the poor.

3. No

4. I can suggest nothing further than what is being done, as the distress will be almost all past as soon as the frost lifts.

PARISH OF MUIRKIRK, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 5,165. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £25,204.

Letter from *R. A. Leslie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress here. The various coal pits and the ironworks in the district have been going regularly. The severe snow and frost caused the County Council to employ men clearing snow and ice off the streets. I could not find a single case of distress for want of work. We have poverty, but it is through improvidence and drink in most cases.

2. Mr. J. G. A. Baird, M.P., of Adamton and Muirkirk, sent me a sum of 10*l.* on the 16th February 1895 to distribute in any cases that might come under my notice, or to help in cases of deserving poor people.

3. No; because a register is not required.

4. Since receiving the donation from Mr. Baird, M.P., I have made a thorough inquiry throughout the parish. I have called upon the employers of labour, and have had meetings with the medical men, the police, and visited every house where there was any chance of finding distress, but did not find any unemployed. There are really no arrangements required here to relieve distress, as it does not exist.

PARISH OF NEWTON-ON-AYR, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 8,564. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £25,948.

Letter from *James Brackenridge*, Inspector of Poor. 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, but it is to a very great extent occasioned by the severe weather.

2. The Town Council of the burgh of Ayr have opened a soup kitchen, at which over 800 are relieved daily. The Town Council are also distributing relief to the unemployed and necessitous poor in the shape of food and fuel at the rate of 70*l.* per week.

3. No

4. No.

PARISH OF OCHILTREE, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,910. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,389.

Letter from *Adam Urquhart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. As it has not been necessary nothing has been done to meet distress by public authorities.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF RICCARTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 7,317. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £25,892.

Letter from *C. S. Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ST. QUIVOX, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 7,713. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,835.

Letter from *Robert Pyper*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the burgh portion of this parish almost wholly occasioned by the severe weather and the stoppage of out-door labour.

2. The Town Council of the burgh of Ayr have opened a soup kitchen, at which about 800 persons are relieved daily. The Town Council are also giving relief to the unemployed and necessitous cases by giving tickets for food and fuel to the extent of 70*l.* per week.

3. No unemployed register is kept.

4. No.

PARISH OF SORN, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,919. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £19,486.

Letter from *Robert B. Connor*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE. The mill-workers and miners are all fully employed, and, with the exception of a few quarrymen and out-door labourers, who during the severe frost were off work for a short time, there is no distress in this parish, and no complaints or applications have been made to the public authorities.

2. None.

3. No.

4. None required.

PARISH OF STAIR, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,289. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,361.

Letter from *R. L. Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. NO.

PARISH OF STEVENSTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 6,209. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £20,368.

Letter from *Andrew W. Donaldson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE were a few labourers idle here during the frost, but all working now.

2. As far as I can learn, they were relieved privately by well-to-do individuals.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF STEWARTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,804. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £23,379.

Letter from *James Dunlop*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. DURING the last eight or nine weeks much distress has prevailed here among out-door workers on account of the extreme severity of the weather; and this has been accentuated in many cases by a partial stagnation in our local industry. However, the worst seems past, the weather conditions being much ameliorated by the thaw which has now fairly set in, and out-door work will be briskly resumed in a few days.

2. The Police Commissioners last week employed 20 men for five days to clear away ice and snow from the streets, and paid them 4*d.* per hour, besides which, sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to about 100*l.* sterling, have been distributed by the parish minister, the lord of the manor, the Charity Organisation, trustees of a charitable bequest, and the Race Committee, and about 140 tons of coal have been distributed by the three churches and the Parochial Board.

3. None kept.

4. None.

PARISH OF STRAITON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 1,060. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,793.

Letter from *John McFadzean*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress in parish.

2. Nothing requires as yet to be done.

3. No register kept.

4. Meantime our parish has been very fairly provided for; the poorer classes were well looked after, and any out of employment seem not to be badly off as yet.

PARISH OF SYMINGTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 621. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,150.

Letter from *James Currie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The parish is purely agricultural, and no man is entirely out of employment. The people are thrifty, and no one complaining.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. Thrift and temperance would, to a certain extent, prevent it.

PARISH OF TARBOLTON, COUNTY OF AYR.

Population (1891), 3,586. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £21,717.

Letter from *John Crawford*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. OWING to the long-continued frost a considerable number of agricultural labourers and quarrymen have been thrown idle for about two months.

2. A voluntary committee was formed in the village of Tarbolton to receive subscriptions, and these have been liberal considering the means of the population, and altogether about 60 cases have been dealt with during the week ended 16th February.

3. No register is kept, as the persons relieved are all personally known to the committee.

4. There is still a balance of the fund in hand which, should the thaw now continue, may serve to meet the necessities of the case.

PARISH OF ABERLOUR, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 2,165. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,078.

Letter from *W. M'Gowan*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress, further than what may be expected in long severe weather.

2. Voluntary contributions have been given to help the most needy, and from 12 to 20 men have been kept at work cutting snow. Paid by voluntary contributions.

3. No.

4. It is found here that men prefer rather to work for good wages than take money as charity. We have paid them here 4*s.* a day.

PARISH OF ALVAH, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,435. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,890.

Letter from *F. W. Runcie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. So far as I am aware, there is no exceptional distress in this district.

3. No.

PARISH OF BANFF, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 4,763. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £15,602.

Letter from *Charles W. Cosser*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. TEMPORARY distress exists, entirely owing to the severe weather restricting employment.

2. (*a.*) Public authorities have considered, and find that it has not been necessary to make any public organised effort to meet emergency. Private and voluntary efforts have been sufficient to cope with the case.
(*b.*) Soup-kitchen opened free twice in the week ended 16th February. Rations (each consisting of soup with meat cut up among it and one lb. of bread—thus a family of five would get five lbs. of bread and five ladles of soup) : on the 13th, 336 rations ; on the 16th, 484 rations. Large quantities of coal have been distributed from charitable funds and by private individuals. Money gifts have also been distributed.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF BOHARM, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,266. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,514.

Letter from *Robert Grant*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.

2. (*a*) The different proprietors have given a few pounds to be distributed among those who might be expected to suffer from the severe weather.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF BOTRIPHINE, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 729. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,649.

Letter from *John R. Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress here.

2. The Kirk Session, having regard to the continued severity of the weather, distributed 2*l.* in doles of 5*s.* to eight poor people, not paupers. The time was considered suitable for distributing a small surplus in their funds. In no case was the participant in actual want, only in narrow circumstances.

3. No.

PARISH OF BOYNDIE. COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 2,113. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,105.

Letter from *John McCulloch*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. This community consists of fishermen, who are doing fairly well, and farm servants, who being engaged by the half year do not feel the severity of the weather or its accompanying distresses. There is no such class as day labourers in this parish.

2. Nil.

3. No.

PARISH OF CABRACH, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 646. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,929.

Letter from *James Beattie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. I HAVE not heard of any in the parish of Cabrach.

2. There is nothing done, as it is not required.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF CULLEN, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 2,319. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,617.

Letter from *George Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a good deal of distress in this district at present, particularly in the burgh portion of the parish. With agricultural and general labourers the distress is on account of the severe weather. The fishing community are also suffering a good deal from the same cause, but mostly for want of proper harbour accommodation which prevents them getting to sea on many occasions.

2. (*a.*) A relief committee of the Town Council, with several ladies and gentlemen added, were appointed, who have collected subscriptions to provide work and otherwise relieve distress.

(*b.*) A daily average of 35 men were employed at relief works, while a daily average of 16 persons received grants of coals and other necessaries during the week ended Saturday, 16th February.

Relief works were started on 30th January.

3. A register

3. A register is kept of all unemployed who apply for work, by means of which the committee were greatly assisted in finding out many cases of exceptional distress.

4. With regard to the distress among the fishing community, which occurs almost periodically, I would suggest that the Government should assist the Local Harbour Board in improving the harbour, while distress caused by severe weather should, in my opinion, be left for local authorities to deal with supplemented by grants from Government to assist where the distress extends over a lengthened period.

PARISH OF DESKFORD, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 745. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,189.

Letter from *John Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. NONE.

2. The Countess of Seafield gave five pounds, and our late Minister one, which has been given to those having a family.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF FORDYCE, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 4,268. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,408.

Letter from *Robert Thow*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Due to the severe weather.

2. Work was given by the Dowager Countess of Seafield to the unemployed during the severe weather to about forty men, who were paid 2*s.* per day. A soup kitchen was also opened, and kept up by voluntary subscriptions, and the average rations given out daily were 176.

3. No.

4. The distress has now ceased, owing to the recent thaw. There is now plenty of work.

PARISH OF FORGLEN, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 714. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,496.

Letter from *John L. Keith*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress, little or none, would be occasioned by the severity of the weather.

PARISH OF GAMRIE, EAST DISTRICT, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 7,003. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,817.

Letter from *James Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no apparent exceptional distress in this district.

The majority of the population are engaged in the fishing industry, which during the winter months has been very successful.

There have been no applications for relief; neither for additional relief, by those on the roll, since the commencement of the severe weather.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF GAMRIE, MACDUFF DISTRICT, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891) } Included in Gamrie.
Assessable Rental (1893–94) }

Letter from *James Gray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been distress to a limited extent owing to the severity of the weather, which has now changed for the better, and the labouring classes, who were the principal sufferers, resume work to-day.

2. The Town Council had at its disposal a sum of money amounting to 10*l.*, which has been supplemented by subscriptions from private individuals. The whole fund, amounting to about 35*l.*, has been expended in wages to all those out of work who cared to apply. On an average 33 individuals have received benefit from this fund.

3. No unemployed register kept.

4. The distress should now be at an end, as work is plentiful should the weather remain favourable.

PARISH OF GRANGE, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,685. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,053.

Letter from *John Clarke*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. Out-door work is at a standstill owing to the snowstorm, and many are out of work, but as soon as the weather opens there will be work for all those who are willing and able.

2. (*a.*) Nothing.
(*b.*) None.

3. No.

4. The parish depends wholly on agriculture, and anything that would lift that from its present depression would at once enhance the value of labour.

PARISH OF INVERAVON, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 2,319. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,014.

Letter from *Alex. Strathdee*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. (*a.*) Nothing.
(*b.*) Nil.

3. No.

4. There are no unemployed to relieve. The parish is wholly agricultural, and labourers have a fixed half-yearly or yearly wage, as the case may be.

PARISH OF INVERKEITHNY, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 826. Assessable Rental (1893 94), £4,788.

Letter from *Peter Chapman*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. I COULD not say that there is any exceptional distress. There are very few employed by the day or the week in this parish. There is, however, no doubt that many families have suffered from the severity of the intense storm through which we are passing.

2. There has been nothing done by the parochial board, and, with the exception of one application for relief, there has been nothing out of the usual.
The parish Minister and Kirk Session have distributed 17*l.* 8*s.* among old and infirm persons and those whom they thought to be most in want. I am not able to give you the exact amount for week ending Saturday.

3. There is no unemployed register maintained.

4. It would be a good thing if in country districts the unemployed could be employed in clearing the roads of snow.

PARISH OF KEITH, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 6,704. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,065.

Letter from *George Hendry*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Working men have been longer out of employment than usual on account of the exceptionally severe and prolonged snowstorm. There are no peculiar circumstances known to me affecting the present position of matters.

2. (*a.*) A soup kitchen has been in full operation since the 8th ultimo. It was open three days a week up to 12th instant, and since then daily. The first week of January the Parochial Board distributed three cwt. of coals to all registered poor here, whether belonging to this or other parishes. On 12th January the Town's Commissioners divided the burgh into districts, and went round, obtaining as subscriptions 74*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, which was at once divided in money or tickets. From two entertainments 25*l.* was raised. Lady Seafield sent 10*l.*, which was supplemented privately to the extent of other 10*l.* The Duke of Fife sent 20*l.*, ten of which was for Fife Keith within the burgh, and ten for Newmill which, while beyond the burgh, is in the parish. Last week members of Parochial Board contributed a second three cwt. of coals to all registered poor. In addition to this there are annual endowments amounting to over 150*l.*, all of which have or are being distributed. Over 100 supplies are given out daily by soup kitchen, each day more than one supply often going into one family. The other money has been distributed chiefly in coals and provision tickets, and these latter would number over 100, and are used daily.

3. There has never been any register of unemployed kept and no necessity for such, because even during the present season there has, with the weather at its worst, been employment to the quarriers at our local lime works, and although there has not been anything like full wages, still enough has been earned to keep their families from want.

4. It is the duty and privilege of every Christian community to relieve any special distress that may be created among them by exceptional and transitory causes, like the present snowstorm. But to anticipate such distress by providing funds beforehand to meet it would, in my opinion, tend to undermine the principles of forethought and self-help we all desiderate and wish to see cultivated amongst the working classes.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,043. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,753.

Letter from *Alexander Innes*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. NO. As fuel is somewhat scarce, Mr. Skinner, Drumin, factor to His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, our generous landlord, has very considerately given a supply of wood for fire to the most necessitous of the labouring class in the parish.

3. No.

PARISH OF MARNOCH, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 3,006. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,221.

Letter from *Henry Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE are no exceptional cases of distress in the landward part of this district; but there are a good many cases within the burgh of Aberchirder, all of which are due to the severe weather.

2. The parochial authorities of this parish have given no relief to the unemployed. Those in distress in Aberchirder are being relieved by the burgh authorities, &c., in manner stated in my return of said burgh.

3. No.

4. I think that there ought to be an amendment of the Poor Law Act, in order to allow "unemployed" able-bodied being relieved from the poor rate in exceptional cases of distress.

PARISH OF MORTLACH, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 3,035. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,516.

Letter from *G. Innes*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in the landward part of the parish.

2. The Parochial Board allowed each pauper residing in the parish 2 cwt. coals.

PARISH OF ORDIQUHILL, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 684. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,499.

Letter from *Alexander Gray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of any distress in this parish, nor of any one being unemployed.

PARISH OF RATHVEN, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 12,925. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £27,843.

Letter from *James Gordon*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THE earnings of the sea-faring population were not so great as in many former years, owing to the stormy weather, but neither the fishermen nor any connected with the fishing industry, found it necessary to appeal for aid in any form, their credit with their merchants and assistance from relatives and friends having been sufficient to tide them over the past inclement weather. There are very few day labourers. None of them either found it necessary to appeal for aid.

2. Nothing has been done, or is being done, as the circumstances were not so grave as to call forth action on the part of the Parochial Board. In some of the villages the usual distribution of coals from private sources took place. In the police burgh of Buckie, which is in the parish, a soup kitchen supplied the wants, the funds having been raised by public subscription, and the Police Commissioners gave employment to day labourers out of work at stone-breaking. A return has been made by the Clerk to Police Commissioners of Buckie.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ROTHIEMAY, COUNTY OF BANFF.

Population (1891), 1,291. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,896.

Letter from *James Primrose*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO. There would have been, but for the timely and generous aid of some of the proprietors and others, who have given largely this winter to old people and to the destitute unemployed.

2. The Established Church minister has the interest of some 500*l.* to distribute annually, which he does very judiciously, taking no notice of denomination. There has been no weekly distribution, but some have got help two and three times. From the above funds some 40 or 50 families have got help since Christmas, from 5*s.* and 10*s.* to 1*l.* and 2*l.* each family.

3. No register is kept (except in private note-book), but the whole parish is well known.

4. But for the assistance from No. 1, a public meeting was to have been called to consider the matter.

PARISH OF ABBEY ST. BATHANS, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 246. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,298.

Letter from *William Moyes*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this district.

PARISH OF AYTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,827. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,135.

Letter from *Thomas Thompson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF BUNKLE AND PRESTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 672. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,180.

Letter from *G. Mason*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. As this is wholly an agricultural parish, and the *employés* engaged for the year with an upstanding wage, there is no exceptional distress in this parish.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CHANNELKIRK, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 545. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,355.

Letter from *Henry M. Liddell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF CHIRNSIDE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,459. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,332.

Letter from *John Ferguson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOTHING that can be called distress.

2. Any temporary hardship arising from the severe weather has been met by the parish minister and a few private individuals.

3. No need for such a register in this parish.

4. None.

PARISH OF COCKBURNSPATH, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,112. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,679.

Letter from *A. W. Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. No distress, and nothing being done.

3. No.

4. The parish is agricultural, and the servants' wages are paid, work or no work. Vagrants are more destitute, but live on the charity of the people.

PARISH OF COLDINGHAM, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 3,016. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,912.

Letter from *James J. Craik*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No actual distress in the district; 71 men were idle during the period between 1st January and 16th February, solely owing to the severe weather, but they were able to obtain credit, which, however, will require some months saving to redeem.

2. (*a.*) Nothing.
(*b.*) None.

3. No.

4. No applications having been made, no suggestions are deemed necessary.

PARISH OF COLDSTREAM, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 2,388. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,800.

Letter from *Alexander Simpson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. A few masons and labourers are out of employment owing to the severe weather.

2. We have had the soup kitchen twice weekly since Christmas Day, and on each day about 60 families are supplied with soup, meat, and a loaf of bread. Potatoes have also been given by private parties, as well as quantities of mutton.

3. No.

4. I do not think there is any distress here, as the soup kitchen supplies as much soup to all the persons applying as will serve ordinary families for nearly all the week.

PARISH OF CRANSHAWS, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 132. Gross Rental (1893–94), £2,026. (Parish unassessed.)

Letter from *Robert Pringle*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish. Population consists of ploughmen and shepherds, all in very comfortable circumstances.

PARISH OF DUNS, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 3,137. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,323.

Letter from *Wm. Home Waite*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress. What there is is due to the severe weather, and will disappear with it, as there is work to be got so soon as weather permits.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities.
The usual soup kitchen is in operation, and is open twice a week, viz., Tuesday and Saturday.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF EARLSTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,766. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,254.

Letter from *Robert Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. IT cannot be said that there is even "distress" in this district, and the need that is felt is "exceptional" only in that degree which corresponds to the greater severity of the winter.

2. All that has been required here has been a somewhat opener hand on the part of individuals who ordinarily interest themselves in the poor, and of the Kirk Session of the parish church.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ECCLES, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,446. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,179.

Letter from *William Leitch*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. VERY little. The only exceptional distress is caused by the long continuation of severe weather, and that only in the case of a few masons and some labourers engaged by the day.

2. Nothing done by public authorities; nor are there any regularly organized voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. The distress in this parish is not at all marked, the great majority of the population (male and female) being employed on the farms, with upstanding wages for all weathers. The day labourers, who have been long idle, might, I think, be employed branching trees or cutting some down and preparing them for firewood and other purposes. A local committee might arrange for this.

PARISH OF EDROM, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,361. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,630.

Letter from *John Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE workpeople in the paper factory here were kept fully employed. The bulk of the population are agricultural hands with annual engagements. A small percentage of the general labourers may have been affected by the severe weather, but there is no exceptional distress.

2. Nothing done.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF EYEMOUTH, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 2,686. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,979.

Letter from *John Donaldson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, owing to depressed state of fishing and labourers being out of work through severe weather.

2. For nearly a month past about 90 persons have been daily furnished with a good hot meal. Coals have also been given to all poor people. This has been done through voluntary agencies under the supervision of magistrates of the Burgh of Eyemouth. Relief ceased meantime, but funds ready to start again if required. Average daily number relieved during week ended 16th February, 90.

3. No.

4. We are quite able to deal with it meantime.

PARISH OF FOGO, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 420. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,220.

Letter from *Thomas Duncan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. With very few exceptions all the working men in this parish are either employed on the estates of the proprietors, or on the farms in the parish, and being yearly servants the severe weather does not affect either their work or wages.

2. (*a.*) Nothing necessary.
(*b.*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF FOULDEN, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 351. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,897.

Letter from *James Shed*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress whatever.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF GORDON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 843. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,196.

Letter from *James Leitch*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE only part of this parish in which distress is known is the village, where a portion of the inhabitants earn a living as daily labourers. Employment of this sort is scarcer in winter than during the other seasons of the

the year. The recent storm put a temporary stop to the out-door labour, but most of the villagers are now employed. There is no really great distress, as the people are well known to the shop-keepers, who credit them until they get employment.

2. A soup kitchen is open during the winter at the public school, where the children are fed at a cost to them of about a farthing per day. The farmers supply all vegetables free, and funds are raised in its aid by public entertainments. The funds of the parish church are used for relieving families in distress.

3. No.

4. I am not aware of any way in which employment could be found for the day labourer of the village during periods of stormy weather.

PARISH OF GREENLAW, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,110. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,953.

Letter from *John Williamson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, the exceptional distress is entirely due to the long continuance of severe weather.

2. (*a.*) A special meeting of Parochial Board was held in the Castle Inn on Saturday, 23rd current, and a committee was formed to collect funds, ascertain the destitute among the unemployed, and to give intimation to the inspector who is authorised to grant relief from the Special Fund.
(*b.*) No relief was given prior to 23rd February 1895.

3. No; but the persons relieved on Saturday afternoon, 23rd February, have been written down, and the relief given entered. The following persons have been relieved, viz.:—

I. { Alexander Frater, mason - } One child.
{ Mrs. Frater, wife - - }
II. { William Meiklejohn, general labourer.
{ Catherine Meiklejohn, wife.
III. { Annie Corcoran, out-door worker, and three illegitimate children.
{ Mary Corcoran, out-door worker.

4. If some kind of work were offered, such as breaking stones, splitting wood, or cleaning snow from the streets, the really destitute are more likely to be reached, because decent working men will hardly accept charity.

PARISH OF HUME, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 375. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,890.

Letter from *John Cuthbert*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF HUTTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 815. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,580.

Letter from *John Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS being an agricultural district, there is no exceptional distress in the district.

PARISH OF LADYKIRK, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 339. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,767.

Letter from *William Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress in this parish.

PARISH OF LANGTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 417. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,657.

Letter from *William Home Waite*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.
2. Nothing is being done by public authorities.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF LAUDER, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 1,499. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,176.

Letter from *George L. Broomfield*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district.
3. There is no such register kept.

PARISH OF LEGERWOOD, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 475. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,681.

Letter from *Robert Martin*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. SEVERE weather makes no difference in this parish, as it is purely agricultural.

PARISH OF LONGFORMACUS, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 278. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,901.

Letter from *John Browne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. TWO or three labouring men in our village have been thrown out of work for about eight weeks, but there are no complaints of "distress."
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF MERTOUN, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 622. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,238.

Letter from *James Dodds*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this parish. There is no village in the parish, and the district is purely agricultural.

PARISH OF MORDINGTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 324. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,832.

Letter from *Daniel Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF NENTHORN, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 391. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,557.

Letter from *William Winton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

PARISH OF POLWARTH, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 203. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,195.

Letter from *R. Johnstone*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DURING the past severe winter, I am happy to state that there has been no exceptional distress in the district.

2. No distress.

3. No unemployed register.

4. No distress.

PARISH OF SWINTON, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 847. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,026.

Letter from *Georye Tweedie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I HAVE not heard of cases of exceptional distress in the parish. Some men in Swinton village have lost work during the severe weather, but the worst seems past.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF WESTRUTHER, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 615. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,752.

Letter from *James T. Wilkie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing out of the ordinary (*See* No. 1 answer).

3. No.

PARISH OF WHITSOME, COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Population (1891), 573. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,828.

Letter from *Robert Lees*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. THERE is no "exceptional distress" in this parish. The population consists almost entirely of farm servants, who are hired from term to term, and whose wages are therefore "upstanding." Even female out-workers are presently receiving 9*s*. and 10*s*. per week.

PARISH OF CUMBRAE, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 1,801. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,116.

Letter from *James Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. Out-door labourers have, of course, not been earning wages since the severe weather began, but there is no real distress.

2. No applications for relief have been made to the public authorities.

3 No, none is needed.

PARISH OF KILBRIDE, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 2,331. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,906.

Letter from *John R. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the parish. There has been no application for parochial relief during the past two months.

PARISH OF KILMORY, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 2,519. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,000.

Letter from *John R. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this parish, so far as I have heard, and I have been over the whole of it recently.

PARISH OF KINGARTH, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 1,062. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,616.

Letter from *William L. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE great majority of bread-earners in the parish receive their stated pay independent of circumstances such as weather, being employed by Lord Bute or his tenant farmers. Some out-door workers have for a period of ten days and upwards been unemployed, but the few particular cases cannot be isolated. No exceptional distress can, on inquiry, be made out by Inspector as general.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF NORTH BUTE, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 1,385. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,439.

Letter from *Archibald Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish. There were a few idle men unable to follow their calling through the severe weather, but their families were all engaged at their usual work, so that they could assist when necessary.

2. The question was brought before the statutory meeting of the Parochial Board held on the 16th instant, but the Board were of opinion that there was no distress existing.

PARISH OF ROTHESAY, COUNTY OF BUTE.

Population (1891), 9,306. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £51,409.

Letter from *John Kidd*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, wholly due to the severity of the weather. Rothesay being practically a watering place, the labouring and lower classes make a moderate living in summer, but in winter there is nothing to do, and they are nearly as ill-off every winter as they are now. The tradesmen are generally more economical, and manage, with the help of their grocer, to tide over the winter without other aid.

2. A soup kitchen has been relieving the distress :

1895.					
February 10th, Sunday	85	tickets	193	supplies.	
„ 11th, Monday	100	„	227	„	
„ 12th, Tuesday	109	„	242	„	
„ 13th, Wednesday	121	„	269	„	
„ 14th, Thursday	127	„	285	„	
„ 15th, Friday	126	„	286	„	
„ 16th, Saturday	123	„	284	„	
	791		1,786		
Average	113	Average	255		

N.B.—Each supply consists of a thick slice of bread (½ lb.), and fully 1 pint of soup. When the butchers send beef to make soup, the beef, when cold, is sliced, and each party gets a slice with the bread.
Rabbits are cut in pieces and served in the soup.
About 220 tons of coal have been supplied in quantities from 6 to 12 cwt. each family
Voluntary agency.

3. No.

4. None.

4 None. The soup kitchen seems to be enough, as the demand is falling off now. The tradesmen or unemployed *proper* do not seem to have taken advantage of the soup as could be wished. If stone-breaking had been offered, perhaps they would have accepted that in perference.

PARISH OF BOWER, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 1,506. Gross Rental (1893–94), £8,269. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *W. Baikie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No. This being an agricultural district the severe weather is not felt. The few labourers who would suffer have been pretty regularly employed by the County Council clearing the snow from the roads.

PARISH OF CANISBAY, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 2,392. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,737.

Letter from *James Sutherland*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

PARISH OF DUNNET, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 1,488. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,324

Letter from *Alexander Hay*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. PERHAPS not in the sense meant in this form, but, as recently reported by Mr. Penney, "the proportion of paupers to population is regrettably high, but it does not appear that any receive relief who are not entitled thereto." This high proportion of paupers tends to raise the rates exceptionally high also.

3. Parochial Board books.

4. A Government Grant, something on the lines of that paid to Parochial Boards in January 1890, seems to be very needful in order to keep the poor rate from becoming unduly high.

PARISH OF HALKIRK, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 2,577. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,192.

Letter from *H. J. Mackay*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No actual distress in parish.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF LATHERON, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 5,875. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,936.

Letter from *Donald Gunn*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No evidence of such as yet.

2. (*a*) No necessity as yet.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. Not as yet.

PARISH OF OLRIG, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 1,837. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,481.

Letter from *James Gunn*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. OWING to the severity of the weather the workmen at the pavement quarries had to cease work for almost two months, and there was, undoubtedly, privation in the case of large families, but no application was made by anyone to the Parochial Board.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. A supply of meal and coals would have been very acceptable in many cases.

PARISH OF REAY, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 1,182. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,947.

Letter from *George MacLeod*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF THURSO, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 5,825. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,000.

Letter from *W. S. Auld*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress; but, owing to the severity of the weather for the last two months, a good many of the pavement workers and other out-door labourers have been idle.

2. A soup kitchen has been got up by voluntary subscription, where about 250 to 300 including dependants have been relieved daily.

3. No.

4. The weather now having moderated, it is expected that out-door work will be resumed immediately.

PARISH OF WATTEN, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 1,390. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,595.

Letter from *D. Alexander*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is almost no exceptional distress in this parish, on account of its being almost all agricultural and pastoral, so that the farm servants and shepherds are engaged by the year or half-year. The few who are dependent on a daily wage have got some employment at snow-cutting, &c.

PARISH OF WICK, COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

Population (1891), 13,105. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £37,038.

Letter from *D. M'Cormack*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, caused by the inclemency of the weather, the want of trade owing to the usual supply of fish having failed, and the want of proper carriage for forwarding the fish caught to the market.

2. Nothing exceptional, so far as I am aware.

3. No.

4. I am of opinion that those who have, should assist those who have not, and who are really deserving.

PARISH OF ALLOA, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 15,862. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £64,495.

Letter from *Thomas Bowie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish further than occasioned by the severe weather.

2. The Burgh Council last week offered employment at stone-breaking at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and a warm dinner. Besides a soup kitchen, carried on by voluntary agency, a gentleman gave 100*l.* to be distributed among those idle on account of the weather. The number at stone-breaking last week averaged 30, and the number at work to-day is 22. About 200 children attend the soup kitchen daily, and about 100 adults receive a supply to take home. The special donation has been distributed among 150 families. A liberal supply of coals was distributed among the poor, as is generally the case, in the beginning of the winter through various agencies.

3. There is no unemployed register kept.

4. It is believed that the agencies at work are meeting any prevalent distress in the parish. The public works are all fairly well employed.

PARISH OF ALVA, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 6,366. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,049.

Letter from *William Drysdale*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2 Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF CLACKMANNAN, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 2,996, Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,763.

Letter from *William Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 29th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish at present, this being a mining district and the miners fully employed ; the few labourers there are being mostly employed by the Coal Company.

PARISH OF DOLLAR, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 2,221. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,982.

Letter from *James Low*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. The past two months of continuous and intense frost threw two or three of the labouring class idle, but the number of men thus thrown idle is small ; and, if the fresh weather set in, out-door work will soon be resumed.

2. The Police Commissioners of the burgh of Dollar, acting as the local authority, met together on 22nd February current, and that municipal body have made provision of stone-breaking at 2*s.* 6*d.* per cubic yard for the few unemployed in the district. One man has set to work, but it is questionable if any more will avail themselves of the provision of stone-breaking. The wants of the few unemployed have been, and are being, relieved by private charities.

PARISH OF TILLICOULTRY, COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN.

Population (1891), 5,695. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,418.

Letter from *Jas. R. Hendry*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF ARROCHAR, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 1,457. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,558.

Letter from *James Carmichael*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish. I have heard of none, and I have had no applications.

4. None, as there is no distress.

PARISH OF BONHILL, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 14,379. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £45,099.

Letter from *A. H. Lindsay*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. SINCE beginning of January the distress has been exceptional among outdoor workers, owing to the severity of the weather.

2. Nothing by public authorities, but a number of local gentlemen met in this office on 15th February and organised a distress fund, and a ready response was given to their appeal for subscriptions. I give number relieved daily from 16th February to date :—

16th February - - 24.	20th February - - 21.	23rd February - - 20.
18th „ - - 10.	21st „ - - 10.	25th „ - - - 8.
19th „ - - 14.	22nd „ - - 19.	

3. No.

4. This is the first occasion during my 20 years of office in the parish it has been found necessary to institute a relief of distress fund. I think such periods of exceptional distress can easily be met by the benevolence of the charitable. At present there is every prospect of having a oonsiderable balance left in hand for future purposes.

PARISH OF CARDROSS, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 10,550. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £40,883.

Letter from *William S. Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. WITHIN Burgh of Dumbarton.—Yes, caused by severe weather.
Within Renton District Landward.—Yes, caused by severe weather.
Within Cardross District Landward.—No exceptional distress.

2. Within Burgh of Dumbarton.—The Benevolent Society, kept up by voluntary contributions, are relieving unemployed ; average number for week mentioned, 29 persons.
Within Renton District Landward. — Nothing by public authorities. Local employers of labour, Messrs. Stirling and Sons, and Dorcas Society, kept up by voluntary contributions, are relieving more freely than usual such cases of distress amongst the unemployed as are reported.
Within Cardross District Landward.—No exceptional distress to relieve in this district.

3. In all above districts no register is being kept.

4. If there is to be any legislation with the view of giving relief to able-bodied unemployed, this ought only to be done under very stringent safeguards, so as not to encourage the idle and vicious. I consider that the relief of such cases will be better left in the hands of private charity.

PARISH OF CUMBERWAULD, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 4,283. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,391.

Letter from *John Longwill*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

PARISH OF DUMBARTON, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 14,065. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £48,005.

Letter from *James MacDonald*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, temporary distress owing to the severity of the weather. A fortnight ago all the outside workers in the shipyards had to give up work, owing to the intensity of the frost, but the most of them have now resumed work.

A number of the thriftless workmen thus thrown idle became destitute, but were attended to and assisted by the Benevolent Society.

2. The Town Council did nothing, but gave a grant of 10*l.* to the Benevolent Society to meet distress. The society is kept up by voluntary contributions, and was instituted to assist workmen temporarily out of employment. The society has relieved all needful cases up to date, and has funds to do so for a couple of months yet.

Unemployed at work	- - - - - - - - -	27
„	receiving cash grants or goods - - - - -	9
„	men, women, and children receiving dinners -	70
		106

Over and above this, ladies supplied 104 children with boots and stockings, and other clothing where necessary, and six individuals got blankets; also Dorcas Society gave clothing to the value of about 50*l.*, and gentlemen gave coals (not less than 3 cwt.) to 155 individuals in this portion of the burgh, and to 90 in Cardross portion.

3. No.

4. There should be no distress here but for drink, and the only remedy I see to cure it in future is to abolish retail whisky shops and encourage emigration.

(This is a cutting from our local paper, which speaks for itself.)

The Frozen Poor of Dumbarton.—Appeal for Funds.

The past and present severe weather has been telling keenly on the poor of the town, and the members of the Benevolent Society have been kept busy. During the past two weeks the applications for relief have been constant and numerous. Even should the weather improve there will be much suffering, because of the loss through want of work, and the consequent leeway that must be made up, and the enfeebling influence of the destitution. The secretary and treasurer of the Benevolent Society annex a statement of the society's present financial statement, from which it will be seen that additional funds will be required before long. Donations may be sent to either of these gentlemen.

Benevolent Society.

Income.

1894:			£	s.	d.
November	7.— To	Peter Denny, Esq., LL.D. - - - - - - - - - -	20	–	–
„	19.— „	Walter Brock, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - -	15	–	–
„	19.— „	John M. Denny, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	19.— „	Archibald Denny, Esq. - - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	19.— „	John Ward, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	22.— „	James Denny, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - -	10	–	–
„	22.— „	Peter Denny, Jun., Esq. - - - - - - - - - -	10	–	–
„	23.— „	John M'Ausland, Esq. - - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	23.— „	R. B. Pope, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	24.— „	R. M'Millan, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - -	10	–	–
„	26.— „	Lord Overtoun - - - - - - - - - - -	20	–	–
„	29.— „	Lady Samuelson - - - - - - - - - - -	10	–	–
December	1.— „	Messrs. Paterson & Buchanan - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	18.— „	Employees, Messrs. Hardie & Gordon - - - - - - - -	4	–	–
„	29.— „	Messrs. A. M'Millan & Son, Limited, proportion of workmen's subscription	3	10	–
1895:					
January	2.— „	Workmen, Leven Shipyard, quarterly subscription - - - -	2	4	4
February	4.— „	Dalreoch Church Congregation, collection taken on behalf of the society -	1	4	10
„	11.— „	Workmen, Leven Shipyard, quarterly subscription - - - -	2	17	3
„	14.— „	James O'Kane, Esq., per Chief Constable Henderson - - - -	1	1	–
„	14.— „	Mrs. Kerr, Clydeshore - - - - - - - - - -	2	2	–
„	15.— „	Town Council - - - - - - - - - - -	10	–	–
„	15.— „	Dumbarton Co-operative Society - - - - - - - -	10	–	–
„	15.— „	George Miller, Esq., per Chief Constable Henderson - - -	12	6	
„	15.— „	Professor Biles, per Mr. A. Denny (to supply dinners to children) -	1	–	–
„	15.— „	Mrs. Garvie, Allanfield (to supply dinners to children) - - -	1	–	–
„	15.— „	James M'Lean, Esq., Combination Poorhouse - - - - -	1	–	–
„	15.— „	"A Dumbarton Woman," per Colonel Denny - - - - - -	10	–	–
„	16.— „	Alexander Gillespie, Esq. - - - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
„	16.— „	William Craig, Esq. (for dinners to children) - - - - -	1	–	–
„	18.— „	Alexander Roberts, Esq. (for soup kitchen) - - - - - -	1	–	–
„	18.— „	Dumbarton Parish Church Sabbath School, per Mr. Cowden - -	2	10	–
			£185	1	11

Expenditure.

1895.—By Wages to unemployed - - - - - - - - - - - -		41	8	–
„ Cash payments - - - - - - - - - - - -		77	2	–
	£118	10	–	

Note.—This is the sum spent up to date, exclusive of grocery goods and dinners, the accounts for which are not yet rendered, but must be considerable.

19th February 1895. *James MacDonald*, Church Street, Treasurer.
William Thompson, "Herald" Office, Secretary.

Parish of Kilmaronock, County of Dumbarton.

Population (1891), 900. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,722.

Letter from *Robert M'Kinlay*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

4. There is no distress in this parish.

PARISH OF NEW KILPATRICK, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 8,309. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £79,739.

Letter from *Hugh Carmichael*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Extra donations in coal have been given this winter, in which the small number of unemployed have shared.

3. No register.

4. None.

PARISH OF OLD KILPATRICK, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 17,775. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £69,560.

Letter from *William Fraser Mackenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this parish. A few of the agricultural labourers thrown idle on account of the severity of the frost, and some of the old men have become paupers on account of the severity of the weather. The work in the Shipbuilding Yard at Clydebank is in a backward state, on account principally of the recent coal strike, and a good many tradesmen are idle.

2. Nothing done up to the above-mentioned date.

3. No register, this year, kept.

4. The assessments in the parish are all better paid this year, and I am informed that there has been an increase of the depositors in the Savings Banks.

PARISH OF KIRKINTILLOCH, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 12,427. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £48,551.

Letter from *Robert Davie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Almost entirely due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Being relieved by voluntary agencies, the relief being given in provisions by committee appointed.
(*b*) Relieved by Committee for Relief of Distress. Average per day 20.
Relieved by Roman Catholic Temperance Society „ „ 9.

3. No; but a register is kept of all parties relieved, and inquiries made in each case, as to whether employed or not, before relief is given.

4. No. I am a member of the Committee for Relief of Distress, and I consider the funds are well managed, and relief properly administered. The Catholics have a committee of their own in connection with Temperance Society above named.

PARISH OF LUSS, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 633. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,780.

Letter from *Andrew Forsyth*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF ROSNEATH, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 2,064. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,538.

Letter from *James Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE, except what is due to the severity of the weather.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No; as soon as the frost breaks up every one will be working.

PARISH OF ROW, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.

Population (1891), 11,172. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £71,832.

Letter from *Alexander Kinniburgh*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. To severe weather. Did not affect Parochial Board. Town's Commissioners supplied the unemployed. See their report. No distress known in Landward part of parish.

2. See Town's Commissioners' Report.

3. See Town's Commissioners' Report.

4. None.

PARISH OF ANNAN, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 5,941. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,117.

Letter from *John Laurie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES. Due entirely to the severe weather. Quarrymen and labourers being most affected, and a few fishermen.

2. (*a*) The Police Commissioners gave employment to about 30 men for four days during the week referred to, to clear the streets of snow; 2*s.* 6*d.* a day was allowed each man. Voluntary agencies provided soup daily, and also supplied coals, at a cost of about 2*l.* 10*s.* daily (for both).
(*b*) One hundred and seven, of which 20 were on the roll of registered poor.

3. No.

4. No. I think, however, that not a few of the above number might save a part of their earnings during the summer months, instead of spending them in intoxicating liquors. A few of the men engaged by the Commissioners disposed of their wages in this way.

PARISH OF APPLEGARTH, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 858. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,240.

Letter from *James Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE have been a few men out of employ since end of December, but there is no exceptional distress or any call for relief.

2. There has been relief given by voluntary agencies, but nothing further than what has been required in former years.

3. No.

4. No; but if relief is required it will be fully met by the above agencies.

PARISH OF CARLAVEROCK, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 921. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,332.

Letter from *Alexander McWilliam*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOT aware of any exceptional distress.

2. No voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. If necessary, it could only be done by voluntary agency, unless restrictions against relief of the able-bodied from the Parochial Board were suspended.

PARISH OF CANONBIE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 2,476. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,655.

Letter from *Rowland Reed*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. Forty-five people unemployed owing to the severe weather, chiefly drainers and quarrymen, and a few masons and farm labourers.

2. (*a*) Through

2. (*a*) Through voluntary agencies 51*l.* 15*s.* has been collected to relieve the distress, and the Parochial Board has received a gift of 35 tons of coal for division amongst the registered poor and unemployed.
(*b*) Nothing was done to meet the distress until the 18th day of February.

3. No.

4. It is believed that the subscriptions now received will be sufficient to meet the distress in this district.

PARISH OF CLOSEBURN, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,333. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,588.

Letter from *George McFarlan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Any men idle from the severe weather could get work, if willing, at shovelling the snow off the roads.

2. (*a*) Nothing required as yet.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

PARISH OF CUMMERTREES, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES

Population (1891), 1,105. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,990.

Letter from *A. Sinclair Nicol*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish. A number of agricultural labourers are in straitened circumstances from want of employment due to the severity of the weather.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF DALTON, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 563. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,105.

Letter from *Arch. Galbraith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF DORNOCK, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 831. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,101.

Letter from *Irving Latimer*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish but what is due to the severe weather ; as soon as the thaw sets in, the idle will have plenty of work.

2. There is nothing being done by public authorities. Those who needed it have been relieved partly by the Kirk Session, and by private people giving coals, meal, groceries, &c.

3. No.

PARISH OF DRYFESDALE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 3,233. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,200.

Letter from *James Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. What little distress there is, is confined to the police burgh of Lockerbie, and is due entirely to the severe weather, which has prevented masons, plasterers, and labourers from working. Joiners and plumbers are busy.

2. Some of the unemployed have been employed clearing the snow from the roads at about 2*s*. 8*d*. per day. A voluntary subscription has been raised (over which the magistrates and ministers of Lockerbie have formed themselves into a committee) which supplies soup daily to the unemployed, and the worst cases now receive 5*s*. worth of groceries per week, as from the 18th inst. Coals are also supplied.

3. No. A list is being kept of those supplied with soup, &c., but it is not felt necessary to keep a regular register.

4. No. The unemployed cannot be said to be ill-off, as the response of the public to the temporary relief fund has been very liberal; and as soon as a thaw sets in, there is plenty of work for all who are inclined for it.

PARISH OF DUMFRIES, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 17,878. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £73,840.

Letter from *Miles McInnes*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, but only so far as out-door labourers are thrown out of employment by the severity of the weather. There is no want of work in factories.

2. The Burgh Commissioners, during this storm, have given work to 60 or 70 of the unemployed daily, to clean the streets, &c. The "Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor" also employ a large number of men and women cutting firewood; besides, they supply groceries and coals to all the unemployed. Then the soup kitchen supplies a warm dinner to many hundreds daily.

3. There does not appear to be any proper register kept.

4. No; I think any distress caused by the severity of the weather is amply met here by voluntary effort. In fact, there are a number of men and women who never work, and somehow live, and they are better provided just now than in summer when there is less charity.

PARISH OF DUNSCORE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,260. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,762.

Letter from *James Laurie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress for want of employment. The parish is agricultural, and those dependent on out-door work seem to save as much in summer, or get credit, to tide them over the winter. The severe weather does not seem, meantime, to have made much difference.

2. The Parochial Board have lately admitted two or three cases where destitution seemed more evident than disability. The usual distribution has been made by the Kirk Session of over 40 carts of coals and tickets for goods, but no new or special agency has been started this winter.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF DURRISDEER, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,076. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,392.

Letter from *Robert Shields*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. None required.

3. None.

4. None required.

PARISH OF ESKDALEMUIR, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 488. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £8,563.

Letter from *D. Mackintosh*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895

1. No.

PARISH OF EWES, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 299. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,999.

Letter from *Joseph C. Lyall*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.
2. Nothing needed.
3. No.

PARISH OF GLENCAIRN, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,647. Assessable Rental (1893–94). £15,393.

Letter from *Adam Semple*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress, only the severe weather.
2. (*a*) By voluntary agency, 60 tons of coal have been distributed, giving 14 cwt. to 84 persons or families.
   80 quarts of soup daily given from the soup kitchen.
   180 stones of meal have been distributed.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF GRAITNEY, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,141. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,900.

Letter from *T. H. McTaggart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district.
2. As there is no exceptional distress in this district nothing is being done.
3. No register.
4. No.

PARISH OF HALF-MORTON, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 484. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,534.

Letter from *John Murphy*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Any distress existing has been relieved privately.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF HODDOM, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,533. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,660.

Letter from *Robert Park*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, and nine-tenths of it is owing to the severe weather, the remainder to local circumstances.
2. Nothing by public authorities ; something by voluntary agencies. Some forty have received rations of money, and soup with bread.
3. No register maintained.
4. Prohibit the sale of drink.

PARISH OF HOLYWOOD, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,011. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,318.

Letter from *William Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE. No case of destitution has come under my notice.

2. Nothing. No cause for any agencies to meet any distress.

3. No. Not thought to be necessary, as the poor are considered fairly well off.

4. The deserving poor are periodically relieved by a small sum in bank, and frequent charitable donations of coal, &c.

PARISH OF HUTTON, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 726. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,921.

Letter from *James Hay*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE whatever.

2. Nothing required.

PARISH OF JOHNSTONE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 927. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,909.

Letter from *John Jardine*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish, as all the labouring men in it work on the estate (with the exception of two or three quarrymen), and they have all been working up to about a fortnight ago, and there has been a good deal distributed among them from Curling Spiels and other sources.

PARISH OF KEIR, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 639. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,218.

Letter from *James Wilkie Moir*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish.

2. Nothing requires to be done.

3. No register maintained.

4. No suggestions.

PARISH OF KIRKCONNEL, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,087. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,160.

Letter from *William Kirkland*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress. Most of the working people in the parish are employed at the colliery, and have been getting constant employment during the recent severe weather. During the recent "strike," our men took no part in it, worked all the time, and consequently were quite comfortable. At the present time there is no single case of starvation or want known to me needing inquiry in this parish.

2. (*a*) Nothing. Such steps not being required.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None meantime. If any case of need arises it will be inquired into at once, and help given.

PARISH OF KIRKMAHOE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,159. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,248.

Letter from *James Dinwiddie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOTWITHSTANDING the protracted storm no peculiar distress in the parish.

2. Nothing done by public authorities. The Kirk Session distributed a small sum in coal, and several small sums won at curling likewise distributed in the shape of coal, meal, and tea.

3. None kept.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 808. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8.923.

Letter from *John Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK FLEMING, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,248. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,607.

Letter from *John B. Leslie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. A FEW day labourers out of employment owing to the long-continued frost; only one found it necessary to apply for relief, which was given.

2. None.

3. No.

4. There is plenty of employment for the population of the parish when the frost goes; it being purely an agricultural district: and when capital can be remuneratively employed, there will always be plenty of work for the working man who is willing to work.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK JUXTA, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 976. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,563.

Letter from *James Ballantyne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF LANGHOLM, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 3,970. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,212.

Letter from *Henry Erskine*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No very exceptional distress in this parish. Some labourers have been out of work on account of severe weather.

2. A voluntary concert was held, which realised over 40*l.*, which has relieved the labouring class. Committee had a difficulty in distributing the money, and have still about 12*l.* in hand. They gave them about 15*s.* a case (no daily allowance).

3. No register kept.

4. Some of those offered relief stated they would rather borrow than accept of assistance from concert fund.

PARISH OF LOCHMABEN, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 2,522. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,418.

Letter from *William Clarke*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. There are some in straitened circumstances owing to the severe weather, but the credit the most of them can obtain has prevented any acute form of distress—of course, seriously handicapping them for the future. Most have been out of work for seven weeks now.

2. (1) Public authorities—In Burgh: Police Commission have to-day (25th inst.) offered work at stonebreaking at 1*s.* 6*d.* per day; four men have turned out.
(2) Voluntary agencies—In the Burgh: Two soup kitchens open for week referred to—one for five days, relieving 36 daily; other three days, relieving 105 daily (the last one open daily now, relieving 160 daily.) Relief committee, formed on 18th inst., has distributed about 5*s.* worth (to each) in coals and goods to about 90 individuals, 66 of these being heads of families; say 230 relieved thereby. Landward—Road authorities cutting snow—a week's work to, say, 30 men. Distribution of coals and goods, in parish—say 20*l.*—chiefly amongst aged and infirm, besides.

3. No.

4. Find work, at fair remuneration, for all able-bodied applicants (say at stonebreaking, &c.). No payment to such, except for work performed. Reserve charities to aged and infirm. But for drink and improvidence there would not be half a-dozen families in this parish to-day in need of assistance in any form. In relieving the need, do not foster the cause of it.

PARISH OF MIDDLEBIE, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,806. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,119.

Letter from *Thomas Richardson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress, but what is due to the long-continued severe weather.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities, but a good deal has been done in the shape of coals, bread, and meal, by voluntary aid, from private contributions, curling clubs, and the Kirk Session of the parish.

3. No.

4. I cannot suggest anything in the meantime unless complaints are made by those at present idle through stress of weather, and who would all again be employed as soon as a change of weather comes round.

PARISH OF MOFFAT, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 2,977. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £29,432.

Letter from *James Grieve*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been no exceptional distress in the district further than among the usual persons who cannot work owing to the severe weather.

2. Nothing has been done by the public authorities to meet any distress occasioned by the severe weather, as any distress that may have been has been fully met from private sources.

3. No register has been kept.

4. There being no public works in the district, the only persons who suffer on account of the severe weather are the labouring classes and tradesmen who work out of doors; and should the severe weather continue, and any distress occur, I have no doubt it will be met by voluntary or private agencies.

PARISH OF MORTON, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,855. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,519.

Letter from *Alexander Hewison*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOT to my knowledge, except with a few improvident quarrymen.

2. The Curling Society has provided by spiel coals, collected a considerable sum by subscriptions and proceeds of a lecture, and divided as they thought proper among the unemployed above named, &c.

3. Not that I am aware of.

4. None. I do not know that there are half-a-dozen labourers in the parish who are not in the continuous employment of the sole proprietor, who pays them regular wages with little dependence on weather.

PARISH OF MOUSWALD, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 500. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,243.

Letter from *James Stafford*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. NO.

3. No.

PARISH OF PENPONT, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 1,063. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,465.

Letter from *William Lawson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. ACTUAL distress is not apparent in this district; that considerable pinching exists is undoubted, arising solely from the severity of the weather, rendering out-door work impossible. Private means or credit have prevented any actual distress showing itself.

2. Public authorities have not taken any action. A soup kitchen is open, and 50 quarts of soup distributed daily, and other distributions have been made of bread, &c. through private donations.

3. No unemployed register kept.

4. No.

PARISH OF RUTHWELL, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 858. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,660.

Letter from *Alexander L. Davidson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish.

2. No special efforts have been required.

3. No register has been found necessary.

PARISH OF ST. MUNGO, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 603. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,866.

Letter from *John Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress.

PARISH OF SANQUHAR, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 2,910. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £15,967.

Letter from *William Brown*, Assistant Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895

1. ONLY slight. Severe weather has stopped brickworks, &c.

2. Voluntary donations have been sufficient to amply relieve all distress.

3. No.

4. None required.

PARISH OF TINWALD, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 902. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,948

Letter from *William Crockett*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF TORTHORWALD, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 921. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,361.

Letter from *John Hamilton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOTHING very exceptional; a few able-bodied men out of employment.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities; quantities of coal have been distributed to needful poor.

3. No.

4. A discretional power might be given to the Board to relieve able-bodied men out of work.

PARISH OF TUNDERGARTH, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 439. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,981.

Letter from *William Kerr*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No actual destitution. Any hardship caused by the severe weather has been relieved by work obtained in clearing the roads of snow, and the woods of fallen timber. Timely aid was also supplied by the gift of a cartload of coals from Sir R. Jardine, Bart., to each necessitous case in the parish.

3. No.

4. The present situation calls for no special effort.

PARISH OF TYNRON, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 359. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,112.

Letter from *John Laurie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. There is none.

PARISH OF WAMPHRAY, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 458. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,612.

Letter from *George Rae*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO. Nearly all the agricultural labourers in this parish are engaged by the year.

2. Nothing, except the principal proprietor sent a quantity of coals to be distributed among the widows and old people in the parish.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF WESTERKIRK, COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Population (1891), 454. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,825.

Letter from *William S. Irving*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress, so far as known, in this parish. (Population limited; very few not in regular employment.)

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF BORTHWICK, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 3,102. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,179.

Letter from *Robert Stoddart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is very little exceptional distress in this district. What is is owing to the severe weather.

2. Mr. Dundas, of Arniston, has asked me to relieve at his cost any cases which may arise. Another gentleman (Mr. Pendreigh, of Catcune Mill) offers to give coal.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF MID CALDER, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 3,126. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,087.

Letter from *Samuel Hislop*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. I HAVE made inquiries at oil works where about 1,000 men are employed, and they state that there is no exceptional distress there; the works being in full going order, work is readily obtained there. No exceptional distress in the other parts of Mid Calder parish.

2. None required in Mid Calder parish.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF WEST CALDER, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 8,456. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £38,056.

Letter from *William Millar*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. About 60 tons of coal have been distributed amongst deserving families gratuitously supplied by gentlemen connected with the parish.

PARISH OF CARRINGTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 563. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,983.

Letter from *Robert B. Brunton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No, because the bulk of the people in the parish belong to the agricultural or mining class and are all working.

2. Nothing is being done as there is no distress.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF COCKPEN, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,495. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,922.

Letter from *John Muir*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THE industries of this parish are all fully employed, but owing to the severity of the weather, masons and out-door labourers have been unemployed for seven or eight weeks.

2. The Police Commissioners have raised money by subscription, and are relieving the necessitous poor.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF COLINTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,549. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £29,087.

Letter from *Andrew Shankie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. A CONSIDERABLE number of persons whose labour depends on weather have been idle for weeks, but any distress that exists in this district is solely due to the severe weather.

Previous to Christmas 1894, every person in this parish, able and willing to work, was fully employed; when milder weather returns there is every prospect of abundance of work in this locality.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities; the benevolence of private individuals has done much to alleviate distress in the families of those who have been thrown idle by the severe weather; but I have no means of ascertaining the extent of the relief given or the number relieved.

3. No unemployed register is maintained in this district.

4. No suggestions.

PARISH OF CORSTORPHINE, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 2,329. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,821.

Letter from *James E. Cowan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No cases of exceptional distress have come under my notice. The protracted frost has caused some destitution, but this appears to have been met by the increased liberality of charitable people in the district.

2. Nothing done, except by way of private charity.

3. No.

4. I do not think that anything need be done in this parish.

PARISH OF CRAMOND, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 3,077. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £28,966.

Letter from *J. G. Tait*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF CRANSTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 859. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,982.

Letter from *Robert Hanton*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district. The chief industries in this parish are agriculture and mining, and in these industries nothing has occurred to call for exceptional treatment. The weather has not affected their wages in the least.

2. Nothing has been done by any public authority as no application for relief has been made on the ground of want of employment on account of the severity of the weather.

3. No register needed.

4. No.

PARISH OF CRICHTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 946. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,903.

Letter from *Geo. Noble*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I DO not think there is any exceptional distress in the district. The parish is almost all agricultural; very few out of employment.

2. At the beginning of winter I am entrusted with a few pounds to distribute amongst the poor. I have not yet spent all, and cannot see any special reason for doing so.

PARISH OF CURRIE, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 2,580. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £23,784.

Letter from *Malcolm W. Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. ALLEGED to be among quarrymen and out-door labourers, due to the severity of the weather. So far as I am officially concerned, I have only had one application made to me for relief, that of a female out-door worker, who has been out of work owing to the severe weather.

2. Among the working class themselves they organised a committee who canvassed for subscriptions from the better off throughout the parish, collecting in all about 14*l*., which they distributed to 40 men, giving 8*s*. each to 15 married men and 5*s*. each to 25 single men. The committee declined to furnish me with the names to whom assistance was given. In one instance, I learn, they gave 18*s*. of the money to a man and two grown-up sons who live in family with him, and whose joint income as quarrymen when employed amounted to 4*l*. a week. In addition to this, a great amount of coal has been distributed as private charity to the needy.

3. No.

4. As the parochial boards are deterred from granting assistance from the poor rate to able-bodied men out of employment, the new Parish Council should have authority to organise and control voluntary efforts to assist those in destitution at periods, when from severe weather or other causes exceptional distress prevails.

PARISH OF DALKEITH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 7,704. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £28,200.

Letter from *Walter J. Jones*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been a good deal of distress among the working class of late, due to the severity of the weather, but so far as I can learn this is now much mitigated.

2. Under the auspices of the public authorities, coal has twice been distributed to those in distress; on the last occasion 350 supplies having been given, the funds for which were raised by public subscription. There have been soup kitchens open three times a week, which I understand it has been proposed to open daily, and free dinners daily to poor children. These latter formerly paid one halfpenny a meal, but this winter the dinners have been free.

3. No.

4. In my opinion the distress has been fairly met by the means taken for its relief as mentioned above, and with a change of weather for the better, there will be no need for any continuance of relief.

PARISH OF DUDDINGSTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 9,643. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £52,209.

Letter from *Elias Suding*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE distress in this district is almost entirely among the labouring classes, and is due to the severe weather. I would not say that the distress is exceptional, but I am sorry to say that the "cry for relief" is.

2. The magistrates opened a subscription list, which was heartily responded to, out of which funds they relieved about 50 people. A private gentleman supplied 5 cwt. of coals to 93 people, and a soup kitchen has been opened by the Destitute and Sick Society.

3. No.

4. I would suggest that the magistrates should make preparations at the beginning of every winter to give employment to those who may be thrown out of employment by severe weather; and that every application be thoroughly investigated, as I have reason to believe that many of those calling themselves unemployed would not work if they got an opportunity.

PARISH OF EDINBURGH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 58,563. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £630,362.

Letter from *G. Greig*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THE severe weather has occasioned a considerable amount of distress in the parish, but there have been only six applications to me in excess of those for last year, although there are 21 more in the poorhouse at 16th instant than last year at the same time. This arises from men remaining longer in the house in consequence of the severe weather.

2. The Town Council have for about the last three weeks been employing a large number of men at stone-breaking and sweeping the streets, and have also been distributing coal *gratis*. They are sending in a return. The Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor have employed or relieved a considerable number. The committee of the soup kitchen in Fountain Close have distributed daily about 1,000 dinner rations, and the Destitute Sick Society supplied the wants of 60 families daily.

3. I understand the Town Council have a register in which the names of all who allege they are unemployed is entered, prior to inquiry being made as to their cases; but they are reporting.

4. The present distress appears to be fairly well met by the Town Council and the charitable associations I have named, and other smaller ones; and I have nothing further to suggest.

PARISH OF FALA AND SOUTRA, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 285. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,711.

Letter from *Geo. Noble*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE, so far as I know. The parish is purely agricultural, and all are employed.

3. No.

4. No suggestions necessary.

PARISH OF GLENCORSE, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,451. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,643.

Letter from *John Alexander*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. NONE

PARISH OF HERIOT, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 443. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,481.

Letter from *William Weir*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2 Nothing is needed.

3 No.

4. No.

PARISH OF INVERESK, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 11,509. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £48,862.

Letter from *Robert Cook*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I DO not think the distress is very exceptional. The principal industries of this parish are collieries, paper mill, net factory, two oil mills, two breweries, fishing, and farming. A spell of frosty weather does not affect the workers' incomes in any of the branches. The only class who have at all suffered are a few general labourers and caddies.

2. The Town Council have employed 79 persons for about eight days, commencing on the 15th instant, paying them 2*s.* a day. Out of the 79, two were masons, a good many loafers, the remainder being labourers and caddies. A soup kitchen is being maintained by public subscription, which is in use every year. Ninety-three tons of coals have been distributed amongst the poor of the parish. I saw a pretty large list of names for coal distribution, not one being even a general labourer, most of them widows and old people, a good many of whom are on the list of registered poor. The caddies receive free dinners daily from the clubs and presents of tobacco from a publican.

3. No regular register of unemployed maintained. To-day most of them are back to their regular work. The work for unemployed suspended, and will, in all probability, be discontinued.

4. None; any little destitution being met by the agencies already mentioned. I may say that I have been collector of poor and school rates for upwards of 20 years, and never had a more successful year's collection than the present. The town treasurer informs me that his collection for police rates has also been successful. Applications for parish relief have not been more than usual. A fund exists here for the special benefit of tramps, administered by the police, which brings a great many idle and worthless characters about the place.

PARISH OF KIRKNEWTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891) 3,352. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,362.

Letter from *William Dick*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been no exceptional distress in this district. A few quarrymen were idle for about three weeks, and female field workers have been mostly idle owing to the severe weather. Quarrymen are again working, and field workers have been employed indoors two or three days per week.

2. Public authorities are doing nothing. The parish minister and the kirk session, from monies given to them by private parties, are attending to the few unemployed cases. The totals will not exceed 20 cases in all.

3. No.

4. No. Hitherto voluntary effort has been sufficient for all purposes.

PARISH OF LASSWADE, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 10,455. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £50,263.

Letter from *Peter Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE exceptional distress is very limited, it exists among masons, slaters, &c., and is entirely owing to the severity of the weather.

2. Charitable people by giving gifts of coal have greatly mitigated the distress.

3. No.

4. None; as the weather has improved the external distress will speedily disappear.

PARISH OF NORTH LEITH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 21,747. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £102,683.

Letter from *James Miles*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is, and has been lately, a good deal of destitution in this district, chiefly among the very poorest class, owing principally to the long-continued severe weather.

2. The town council have voted 100*l.* to the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, whose work extends into this parish. They have also voted 10*l.* to assist the North Leith Soup Kitchen, which has recently been established, and is being supported by voluntary contributions. The daily average number of persons (including children) relieved for week ending 26th instant has been 386. This includes a number of cases from neighbouring parishes. The soup kitchen committee have considerable funds at their disposal.

3. The Association above referred to keeps a register, and they do all they can to procure work for those who apply. The Association assists those out of work with provisions and coals.

4. I am of opinion that what is being done in this parish is sufficient in present circumstances, and that with a return of mild weather the present exceptional state of matters will pass away.

PARISH OF SOUTH LEITH, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 56,874. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £258,576.

Letter from *A. C. Simpson*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress has been due to the severity of the weather.

2. By voluntary agency a soup kitchen has been put in operation in the parish, and the Leith Town Council, as a public authority, contributed a donation of 100*l.* towards the expenditure required for carrying on the soup kitchen, but nothing further has been done by any public authority. The soup kitchen, however, is an annual event in the winter season. By voluntary agency employment has been made obtainable in the docks for the unemployed, and about 20 have been employed in that way, but several who got orders for the work never presented themselves to avail themselves of it. The average daily number taking advantage of the soup kitchen is 250, but no inquiry as to the circumstances of these participants is made.

3. No register is kept.

4. In view of the general state of matters, and of the severity of the weather having abated, no suggestion, in the direction referred to, appears necessary.

PARISH OF LIBERTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 8,266. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £76,109.

Letter from *James Fraser*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOT so far as I am aware, or have been able to ascertain from inquiry in different quarters, although a good many persons, whose work is outside, have been idle owing to the severe weather.

2. Coal is distributed annually by the Kirk Session and landed proprietors, assisted by donations from other persons. At Gilmerton, one of the villages, there has been a soup kitchen for nearly three months, which supplied about 40 families twice a week. It has now stopped, however. One pound of tea and four pounds of sugar were recently given to about 70 persons by Liberton Kirk Session and Liberton Benevolent Association jointly.

3. No.

4. The population being largely mining, and not adversely affected by the severe weather, there is no exceptional distress, and if the fresh weather continues most of the persons at present idle will be able to obtain work.

PARISH OF NEWBATTLE, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 3,650. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,784.

Letter from *Walter J. Jones*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The population being mainly engaged in mining operations, there is at present no distress, so far as known to me.

PARISH OF NEWTON, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,180. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,938.

Letter from *Chas. B. Hutchison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF PENICUIK, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,914. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,908.

Letter from *John Alexander*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. None.

PARISH OF RATHO, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,839. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,532.

Letter from *David Clark*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district owing to the severity of the weather. Some are unemployed, whose wants have been attended to by subscriptions collected in the village and parish.

2. There is no case of distress or destitution, and those who have been relieved are quarrymen out of work.

3. No.

4. Everything is being done to supply the wants of the unemployed, and any relief given is in provisions and coals. No money is given.

PARISH OF ST. CUTHBERT'S COMBINATION, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 195,471. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,234,301.

Letter from *And. Ferrier*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE at present appears to be a number of the labouring non-pauper class out of employment, owing to the recent severe weather.

2. Town Council have provided stonebreaking and cleaning the streets. Stonebreaking, daily average for three days prior to 16th instant, 209 ; cleaning streets, daily average for three days prior to 14th instant, 35. There is also a fund in the hands of the Lord Provost for supplying coals to the poor, but none had been distributed prior to the 16th instant. Voluntary agencies, daily average relieved during week to 16th instant: Destitute Sick Society, 63 ; St. Cuthbert's Soup Kitchen, 223 ; Simon-square Soup Kitchen, 367 ; Northern District Soup Kitchen, 100 ; Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 227.

3. Not known.

4. The Town Council and the voluntary agencies have been able to cope with the distress as yet. I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF STOW, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 2,201. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £20,827.

Letter from *P. J. Carruthers*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February, 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing requires to be done.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF TEMPLE, COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

Population (1891), 455. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,253.

Letter from *Robert Stoddart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. The long-continued frost has thrown labourers out of work, but they seem able to pull through, so far as it has gone.

2. Nothing. I understand that Mr. Dundas of Arniston has instructed the local grocer to supply provisions, at his cost, should help be needed.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ALVES, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,096. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,388.

Letter from *Robert Stronach*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress. This parish being wholly agricultural, there are only a few day labourers in it; most of these have been out of employment owing to the severe weather, but being well-doing men, they have been able to tide over the storm without much difficulty, but they will feel the effects for some time, as they must have been obtaining goods on credit.

2. The parochial board is the only public authority, and it has not been necessary to take any steps on account of distress. There are no voluntary agencies.

3. No register maintained.

PARISH OF BELLIE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 2,210. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,321.

Letter from *G. C. Chrystie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. The labouring men, with few exceptions, are very regularly employed.

PARISH OF BIRNIE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 405. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,476.

Letter from *William Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. (*a*) Donation of 3*l.* from Lady Seafield, the proprietrix.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF CROMDALE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 3,026. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £16,480.

Letter from *D. G. Lawson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, and what there is is due almost entirely to the severity of the weather.

2. The sum of 40*l.* was distributed the week referred to, being the proceeds of a concert on behalf of the unemployed and private subscriptions. The number of recipients would be about 90.

3. There is no register kept.

4. None.

PARISH OF DALLAS, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 860. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £ 5,236.

Letter from *James Elder*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.
2. None.
3. None.
4. None.

PARISH OF DRAINIE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 3,922. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,031.

Letter from *Alex. Wiseman*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE but what is due to the severe weather and the improvident.

2. Apart from an allowance of coals given by the Parochial Board to each pauper, a public subscription was raised to the amount of about 60*l*., and vested in a committee, who distributed by ticket on 16th February, in shape of coal, meal, and groceries, to about 80 recipients, and the remainder of the fund has since been distributed to parties whom the committee thought most necessitous.

3. Nil.

4. None, though I may state employment for out-door workers, male and female, is plentiful, but the majority of the recipients were improvident, and became the first to suffer from the severe weather, hence the deserving portion have not benefited so much by the fund as the improvident, as the rule of the committee was to supply those in most destitution at the time.

PARISH OF DUFFUS, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 4,299. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,890.

Letter from *Jno. Nicoll*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing done by public authorities, or by voluntary agencies. Any cases of distress in this parish have been dealt with privately.

3. No.

PARISH OF DYKE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,044. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,910.

Letter from *Alexander Paxton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF EDINKILLIE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,032. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,562.

Letter from *Geo. M. Calden*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. In my opinion, from the following causes, viz. : (i.) The class likely to suffer most are day labourers, who form a small percentage of the population. (ii.) This class has decreased very much of late years owing to the fact that the farm labour market is understocked, consequently labourers, being induced by high wages, have engaged as farm servants for the year or half year. (iii.) The few that remain are mostly engaged as estate labourers, and practically have constant employment. (iv.) Men who are available are frequently employed by the county council officials in snow-cutting to open the roads for traffic. (v.) Flockmasters need extra assistants for supplying provender for sheep. (vi.) This parish is purely agricultural.

2. Nothing is being done by the public authorities. Under voluntary agencies may be mentioned the local landowners, who are very mindful of the poor on their respective estates, particularly Lady Gordon Cumming of Altyre.

3. No.

3. No. Only one case of destitution, attributable to the weather, came under my observation as Inspector of Poor, which I relieved from parochial funds.

4. If distress prevailed, I would suggest that the county authorities would employ men to keep county roads open all along the route, and not partially in thickly populated parts, as at present, while parish authorities might do the same to important thoroughfares other than county roads; this latter would greatly benefit children attending schools. Parish councils might also with advantage acquire unreclaimed land, suitable either for allotments or common grazings, in anticipation of seasons of distress for the unemployed.

PARISH OF ELGIN, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 9,285. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £36,210.

Letter from *James Elder*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. Such distress as exists is due to the prolonged snow-storm.

2. The Elgin Town Council have undertaken the work of relieving the distressed, chiefly by means of a public meal fund, from which there have been three distributions of provisions (meal, tea, sugar, and bread) and coals. About 150 have been relieved on each occasion; all the recipients, however, were not strictly "Unemployed," a goodly number being poor people who claim a share of any public charity that is going. A soup kitchen, also under the auspices of the Council, is in daily operation. About 150 are supplied, but most of them are poor scholars. A small number of men were also employed in cleaning the streets of snow and such-like work, for short periods. Many were relieved by voluntary agencies also.

3. There is no register of unemployed. All applications for supplies from the meal fund are entered in a cheque-book with counterfoil. This is the only record preserved. Of 103 applications for relief made to the Parochial Board from 28th December to 16th February, only 28 (11 males and 17 females) able-bodied persons sought relief, and all were supplied; but very few of them were what could be held to be *bonâ fide* unemployed. The relief given was for brief periods, for when relief was otherwise obtained they did not return, as a rule, to the Parochial Board.

4. No. Having assisted at all the Council distributions and given help to private distributions as well, I think the Council's mode of relieving the distress to be efficient. No one was refused, and in several instances men with numerous families, who did not care to come to seek help in public, had supplies given to them unsolicited. The aid given by well-to-do people in contributing to the Council's meal fund was most praiseworthy.

Note.—These remarks apply to Burghal Elgin. The distress in the Landward District was confined to the village of New Elgin, and it was overtaken by the Town Council.

PARISH OF FORRES, COUNTY OF ELGIN

Population (1891), 4,801. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,982.

Letter from *A. K. Leitch*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. TEMPORARY distress exists amongst out-door workers, both male and female, owing entirely to the severity of the weather. In open weather there is sufficient employment for working people.

2. (*a.*) Funds have been raised by concerts and voluntary subscriptions, and the Town Council voted a sum of 25*l.* to relieve distress. A soup kitchen has been open for about six weeks.

(*b.*) From 50 to 60.

Note.—The Parochial Board authorised the inspector to relieve female out-workers previous to other steps being taken.

3. No formal register is kept, but each case is inquired into.

4. The weather has now moderated, and it is expected that no further relief will be necessary.

PARISH OF KINLOSS, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 958. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,695.

Letter from *A. K. Leitch*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. None

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF KNOCKANDO, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,712. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,048.

Letter from *P. Margach*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. A few have suffered from the continued severe weather.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities, but a good deal has been given voluntarily to relieve distress ; but there have been no organised agencies set on foot.

3. No. There are no unemployed here ; when there are, they can work outside.

PARISH OF NEW SPYNIE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,708. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,379.

Letter from *James Elder*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. Distress is due solely to severe weather, and it has been confined to Bishopmill, which is included in the Burgh of Elgin. There is no distress in the Landward District.

2. Relief is being supplied by the Elgin Town Council and by voluntary agencies. I cannot give the average without great research. About 40 have got assistance from the Council's meal fund ; but that number has been included in the Town Clerk's return, I believe, and also in the Elgin Parochial Board return.

3. No. No applications by unemployed have been made to the Parochial Board.

4. No. But the Town Council's manner of relieving the distress has been efficient, and the contributions of wealthy people have been liberal. I have assisted voluntary agencies, and I am able to state that no person has been in want or has suffered anything like privation. The desire of people having relief to bestow is rather to seek out persons in want, or who are supposed to be, than to refuse assistance.

PARISH OF RAFFORD, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 982. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,174.

Letter from *John Stuart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.
During the week ending 16th February there were no applications for relief, nor has the Parochial Board been called upon to relieve any single case of distress from want of employment during the present year.

2. Nothing is being done.

3. No.

PARISH OF ROTHES, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 2,299. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,496.

Letter from *John Mackinnon*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. It is entirely due to the severity of the weather, all out-workers being thrown idle.

2. (*a.*) A fund for exceptional times of distress like the present has been largely drawn upon, and freely distributed in coal, meal, and money.
A soup kitchen was also started and has been kept going for the last five weeks by voluntary subscriptions.
(*b.*) Sixty families, representing over 200 individuals, were daily supplied with bread and soup.
Note.—The Parochial Board have also distributed suitable supplies of coal to paupers.

3. No.

4. The distress here has been and is being adequately relieved.

PARISH OF ST. ANDREW'S LHANBRYDE, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,299. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,510.

Letter from *Geo. Petrie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing ; no need.

3. No.

4. None required.

PARISH OF SPEYMOUTH, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 616. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,546.

Letter from *John Simpson,* Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish worth mentioning. The parish is almost entirely rural, and besides farm labourers steadily employed, there are few others required in the parish.

2. The other labourers are employed chiefly by the proprietor at his salmon fishings, or on his estate, and when work cannot be found for them the older and more infirm workers are granted half-pay ; but even during the present severe weather work is found for them.

3. I can safely say there are not more than six labourers in this parish who would be to any extent affected by the severe weather.

4. The most severe of these were relieved by the parochial board by receiving "casual relief ;" the others by the Kirk Session out of the church funds.

PARISH OF URQUHART, COUNTY OF ELGIN.

Population (1891), 1,917. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,023.

Letter from *John Boyne*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NO ; if any, it is not known.

2. Nothing being necessary.

3. No ; not necessary.

4. Paupers got a small supply of coals. Other poor people had got their annual supply of coals provided by special collection in the churches before the storm came on. His Grace the Duke of Fife annually contributing 5*l.* to this fund helps to make actual distress in this parish of rare occurrence. The labouring class are mostly farm servants, whose food is, so to speak, tied to their heads.

PARISH OF ABBOTSHALL, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 6,934. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £22,806.

Letter from *John S. Foreman*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOT very serious. The families of out-door labourers attached to the building trade have suffered through the severity of the weather, but so far pauperism is about the same as last year. Trade here generally is fairly good.

2. Subscriptions were opened by the magistrates and a considerable sum collected. A soup kitchen has been started (on 13th instant), giving a supply of soup, beef, and a pennyworth of bread to each applicant (soup, &c., being taken home in vessels), averaging about 160 per day. Coals, clothing, and groceries, &c., have been distributed among the most necessitous cases and among old women.

3. No.

4. The agencies at work seem to meet the requirements for the present. I may state a number of the applicants by misrepresentation received more than one supply of food daily from the soup kitchen. Children principally were the messengers, and had been coached by their parents before sent out. Many of the families are always in destitution, no matter what amount of income they may have.

PARISH OF ABDIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 754. Gross Rental (1893-94), £7,676. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF ABERDOUR, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,955. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,108.

Letter from *Andrew Redford*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

2. There being no exceptional distress to meet, nothing is being done either by public authorities or voluntary agencies, except that the Earl of Moray is giving a few tons of coal to the more necessitous poor, in addition to the usual annual distribution.

3. No such register is kept.

4. No.

PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,033. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,436.

Letter from *James Young*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THE only distress existing in this parish at the present time has been chiefly caused by the severe weather, and has been mostly felt by labourers and field workers.

2. Nothing this year, except occasionally supplying coals to the aged poor. In previous years a soup kitchen existed, which gave them free dinners each day, but they seem to think it unnecessary this year.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestion to make, as I think the voluntary effort is quite sufficient to relieve any exceptional distress in the district.

PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER WESTER, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 606. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,852.

Letter from *William P. Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE severe frosty weather has certainly caused in this district a certain amount of distress, seeing that a large section of the inhabitants are dependent on general labour.

2. By public authorities, nil; by voluntary agencies and private donations, a quantity of coals and necessaries given, which are generally distributed during the winter months.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF AUCHTERDERRAN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 6,194. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,351.

Letter from *John Small*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NO cases of exceptional distress have been brought under the notice of the authorities.

2. Nothing has been done in the matter.

3. No register of such.

4. No.

PARISH OF AUCHTERMUCHTY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,002. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,493.

Letter from *Robert Skinner*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. (*a*) The poor, and those who cannot get work owing to the severe weather, have been supplied with coals, sugar, tea, and bread, by sum raised by subscriptions.

(*b*) No numbers kept.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF AUCHTERTOOL, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 721. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,790.

Letter from *David Millar*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. None whatever.
2. (*a*) No distress.
   (*b*) None.
3. No.
4. Very few idle in the parish; and no distress that I am aware of.

PARISH OF BALLINGRY, COUNTY OF FIFE

Population (1891), 2,231. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12.745.

Letter from *William Shaw*, Inspector of Poor, 5th March 1895.

1. No; quite the opposite in the Landward part of parish; one gas coal company working double shift.
2. No application has been made for relief.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF BALMERINO, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 688. Gross Rental (1893-94), £6,182. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Walter Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No distress.
2. No relief required.
3. No register.
4. No.

PARISH OF BEATH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 8,298. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £27,064.

Letter from *George Terris*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No, except what is caused by pits being on short time, the result of the reaction caused by miners' strike.
3. No application.

PARISH OF BURNTISLAND, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 6,174. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £26,345.

Letter from *James C. Watson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I HAVE no doubt there are a number of cases of exceptional distress in this district, although none have been reported to me; chiefly owing to the late miners' strike, also to the now severe weather.

2. (*a*) I believe that all the clergymen in this town from their church funds have relieved a number of cases that have come to their knowledge. Otherwise, nothing has been done by any of the public bodies.

   (*b*) No daily relief given.

3. No.

4. By public subscription.

PARISH OF CAMERON, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 886. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,557.

Letter from *John Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The parish is entirely agricultural.
2. Nothing required to be done.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF CARNBEE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 952. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,278.

Letter from *J. Pentland Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.
2. See 1.
3. No.
4. See 1.

PARISH OF CARNOCK, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 987. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,745.

Letter from *Henry Anderson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. A FEW labourers are out of work owing to severe weather, but cannot be said to be in distress.
2. Nothing special.
3. No.

PARISH OF CERES, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,677. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,155.

Letter from *James Pearson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. 1st. No. 2nd. A number of labourers have been out of employment for several weeks. This parish being situated in an agricultural district, about three-fourths of the workmen are under yearly engagements as farm servants. In the villages and hamlets the majority of the labourers appear to have provided for a storm by their own industry.

2. (*a.*) A quantity of coals has been distributed chiefly amongst aged females, the funds for which have mostly been provided through the Kirk Session.

3. No.

4. Abundance of work will be got when the weather becomes milder.

PARISH OF COLLESSIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,093. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,597.

Letter from *Alexander Honeyman*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. A FEW tradesmen and labourers going idle on account of the severe weather; about 12 in all.

2. Paupers have received coals twice this season from the rates; about 25 deserving poor have received coal, bread, &c., from subscription.

3. No.

PARISH OF CRAIL, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,740. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,770.

Letter from *David Band*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. Nothing being done.

3. No.

4. There has been no application to me for relief from the unemployed.

PARISH OF CREICH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 325. Gross Rental (1893-94), £2,623. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Geo. J. Leslie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

3. No.

PARISH OF CULROSS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,096. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,537.

Letter from *John Penney*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nil.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CULTS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 680. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,148.

Letter from *John Thoms*, Inspector of Poor, 26th Febrnary 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF CUPAR, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 6,990. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £29,641.

Letter from *James A. Welch*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. THERE has been, principally among labourers and other outdoor workers. Chiefly on account of the severe weather.

2. A meeting of the principal inhabitants was convened by the provost of the burgh on 9th February, and a committee, consisting of the clergymen of all denominations, the provost and magistrates, the chairman of the parochial board, and myself, was appointed to inquire into and relieve deserving cases, with the result that 245 heads of families were supplied with coals, beef, bread, tea, and sugar, and several men were supplied with work.

3. A list of deserving persons was made by the Committee.

4. None, unless the adoption of the measures above stated, which in the case of Cupar were, I think, most satisfactory.

PARISH OF DAIRSIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 606. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,641.

Letter from *James Beveridge*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress I would say. It is an agricultural district, and so almost all the men have yearly engagements. Females employed at the farms have, owing to the severe weather, not been at work daily. They have, however, I understand, been employed for more than half-time.

2. Dairsie Kirk Session and Dairsie Parochial Board distributed coals about the beginning of the year among the poor. Several ladies and gentlemen in Dairsie and neighbourhood have also distributed coals, sugar, tea, &c., during the last two months, but no more has been done this year than during any previous year.

Cannot answer (*b*) as the work was done privately.

3. No unemployed register.

PARISH OF DALGETY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,341. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,312.

Letter from *David Inglis*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress caused by the storm in the parish, and no application made for relief, and the miners all working.

PARISH OF DUNINO, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 277. Gross Rental (1893–94), £2,898. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Jas. W. Somers*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

No.

PARISH OF DUNBOG, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 290. Gross Rental (1893–94), £3,726. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF DUMFERMLINE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 28,667. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £96,197.

Letter from *John T. Meikle*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been a good deal of distress, principally through the severity of the weather; this has been met by the burgh authorities providing work, and from public benevolence. I have not heard of any distress in the landward part of the parish; the population there is mining principally, and they have all been working three or four days weekly.

2. On the above date 55 persons were employed by the burgh at stone-breaking. 104 families, comprising 461 persons, have been relieved by the magistrates' private fund, and to-morrow a soup kitchen is to be opened from the proceeds of a concert got up for the benefit of the unemployed.

3. The burgh authorities have kept a register, which shows 55 to begin with, and increasing daily until it reached 128 at above date.

4. I think the present agencies will be able to cope with all the distress that is likely to arise in this quarter.

PARISH OF DYSART, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 13,626. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £39,636.

Letter from *D. Nicholson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Owing to the severe weather, a soup kitchen was opened a week or so ago; but it is to be closed at the end of this week, 2nd proximo.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF ELIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,172. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,406.

Letter from *Robert Birrell*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing.
3. No.

PARISH OF FALKLAND, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,470. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,999.

Letter from *Lawrence Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. (*a*) Nothing.
   (*b*) None.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 3,008. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,046.

Letter from *John Erskine*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is some exceptional distress, owing to the severe weather, but very limited.

2. Private benevolence has rendered assistance in various ways. Nothing by public authorities or voluntary agencies.

3. No unemployed register.

4. A change to fine weather will put all in their ordinary condition here.

PARISH OF FLISK, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 248. Gross Rental (1893–94), £3,308. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *D. M. Dingwall*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. (*a*) Nothing.
   (*b*) None.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF FORGAN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 3,763. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,865.

Letter from *Fred. G. Kemp*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE being no works in this parish there are no very poor people. The few jobbing gardeners and masons that reside here have been out of work for some time, but as yet I am not aware of any special case of distress. Most of those who are poor and needful just now have been given coals, &c., by the church office bearers and others residing in Newport and district.

2. As above.

3. No.

4. As above.

PARISH OF INVERKEITHING, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,943. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £40,273.

Letter from *Robert Telford*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been a deal of distress since the severe weather came on, as all outdoor work has been at a standstill since the new year came in. The severe weather is the only cause of distress in this district.

2. A committee has been formed and collections made for the relief of those in distress, who are being supplied with food daily. On the 16th there were 70 families supplied, and about the same number continue to be supplied daily. Sixty-three families have also been supplied with half a ton of coal each through the same committee.

3. None.

4. In my opinion what is being done will relieve those in distress until the weather breaks up.

PARISH OF KEMBACK, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 794. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,944.

Letter from *William S. Seath*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish; the men employed at the Freestone Quarries have not wrought a turn for seven weeks in consequence of frost; but our people being of a thrifty and saving disposition have been able to tide over the difficulty without any outside assistance.

2. Nothing is being done of a public nature. A few gentlemen of the parish have given a few shillings here and there, and a number of loads of coal have been divided amongst the most necessitous cases.

3. No register.

4. None.

PARISH OF KENNOWAY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,458. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,940.

Letter from *A. H. Rintoul*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No. The greater number of workpeople in this parish have had employment during the present winter, and we have had very few whose occupations depend solely on the state of the weather.

2. It has not been necessary to take any steps.

3. No.

4. None; the matter not having had to be considered here.

PARISH OF KETTLE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,939. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,838.

Letter from *James Cellars*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. No action whatever has been taken.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF KILCONQUHAR, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,642. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,413.

Letter from *James Lawson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS caused by severe weather.

2. Voluntary agencies:—Bread given regularly to 50 people. Soup kitchen, supplying about 35 families daily for six days a week.

3. No.

PARISH OF KILMANY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 588. Gross Rental (1893–94), £7,447. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *J. Geddes*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. The parish being entirely agricultural, labourers are yearly servants.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF KILRENNY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,998. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,224.

Letter from *D. Bruce*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF KINGHORN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 3,837. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,459.

Letter from *James Wyllie*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. YES; a number of men, principally masons' labourers, have been thrown out of work through the severity of the weather.

2. (*a.*) The Corporation employed all such on the roads, &c., at 4*d.* per hour, and retained them so long as the necessity of the case demanded.
(*b.*) The average daily number retained during the week ended 16th February was 10.

3. As the burgh is small, and all such cases well-known, no unemployed register was required.

4. No further suggestions are necessary, as all urgent cases have been relieved.

PARISH OF KINGLASSIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,436. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,142.

Letter from *Duncan Macara*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Donations from private individuals have been distributed amongst the most necessitous cases, in the form of coals and money. These sums have been spent since the 16th instant.

3. No.

4. There is no outstanding case of distress here within my knowledge.

PARISH OF KINGSBARNS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 731. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,721.

Letter from *David Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. A few have, on account of the prolonged frost, done no work for some weeks; but their circumstances do not call for anything being done.

2. Nothing has been done here by the local authorities, there being no necessitous cases.

3. No.

4. No. With a return to milder weather, outdoor work would go on as before.

PARISH OF KIRKCALDY, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 9,994. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £40,862.

Letter from *George Anderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS being a manufacturing district, any exceptional distress is confined to the outdoor labouring class (a limited number), and is due to the severe weather.

2. By voluntary agency, headed by the public bodies, a soup-kitchen was started on the 13th February. Arrangements were also made for supplying coal, groceries, &c., and the whole expenditure has not exceeded 5*l.* per week. The distribution of the above was not confined to the unemployed, but was largely taken advantage of by the poor and pauper classes.

At the soup-kitchen, 120 supplies were given, but this includes families. A note of the number relieved daily has not been kept.

3. No.

4. What is being done seems sufficient to meet the distress.

PARISH OF LARGO, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,324. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,462.

Letter from *Robert Black*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. Of course, a good many have been idle owing to the severe weather, but I hear of none suffering want in consequence.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF LESLIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 3,886. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £16,885.

Letter from *William Taylor*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE has been, comparatively speaking, little exceptional distress in this district, as the residents are mostly engaged in the manufacturing industries, which have all been working full time.

2. Any exceptional destitution arising from the want of outdoor employment has been mostly met by private charity, in money and goods, but no agency was formed. The Police Commissioners employed a number of men for a few days in removing the snow and ice from the streets.

3. No.

PARISH OF LEUCHARS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,370. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £19,569.

Letter from *James Rait*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NO. None has come to my knowledge.

2. A good deal is given at this season in coals and money bequeathed by former parishioners.

3. No.

PARISH OF LOGIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 360. Gross Rental (1893-94), £4,789. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *David Imrie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NO.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF MARKINCH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 5,798. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,346.

Letter from *James Rankin*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district at present.

2. A private gentleman has given orders to the keeper of a coffee house here to give anyone who may apply a dinner, but few have applied, unless a few tramps passing through the village.

3. No.

4. We have little or no distress here ; a few masons and their labourers were idle during the storm, but now working.

PARISH OF MONIMAIL, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 769. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,443.

Letter from *John Andrews*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NO ; being an agricultural parish, the farm servants receive their pay whether at work or not.

2. (*a.*) Nothing beyond the usual winter donations of coal and cash from the resident gentry to the old people.
(*b.*) None.

3. No ; not required.

PARISH OF MOONZIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 128. Gross Rental (1893–94), £1,749. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *J. Y. Douglas*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress in this district.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF NEWBURGH, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,852. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,117.

Letter from *L. Webster*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Due almost entirely to severity of the weather.

2. Burgh authorities have given employment in clearing streets. Coals, bread, &c., have been distributed from proceeds of private subscriptions. Parochial board gave two supplies of coals, five cwt. each time, to each pauper on the roll. No daily relief granted.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF NEWBURN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 322. Assessable Rental (1893–94). £3,894.

Letter from *Fred. R. Lumsden*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress has been heard of.

2. Nothing.

3. No register kept. Mostly agricultural people with regular supplies of milk and oatmeal.

4. None.

PARISH OF PITTENWEEM, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,991. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,622.

Letter from *John N. Young*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no more distress at present than what is usual during winter, with this difference, that it is more felt owing to the protracted storm and severe frost.

2. There has been a well managed soup kitchen kept up by public subscription for some years. At present it is relieving about 50 families (about 100 individuals) twice weekly.

3. No.

4. Let the country have sound legislation on trade disputes, make strikes illegal, substitute boards of arbitration for them, put down paid agitation; there would be more employment to be got and more money to pay people with. Keep the trade in the country instead of driving it out.

PARISH OF ST. ANDREWS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 7,538. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £50,395.

Letter from *George Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. YES. Due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Soup, beef, bread, &c., has been served out daily by a voluntary agency to which the parochial and other boards have subscribed.
(*b*) 140 (or about 70 families).

3. No.

4. Nothing further than what has already been done. Those at present unemployed expect to resume work next week, and the above mentioned agency will continue for at least another week thereafter.

PARISH OF ST. LEONARDS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,217. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,371.

Letter from *Gilbert Gray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. EXCEPT a demand for coal during the severe weather, I am not aware of any special distress in the district.

2. No public scheme of relief needed. Voluntary help always at hand if required, the extent of which is difficult to count. In the middle of the severe stormy time the Kirk Session of St. Leonards distributed some 23*l.* of best Fife coal, besides what others gave. Now that the parish is about to be taken from us these streams of charity in many cases will cease to flow. The poor, the only sufferers.

3. Such a register is not needed here as yet.

4. The poor in this district are always relieved, I have no suggestions therefore to make.

PARISH OF ST. MONANCE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,998. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,178.

Letter from *James Lawson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. POPULATION mostly composed of fishermen. No exceptional distress to call for aid to be given.

PARISH OF SALINE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 760. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,373.

Letter from *James C. Mudie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. The collieries in the parish are the chief industries, and the workmen there have been in regular employment. No necessity exists for any special agency.

PARISH OF SCOONIE, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 4,693. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,153.

Letter from *James Philp*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. As this is mostly a mining and manufacturing district the severe weather has only affected out-door labour, and there is no exceptional distress known of; we have had 14 masons, two bricklayers, four joiners, six plasterers, four gardeners, and 16 labourers partly unemployed during January and February on account of the severe weather.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF STRATHMIGLO, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,772. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,700.

Letter from *James Peggie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, so far as I can learn.

2. The local gentry each winter give a supply of coals to the deserving poor, and this winter, owing to the severe weather, they have given more liberally than usual. In coals and other necessaries fully 35*l.* worth have been distributed, and now the storm is away I apprehend there will be no further need.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF TORRYBURN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 1,032. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,631.

Letter from *William Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The miners are in full work, and those engaged in agricultural work have yearly engagements.

3. No.

PARISH OF TULLIALLAN, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 2,177. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,155.

Letter from *Andrew Bowie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Owing to the severe weather.

2. With the assistance of voluntary contributions I have been having a daily supply of soup for the most cases free, and making a small charge in other cases admitted after investigation of circumstances; average 16 families.

3. No.

4. I think the plan adopted here a good one.

PARISH OF WEMYSS, COUNTY OF FIFE.

Population (1891), 10,534. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £50,989.

Letter from *W. Ness*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No. All casual workers having chiefly left for the large towns.

PARISH OF ABERLEMNO, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 926. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,805.

Letter from *James Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

3. No.

PARISH OF AIRLIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 741. Gross Rental (1893–94), £8,961. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *David Taylor*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress, arising either from circumstances due to the locality, or from the severity of the weather.

2. Nothing is being done, or required to be done, for the purpose of relieving any special distress.

3. No ; it is not necessary.

4. This parish being under a voluntary assessment, the Parochial Board have every winter given a small supply of coal to those persons who were known to be needy or in distress. Four persons have received such a supply this winter.

PARISH OF ARBIRLOT, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 848. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,167.

Letter from *D. B. Steele*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish. The severity of the weather has partially suspended out-door labour ; but our parish being wholly agricultural, the farm servants have either yearly or half-yearly engagements ; their wages and allowances are secured.

2. As there has been no exceptional distress there has been nothing done, no relief being asked or given.

3. There is no register.

4. From what is stated above, I have no suggestion to make.

PARISH OF ARBROATH, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 9,633. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £33,694.

Letter from *Henry G. Seaton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been distress amongst the labourers here, which is due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Police Commissioners employed from 45 to 50 daily to assist in removing the snow from the streets.
(*b*) There was no other assistance given until the past week, when a soup-kitchen was opened on the 20th, and since then there have been about 150 supplied daily with rations. Private parties have also been assisting the distressed, but not through any general fund.

3. No.

4. I expect that as the weather has now improved the distress will gradually disappear.

PARISH OF AUCHTERHOUSE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 566. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,835.

Letter from *John Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No, not required.

4. No.

PARISH OF BARRY, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 3,787. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,698.

Letter from *Hugh Hanton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

PARISH OF BRECHIN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 10,453. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £39,868.

Letter from *Robert Allan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. SINCE the commencement of the storm about 100 outdoor workers have been knocked off work. So far as I know, there is no exceptional distress in this parish. Factories are all going full time. There is no increase of applications for relief this winter.

2. (*a*) Private subscriptions have been raised, and are being distributed, to meet the distress caused by the severe weather.
(*b*) During the week ended 16th February last, 60 cases were relieved from said subscriptions.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CARALDSTONE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 198. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,835.

Letter from *James Lowson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. No special steps have had to be taken.

3. No.

PARISH OF CARMYLLIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,083. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,793.

Letter from *James Taylor*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. The minister of this parish, to whom I showed your circular, informs me that the Earl of Dalhousie sent him a sum of £10 for distribution among the poor of the parish. Mrs. Ouchterlony, wife of Colonel Ouchterlony, The Guynd, also gave him £3 to relieve any distress in his congregation.

3. No.

PARISH OF CORTACHY, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 615. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,263.

Letter from *Thomas P. Black*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

2. No action required.

3. Not required.

PARISH OF CRAIG, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 2,472. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,627.

Letter from *Alexander Clyne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been no exceptional distress in this district.

2. Nothing being done by public authorities. The poor in this district have twice received a supply of coal, during the severe weather, through voluntary agencies.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF DUN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 552. Gross Rental (1893–94), £7,944. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *James Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

4. This parish is wholly agricultural, and the work-people have half-yearly engagements.

PARISH OF DUNDEE COMBINATION, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 157,359. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £608,300.

Letter from *James Kyd*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. As a result of my enquiries, and from my own observations, I beg to state that compared with previous years (last year excepted) there does not appear to be any exceptional distress in the district. The severe weather experienced during the last few weeks caused the stoppage of out-door labour to a great extent, and the number of the unemployed was thereby temporarily increased.

The number of applications dealt with by the Charity Organization Society during the past three months was 270; during the same period of last year, which was an exceptional year in Dundee, the number was upwards of 1,600. The number for the current year is about the average of previous years, with the exception of last year, as above stated.

The number of applications for parochial relief for the period from 1st to 25th instant is 312. Corresponding period of 1894 the number was 405.

2. The Town Council have taken no steps this year to deal with the unemployed. The matter has been several times before the council, and after due deliberation the council came to the conclusion that there existed no necessity for exceptional measures in the shape of relief works, &c., being started. But since the recent storm, and mainly with the view of relieving the distress which it would temporarily entail, the Police Commissioners have employed a large number of men in cleaning the streets and thoroughfares at 3*s.* per day. The sum expended since 7th instant amounts to £403. The highest number employed in any one day was 280, the lowest, 176, and the daily average for the week ended 16th instant was 210. There are still 157 men employed, and another 100 men are temporarily employed by the Police Commissioners (Works Department) cleaning the Statute Labour Roads within the burgh. The average number of families daily relieved by the Charity Organization during the week ended 16th instant was 10. I am not aware that there is in Dundee any other voluntary agency dealing with the unemployed. The number of persons present on 24th instant at the free breakfast given each Sunday morning was 200 or thereby. The present average daily number of applications at the Carr Night Refuge for the homeless is 19.

3. No unemployed register is kept.

4. I have no practical suggestions meantime to offer on the subject; but I think that in dealing with the unemployed the principles and recommendations contained in the minute of the Board of Supervision of 12th December, 1878, should be, as far as possible, strictly adhered to. The Town Council has already the power to inaugurate relief works at the expense of the rates, and the council have in the past not been slow to avail themselves of the powers they possess when it appeared to them necessary.

The Charity Organization Society was established in 1886, and has for its main object the relief of poor persons in temporary distress who are not proper objects of parochial relief. Being a permanent institution, and conducted with great care and efficiency, its work has had useful and beneficial results. Within the last few days, and quite unsolicited, upwards of 300*l.* has been sent to its treasurer, thus showing that the utmost confidence is reposed in the society as a means of guiding the voluntary benevolence of the public. A considerable proportion of the unemployed who have been dealt with by the society during the last few months have been previously through hands, and their cases are well-known. It has to be borne in mind that Dundee is a great centre of female labour. Many of the unemployed men have either their wives or some members of their family working, and their earnings prevent extreme destitution.

The improvement in the shipbuilding industry which has recently taken place, and the resumption of out-door labour, will, to a considerable extent, reduce the number of the unemployed; and there is little doubt but the Charity Organization will be able to meet the remaining cases of distress, so that, as far as Dundee is concerned the adoption of exceptional measures is not considered necessary.

PARISH OF DUNNICHEN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,233. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,280.

Letter from *John Young, junr.*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. No doubt, masons and quarrymen have done little work during the last eight weeks owing to the frost, but I have had no extra applications for relief, and I do not hear of exceptional distress.

2. Nothing being done, either by authorities or voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF EDZELL, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 700. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,921.

Letter from *John Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. A FEW are unemployed on account of the severe weather, but no distress seemingly exists.

3. No.

PARISH OF EASSIE AND NEVAY, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 553. Gross Rental (1893–94), £6,998. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Jack*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO. The greater portion of the parishioners are hired agricultural servants, whose incomes are not affected by the severe weather. One or two cases of old and needy persons have been looked to privately.
All resident paupers, or others in poor circumstances, lately shared in the bounty of clothing and coals, allowed annually by Lady Wharncliffe.

2. It has not been necessary to organise for relief.

3. Not considered necessary.

4. No unusual distress prevailing. No.

PARISH OF FARNELL, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 627. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,640.

Letter from *Alexander Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

PARISH OF FEARN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 277. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,694.

Letter from *James Miller*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this rural parish. Wage-earners here consist of farm-servants, and although severe weather has caused stoppage of work this does not in the case of ploughmen mean stoppage of pay.

3. No.

PARISH OF FORFAR, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 13,665. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £42,010.

Letter from *James Rodger*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, but only owing to the severity of the weather.

2. The distress is being met by the public authorities providing work for the unemployed, and by voluntary agencies. 181 families got supplies from the soup kitchen on 16th February (the opening day), and the same number still.

3. No.

4. Nothing further is necessary than is being done. So soon as the frost gives way, there will be abundance of work, as there was up to the new year, and would have continued but for the frost.

PARISH OF FOWLIS EASTER, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 283. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,844.

Letter from *David Crabb*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS parish or district is wholly agricultural. There is not any distress or unemployed within its bounds.

PARISH OF GLAMIS, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,464. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,585.

Letter from *Alex. Jack*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1 No exceptional distress, except through the severe weather.

2. There is nothing being done in this parish, and no person was relieved at the time stated.

3 No.

4. No.

PARISH OF GLENISLA, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 676. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,554.

Letter from *Alex. Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF GUTHRIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 267. Gross Rental (1893–94), £3,388. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *James Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a little distress in the parish, due to the prolonged frost preventing out-door work, but not to an extent requiring exceptional measures.

2. There are none in absolute want. Those unemployed at present work in quarries, and are usually in receipt of good wages.

3. No.

4. As I have said, there is as yet no need.

PARISH OF INVERARITY, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 926. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,191.

Letter from *Peter Elder*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. (*a*) Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF INVERKEILOR, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,531. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,590.

Letter from *James Sadler*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No, further than what is caused by the prolonged storm.

2. Voluntary and charitable agencies have been distributing coals, oatmeal, and clothing, in the more distressing cases. This is done annually, and the cases mostly chronic.

3. No. Inhabitants mostly farm servants under six months' engagements, the others quarriers and labourers, the latter employed on the roads, and have been extra busy. The quarriers have felt it more severely, but not so far as I can learn approaching to destitution.

4. No; but I would consider it more a question in succeeding years for Parish Councils if they were elected. There is no provision in the Poor Law for providing assistance to able-bodied poor.

PARISH OF KETTINS, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 722. Gross Rental (1893–94), £10,116. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Donald MacQueen*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No; but I may add that the resident proprietors do a great deal to add to the comfort of the deserving poor by giving money, coals, and clothing; and the Parish minister from funds in his possession has added materially to the comfort of many parishioners.

3. None unemployed.

PARISH OF KINGOLDRUM, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 368. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,242. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *William Edward*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district. I am not aware of any distress at present, nor for a length of time.

2. There has been no necessity for anything being done. A small quantity of coal was distributed as usual by the Kirk Session to the deserving poor not in receipt of parochial relief.

3. No.

4. There is no distress more than usual.

PARISH OF KINNELL, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 653. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,162.

Letter from *William Gauldie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895

1. In this rural parish there is no exceptional distress.

2. No relief measures are required.

3. No unemployed register, as none is required.

4. None.

PARISH OF KINNETTLES, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 340. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,050. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *George Martin*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF KIRKDEN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,541. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,926.

Letter from *John Edward*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE, excepting what is due to the weather.

2. Voluntary agencies. One or two cases treated by the public authorities.

3. No.

4. None required here. When the weather moderates it will disappear.

PARISH OF KIRRIEMUIR, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 6,090. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,887.

Letter from *Charles Samson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress arising almost wholly from the entire stoppage of out-door work owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Police Commissioners in conjunction with local distress committee have provided work for unemployed in cleaning the streets by removing snow, &c.
(*b*) Average daily number employed for week ending 16th February, 12 ; since that date average increased to 15. Relief in money or goods granted from private sources to a very few.

3. No register kept

4. Were the road authorities in counties required to keep the roads open and free from obstruction by snow, &c., much work might be provided for the poorer class in seasons when they were laid off from stress of weather. In this district many of the roads have been impassable for long periods. The course adopted in the town appears to have secured the desired end of relieving the most necessitous cases with considerable advantage to the public. Parish Councils might be given the option, in times of exceptional distress, of co-operating with municipal and county authorities in contributing to relief works for the unemployed.

PARISH OF LETHNOT, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 239. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,177.

Letter from *David Philip*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF LINTRATHEN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 558. Gross Rental (1893–94), £11,471. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *William Edward*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No application was made for relief, nor was it known that there was any exceptional distress in the district.

2. No case was known, there being none unemployed, to the public authorities or voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. None, as they are not required.

PARISH OF LOCHLEE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 343. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,082.

Letter from *Alexander Bowman*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing necessary.
3. No, not necessary.
4. No.

PARISH OF LOGIE-PERT, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 979. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,460.

Letter from *George Porteous*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. One or two agricultural labourers, drainers, &c., have had less work on account of the weather.

PARISH OF LUNAN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 349. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,093. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Archibald Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress. Population consists entirely of farmers and farm-servants, and their families, with a few railway men.
3. No unemployed.

PARISH OF LUNDIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 301. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,263.

Letter from *John Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district. Work-people engaged for a year or six months.
2. (*a*) Nothing.
   (*b*) None relieved.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF MAINS AND STRATHMARTINE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 3,998. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £25,706.

Letter from *Thomas Forbes*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district. Poor Roll five less than at this date last year.
2. Nothing required.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF MARYTON, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 270. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,849.

Letter from *L. D. Marr*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

PARISH OF MENMUIR, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 664. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,079.

Letter from *David Gourlay*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS parish is entirely an agricultural one. The most of the working class are engaged as farm servants, consequently there is no unemployed or distress here.

2. There is no necessity for anything being done.

3. No.

4. As the unemployed and distressed are mostly in burghs and villages I have nothing to suggest.

PARISH OF MONIFIETH, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 10,531. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £47,342.

Letter from *W. B. Spence*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. Severity of the weather.

2. The magistrates and other local bodies are doing much to relieve distress. There is also a soup kitchen.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF MONIKIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,328. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,126.

Letter from *A. Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, which is almost entirely rural and agricultural.

PARISH OF MONTROSE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 14,428. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £53,894.

Letter from *John Spalding*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been more distress in the district this year than usual, following on the long continuous severity of the weather, and consequent want of work.

2. (*a*) The Town Council ordered the making of a roadway, and levelling of ground over the Bent Hillocks on the links and sea coast, giving employment to 30. The soup kitchen privileges to the poor were extended 25, and private charity was increased by 20.

(*b*) Relieving about 75 on an average daily during the week ended Saturday the 16th February.

3. No register is kept, such not being considered necessary.

4. The wants of the unemployed here have been fairly well overtaken, and there is no suggestion for other assistance.

PARISH OF MURROES, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 905. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,040.

Letter from *W. F. Liddell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS parish depending to a considerable extent on quarry work, there must be to some extent pinched circumstances in several families, but scarcely amounting to distress. At all events, distress is not in any way (other than by inference) evident to the public. The severe weather has closed one of the quarries from 1st January to this date, while the other two in this parish have only wrought at intervals. Work is now in full swing, and as wages are high, when work is available the straitened condition of families will be got over. There is no chronic distress.

2. Nothing has been done, as so far as is known it does not seem called for.

3. No.

4. None deemed necessary.

PARISH OF NEWTYLE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 833. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,410.

Letter from *John Jack*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO. The severity of the weather has not affected residenters here to any extent.
2. Nothing urgently called for.
3. No, not necessary.
4. No unusual distress existing.

PARISH OF OATHLAW, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 399. Gross Rental (1893–94), £4,595. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *A. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NOT that I have heard.
2. Nothing.
3. No.

PARISH OF PANBRIDE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,741. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,345.

Letter from *James P. Morison*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO.
2. The Parochial Board, and a few private individuals, have distributed money, coals, sugar and tea, &c., to the most necessitous poor.
3. No unemployed register maintained in this parish, as the poor are all well cared for.
4. None.

PARISH OF RESCOBIE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 660. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,544.

Letter from *Walter Graham*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.
4. No distress being known to the Parochial Board, I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF RUTHVEN, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 188. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,910

Letter from *Henry Patterson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. Although the winter has been an exceptionally severe one, all the people have been employed. So much has labour been in demand here during winter, that workmen from other districts have been brought in to supply the deficiency.
2. Nothing is required to be done.

PARISH OF ST. VIGEANS, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 15,620. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £52,388.

Letter from *Robert Stuart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been more or less exceptional distress in Arbroath, owing solely to the long-continued severity of the weather. To-day, however, builders and other out-door workers have resumed their usual employment.

2. The Police Commissioners provided work for all who applied. The average daily number was about 40. A soup kitchen was opened and service prepared for 150, but the highest number of applications in one day was only 130.

3. No.

4. The measures taken by the public authorities and voluntary agencies appear to have been sufficient.

PARISH OF STRACATHRO, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 505. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,626.

Letter from *James C. Inverarity*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. NO.

PARISH OF TANNADICE, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 1,117. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,225.

Letter from *Thomas Stevenson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF TEALING, COUNTY OF FORFAR.

Population (1891), 630. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,113.

Letter from *P. M. M'Kenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF ABERLADY, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,063. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,067.

Letter from *John Congalton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. WE have had no exceptional distress in the district, the working classes being mostly farm servants who are in constant employment and pay. The other labourers, being mostly employed by Lord Wemyss and Mr. Hope, find regular employment. There have been a few young men and lads out of work by the severe weather, but they reside with their parents; the frost having apparently gone the usual work will be resumed by them.

2. There has been nothing done here, either by public authority or voluntary agencies, there being no special distress so far as I know. I may mention that at Christmas time, when the Countess of Wemyss and Lady Mary Hope distributed their usual gifts, there were no new applications this year to put on their lists.

3. No register required; but four men who worked on the public roads have lost a fortnight during the storm, but have resumed work to-day.

4. There has been no special distress by the severe weather so far as I am aware of here, and the frost having apparently gone now, I have therefore no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF ATHELSTANEFORD, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 741. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,402.

Letter from *John Craig*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. The great majority of workers are employed on farms and a few on the railway, where the work is practically constant. A few tradesmen have been unemployed for several weeks, but they are all steady careful men, who are not in need.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF BOLTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 271. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,848.

Letter from *Edward J. Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is not any distress. The district is purely agricultural, and every one able to work is engaged by month or year.

2. No need of relief in any shape.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DIRLETON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,445. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,819.

Letter from *William Palmer*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. None.

3. No.

4. The Parochial Board, the Kirk Session, the Proprietors of Dirleton Estate, and others, take care that no actual destitution takes place.

PARISH OF DUNBAR, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 5,210. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £32,858.

Letter from *Robert Masterton*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES; to the severe weather.

2. A public soup kitchen, where about 180 rations of bread and soup have been supplied daily.

3. No.

4. No; with a return of mild weather matters will resume their normal condition.

PARISH OF GARVALD, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 600. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,954.

Letter from *James Boucher*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this district because the parish is wholly agricultural, and the farm servants have yearly engagements and receive their pay the same during all weathers. No applications for relief have been made this year.

PARISH OF GLADSMUIR, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,604. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,149.

Letter from *J. Winton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish.

2. No application has been made during the storm either to the Kirk Session or Parochial Board.

3. No.

PARISH OF HADDINGTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 5,216. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £29,803.

Letter from *T. W. Kemp*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is distress, but I would not say that it was very exceptional. Haddington being an agricultural district, and hence a large number employed at field and out-door work, the present distress is wholly due to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) A soup kitchen, under the management of the Parochial Board and maintained wholly by voluntary subscription, was opened, and is still continued, whereby a good supply of broth and bread is given out to applicants in quantities according to the size of the family, and, through the Ladies' Society, almost the whole of the applicants for soup have been supplied with coal also.

(*b*) For week ending 16th February, the average number supplied daily was 57 cases with about 100 dependants. There has been a considerable amount given away privately, of which I could not give any estimate.

3. There is a proper soup kitchen register kept of all those relieved, together with the number of rations granted daily to each case. (A ration consists of one pound of bread and a quart of broth.)

4. In all cases of distress, such as the present, any charity to be given away should be done through one agency, and parties anxious and willing to do something towards the relief of the distress to be asked publicly to give to that one agency, and to whom all applicants for relief should be referred; such agency would then be responsible for dealing with all applications, and would thus do away with the present system (which is too much indulged in in this district) of women calling after nightfall upon the more charitable inhabitants of the town seeking relief.

PARISH OF HUMBIE, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 791. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,984.

Letter from *J. Stuart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

PARISH OF INNERWICK, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 761. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,630.

Letter from *Peter Purdie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress whatever in this parish. The parish is wholly agricultural, and, generally speaking, the employees are in very comfortable circumstances.

2. Nil.

3. No.

PARISH OF MORHAM, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 199. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,225.

Letter from *William Graham*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF NORTH BERWICK, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 3,038. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £23,152.

Letter from *Thomas Lees*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is, and this may be accounted for by the fact that ours, being a summer residence and golf centre, there always will be more or less scarcity of work in the winter months. This year the distress has been greater than has been for many years, owing entirely to the severe weather, as workmen were unable to prosecute their labours.

2. (*a.*) Nothing by the public authorities, but a good deal by voluntary agencies, and the average daily number relieved in the week mentioned would be about 13 families, these being relieved with coal, groceries, money, bread, soup, beef, and other necessaries, &c.

3. None maintained.

4. In a parish like this I have little to add, as it is generally admitted there are few parishes where voluntary relief is so much given as ours. Any work of an in-door kind that would keep workmen going for a few weeks in winter would be sufficient to relieve distress.

PARISH OF OLDHAMSTOCKS, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 443. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,340.

Letter from *A. Grainger*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.
2. Nothing.
3. Not required.
4. No.

PARISH OF ORMISTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,178. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,250.

Letter from *Robert Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF PENCAITLAND, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,125. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,434.

Letter from *Alexander Wood*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE, so far as I know. Population principally coal miners and ploughmen with regular wages in all kinds of weather.
2. (*a.*) Nothing.
   (*b.*) None.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF PRESTONKIRK, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 1,802. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,455.

Letter from *John Lumsden*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress there may be is on account of the severe weather.
2. A soup kitchen has been opened by voluntary agency where 26 people have got relief.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF PRESTONPANS, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 2,659. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,098.

Letter from *R. H. Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

3. No.

PARISH OF SALTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 495. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,532.

Letter from *W. A. Findlay*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. BEING purely an agricultural parish, there is no one unemployed in it, or thrown idle by the weather, consequently no exceptional distress.

PARISH OF SPOTT, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 475. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,356.

Letter from *Robert Grieve*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in the district. Most of the people are agricultural workers. The ploughmen are yearly servants, and the out-workers are employed except on very stormy days.

PARISH OF STENTON, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 556. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,927.

Letter from *James Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS being a purely agricultural district, there is no exceptional distress in it. The farm servants and labourers on the adjacent estates have employment all the year.

3. No register kept.

PARISH OF TRANENT, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 5,470. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,515.

Letter from *John K. Gardner*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. Mining the principal labour. The cold weather causing distress among the poor.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

PARISH OF WHITEKIRK, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 933. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,020.

Letter from *John Wood*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. IT cannot be said that any exceptional distress exists in this parish. There has, of course, as in other places, been a cessation from work in consequence of the severity of the weather, but being an agricultural parish, wages have suffered no diminution.

3. No.

PARISH OF WHITTINGHAME, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 586. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,700.

Letter from *J. W., pro George Hay Winton*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing required.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF YESTER, COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

Population (1891), 716. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,715.

Letter from *W. M. Allan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. MASONS, slaters, and plasterers, and labourers connected with these trades, idle since 1st January owing to snowstorm; in all about 10 men.

2. Nothing required.

3. None.

4. Fresh weather.

PARISH OF ABERNETHY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,354. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,930.

Letter from *George MacKenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. WE have had no exceptional cases of distress in this district from want of employment or otherwise during the recent severe weather. Being an agricultural and wood manufacturing district, few were, except for a short period during the winter, without employment, and these are, as a rule, partly prepared for a rest during the dead of winter.

2. By voluntary contributions twenty-five pounds (25*l.* sterling) was distributed within the parish betwixt the 25th December 1894 and the 16th February 1895. This amount went over about 30 persons, and was given at different dates.

3. No unemployed register is maintained in the parish.

4. As already mentioned, we have no extra distress.

PARISH OF ALVIE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 656. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,353.

Letter from *Duncan MacBean*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. There are a few of the labouring population and tradesmen (such as masons) who have been idle for eight weeks, but I cannot say that there is any actual distress. Generally, they are industrious and of good character, and they get along in winter on "credit," which is met by their summer's earnings.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ARDERSIER, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,914. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,280.

Letter from *John Joss*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. A LITTLE, by length of time of severe weather.

2. (*a*) Something by private subscription.
(*b*) Not ascertained.

3. No.

4. Weather not so severe; it is hoped at an end.

PARISH OF BARRA, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,365. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,466.

Letter from *Angus Macdonald*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

3. No.

PARISH OF BOLESKINE AND ABERTARFF, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,438. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,716.

Letter from *Andrew Urquhart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing specially required.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF BRACADALE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 920. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,376.

Letter from *John Taylor*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CROY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,225. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,003.

Letter from *John Joss*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. A LITTLE, on account of length of time of severe weather.

2. (*a*) Something by private individuals privately.
(*b*) Not ascertained.

3. No.

4. Weather not now so severe ; it is hoped to be ended.

PARISH OF DAVIOT, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,106. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,382.

Letter from *Duncan McGillivray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

2. None required.

3. No.

PARISH OF DORES, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 923. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,040.

Letter from *Andrew Urquhart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing specially required.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF DUIRINISH, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 3,923. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,513.

Letter from *J. Nicolson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in my parish at present. There are a number out of employment, but as the "credit system" is so much in force here, they are usually supplied by merchants with goods until such time as they find employment.

3. None.

4. I have no doubt but there will be considerable difficulty to procure seed oats among the crofters this spring, and to enable them to procure such, I would suggest that some public work be started, such as the repairing or improvement of existing roads (which they urgently require), *e.g.*, the public road between Dunvegan and Portree, where so many accidents occurred owing to defective engineering, &c.

PARISH OF DUTHIL, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,431. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,674.

Letter from *R. C. Lobban*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the district, due (1) to the number of navvies and other workmen at present located in the parish in connection with the construction of the Aviemore Railway; (2) to the weather, which is, and has been, exceptionally severe this winter, on account of which out-door work is at a complete standstill since Christmas; (3) to the mountainous character of the district. Parts of the parish are almost inaccessible since the beginning of the storm, and communication is altogether very difficult. The face of the country is in such a state that, should good weather set in now, out-door work cannot be prosecuted for at least three weeks.

2. (*a.*) Public authorities have not been called upon to any extent. A soup kitchen has been started in connection with the railway works. A distribution of oatmeal, coals, &c., has been made to the unemployed more immediately connected with the district.
(*b.*) The average daily number relieved during the week in connection with the soup kitchen was 80, of which about 40 reside in the neighbouring parish of Moy; 40*l.* has been collected for this object. The amount expended in the distribution of coals and meal, &c., to the native unemployed up to date is 10*l.*, and the number relieved, 50.

3. The distribution of meal, &c., has been entrusted to the Inspector of Poor, who keeps a list of those relieved. The railway contractor keeps a list of the navvies relieved at the soup kitchen. There is thus no overlapping of the two voluntary agencies.

4. The agencies noted above have, so far, been able to cope with the distress. The number relieved, however, only form a fraction of the unemployed, and if the severe weather holds out much longer, the rates are likely to be called upon to a large extent.

PARISH OF GLENELG, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,503. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,339.

Letter from *D. M'Lure*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. No.

2. Such is not known in the parish.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF HARRIS, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 5,024. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,211.

Letter from *Angus Macdonald*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this district, further than what is peculiar to the locality.

2. Four families relieved by the proprietor, with 19 dependants. Three families relieved by the Inspector of Poor by casual relief, with 17 dependants.

3. None.

4. The best system for relieving them here is to give them work on roads through the hills to enable the children the more easily to attend school, and to facilitate access to the burying grounds, &c.

PARISH OF INVERNESS, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 24,186. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £103,595.

Letter from *Hugh Fraser*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES; due to severe weather.

2. (*a.*) Work and food given by the Town Council, and food, coals, &c., by voluntary agencies.
(*b.*) During the week 144 men were employed at 4*d.* per hour, working six hours a day, and 1,199 stones of oatmeal and 144 loaves of bread were distributed. The above by Town Council by means of subscriptions, concerts, &c. Voluntary agencies: Soup kitchen, 80 daily relieved. Free breakfasts, 60 daily relieved. All the churches giving relief, and number relieved not ascertained.

3. Yes, at Burgh Police Office. Gave relief as above.

4. No. The distress here will disappear on the return of good weather.

PARISH OF KILMALLIE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 4,312. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £25,392.

Letter from *John Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. The Burgh of Fortwilliam would be the first to suffer, and although out-door labour was at a standstill owing to a long continuance of frost, all who wished for employment could be employed clearing the snow block on the West Highland Railway.

2. All chronic cases share the usual contributions in coals and meal during the winter season, and paupers are not excluded. There is no voluntary agency, and these necessaries are furnished by the charitably disposed, and is done more or less every winter.

3. No.

4. Looking to the future, I would suggest that the Burgh Commissioners of Fortwilliam, or other body, should construct a stone depôt at some place convenient to the burgh, in order to afford work to the able-bodied in case of meeting with a winter similar to what is now past.

PARISH OF KILMONIVAIG, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,205. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £22,496.

Letter from *William Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of a single case of distress in the parish.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF KILMORACK, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,093. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £15,489.

Letter from *Donald McLean*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1 No.

2. All known distress was relieved by voluntary subscriptions and contributions.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KILMUIR (SKYE), COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,394. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,034.

Letter from *A. Mackinnon*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no unusual distress in this district at present.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF KILTARLITY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,922. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,503.

Letter from *William Fraser*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF KINGUSSIE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,941. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,521.

Letter from *John Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is considerable distress in this district due to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) In the burghal portion of this parish the Police Commissioners are employing the distressed in clearing the streets and roads within the burgh of snow. In the landward portion voluntary agencies are distributing food and fire where such are required.
(*b.*) There was no pressing need for relief up to the 16th February. Since then 18 families have been relieved by me out of a voluntary contribution of 15*l.* received for their benefit.

3. There is no such register maintained, but on 16th February I visited at their homes such families as I thought would be in distress in the district, and reported 18 as cases where relief in fuel and food was urgently required. Their wants were promptly attended to out of the contribution mentioned under 2 (*b*) above.

4. I would suggest that the district committee of the County Council should give work to the unemployed by opening up the county roads, which in this district have been blocked up with snow for the past two months. By doing so the distress in this quarter would be altogether relieved and the public greatly convenienced.

PARISH OF KIRKHILL, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,307. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,734.

Letter from *Hector MacLean*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. PARISH is mainly agricultural. Distress not exceptional. The principal difficulty is the cheapness of food Workpeople fairly sober.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF LAGGAN, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 857. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,297.

Letter from *Roderick Macdonald*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district to my knowledge.

2. There being no exceptional distress no exceptional relief is necessarily required.

3. In the circumstances no unemployed register necessary.

4. In the circumstances I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF MOY AND DALAROSSIE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 730. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,701.

Letter from *John Watson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. MANY of the native population of the parish have certainly suffered from privation, both on account of the blocked state of the roads and the severity of the weather, but hitherto there has been no distress to excite anxiety, or demand special relief in the case of any. On the other hand, the navvies employed in the construction of the new Aviemore line, and resident in the parish, have had very trying times of it during the storm, but the contractors, Messrs. Ross & Son, are doing everything in their power to alleviate the distress.

2. The public authorities have done nothing as yet to relieve distress. The Mackintosh of Mackintosh has generously opened a soup kitchen at the roadside here, at his own expense, for the relief of all necessitous cases in the district.

3. No.

4. At present there is no special necessity for making further provision, or making any suggestion for the purpose of relieving local distress.

PARISH OF PETTY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,298. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,092.

Letter from *Alexander Marr*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of any.

PARISH OF PORTREE, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 3,176. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £8,690.

Letter from *Geo. W. MacKenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of any exceptional distress just now.

2. Nothing has been done as the Poor Law relief is supposed to be sufficient.

3. No.

4. I have none. There is a scarcity of work in this district, and undoubtedly if Government encouraged local industries, it would greatly promote the prosperity and comfort of the inhabitants.

PARISH OF SLEAT, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,843. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,411.

Letter from *John MacKenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. I HEAR of no distress in the district.

2. There has been no claim for exceptional relief other than the ordinary parochial.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestion, further than that Government should erect boatslips at the different fishing grounds to allow fishermen to prosecute their calling, which would relieve any distress.

PARISH OF SMALL ISLES, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 436. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,755.

Letter from *James Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. No distress except the usual chronic want of industry on the part of a few who always return home from employment in winter.

2. Nothing, as the distress is not general, and may be said to be voluntary.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF SNIZORT, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 1,908. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,731.

Letter from *A. Mackinnon*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no unusual distress in this district at present.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF STRATH, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,399. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,497.

Letter from *P. C. MacKenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF NORTH UIST, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 4,187. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,837.

Letter from *M. MacDonald*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THE people in this parish did not suffer any hardships through the recent severe frost, and are in no way in distress for want of food.

PARISH OF SOUTH UIST, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 5,821. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,513.

Letter from *J. A. MacLeod*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district at present. There are no works in it with which the severe weather interfered to any appreciable extent. There are no public works in this place. Crofting and a little fishing are the leading industries of the parish (only potatoes), and will be so scarce that crofters will not be able to plant as much as they were wont in former years, and so scarce that they cannot buy from a distance.

3. There are no public works in the parish, and I am not aware that there is an unemployed register kept. Certainly none by the Parochial Board.

4. As stated in 1, there are no public works in the district, and those of the crofters who have but a few acres of very indifferent lands, and have nothing else by which to make, would be much benefited if employment could be given them in the district, as the produce gets exhausted later on, say about the end of spring. The potato crop having been a comparative failure this year distress is sure to follow.

PARISH OF URQUHART AND GLENMORISTON, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

Population (1891), 2,040. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,790.

Letter from *Angus Grant*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No, there is no exceptional distress in this parish arising from the want of employment. No constant employment is ever expected here in winter, except in connection with estates, such as erecting fences, working in plantations and woods, &c. During the storm, there was more work than usual going on in the woods on account of the ease with which timber can be dragged over snow. There are a few labourers who do not get much to do on the estates, and who are content with occasional jobs in winter. On account of the prolonged storm these are getting less to do than they expected. Some may be therefore pretty hard-up, but as yet there is no complaint

2. (*a.*) In cases of hardship, there is a Dorcas Society with funds at their disposal. On the Seafield Estates the factor has the power to give assistance in deserving cases, and such assistance has been given at my recommendation
(*b.*) I am not aware that any application has been made for that week.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ARBUTHNOTT, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 795. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,590.

Letter from *John Jackson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

PARISH OF BANCHORY DEVENICK, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,981. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,274.

Letter from *J. Simpson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS parish being wholly agricultural, with the exception of the fishing villages of Portlethen, Downies, and Findon (where the catches of fish, as reported to me by the fishermen themselves, are at present, and have been for some time, very good), there is little or no distress in this district, as is apparent from the fact that not a single application for relief has been made to me since 6th November last.

PARISH OF BANCHORY TERNAN, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 3,193. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £20,750.

Letter from *Joseph Merson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been considerable privation amongst members of building trades, out-door workers and labourers, arising almost altogether from the inclement weather.

2. Voluntary agencies have overtaken all relief work required. A soup kitchen within the burgh has daily relieved large numbers there, where the hardships have been more keenly felt than amongst the landward population. Daily average wanted, 90. Other agencies are intermittent, and no daily figures can be given.

3. No register.

4. No special recommendations can be made. The return of good weather will bring immediate effects of the distress to an end.

PARISH OF BENHOLM, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,552. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,346.

Letter from *William Low*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No distress beyond the usual at this season of the year.

2. There is no cause for anything being done by the public authorities in this parish or district.

3. No; register not required.

4. None.

PARISH OF BERVIE, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 2,387. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,390.

Letter from *James Roberts*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

2. There is no special distress in this parish at the present time.

3. There is no unemployed register kept by any public authority in this parish.

PARISH OF DUNNOTTAR, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 2,739. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,605.

Letter from *John Macpherson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are some cases of exceptional distress, and all are attributable to the severe weather.

2. The chief constable has collected altogether fully 30*l.*, and through the committee of the public soup kitchen about 170 separate families of one or more persons have been daily supplied with soup and bread. The Society of Ancient Shepherds, under the auspices of the town council, held a concert, at which 24*l.* were netted for the relief of the unemployed, and the Kirk Session of Fetteresso have given 20 tons of coal. About 300 persons have been assisted daily during week ending 16th February, mostly with soup and coals, but I cannot give specific numbers.

3. No.

4. No; I am of opinion that the distress, which applies to the out-door labourers—the fishermen, a good many of whom live here, have not been affected—has been generously met. There have been no applications to the parochial board on account of the special distress.

PARISH OF DURRIS, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 918. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,611.

Letter from *Francis Duncan*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No; there is no distress in this district, and no necessarily idle man in the parish. Practically, the whole parish is owned by Mr. H. R. Baird, of Durris, who gives work on his estate to all resident upon it who want employment.

2. *See* above.

3. No. *See* above.

4. *See* above.

PARISH OF FETTERCAIRN, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,421. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,498.

Letter from *David Prain*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. TAKING "exceptional" into consideration, I should say, No. I would say that any distress that may be affecting a very few families is entirely due to the late severe weather (happily now somewhat abated), and this applies only to day's wage labourers. Officially, I am glad to say, not a single extra application for relief has been made to me during the prevalence of the storm.

PARISH OF FETTERESSO, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 5,527. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,322.

Letter from *A. Thomson Wood*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is not much distress in this parish. The severe weather has stopped out-door labour in a great measure during the last two months.

2. (*a.*) The public authorities have not required to take any action. The soup kitchen, which is always open three days a week at this season, has lately been open six days a week. The Kirk Session, who annually distribute 20 tons of English coal, have this year distributed 40 tons. Twenty pounds was raised by a dramatic entertainment, and is being given in oatmeal and groceries. Nearly 20*l.* was sent to the chief constable, who is giving meal, coal and groceries to the most necessitous.

(*b.*) There is no regular daily relief.

3. No.

4. No. Every really necessitous case is being attended to.

PARISH OF FORDOUN, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 2,004. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,744.

Letter from *A. C.* pro. *Robert Bruce*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF GARVOCK, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 415. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,334.

Letter from *James B. Greig*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No; nearly all the working class residents are in farm service under six monthly engagements.
2. Nothing by public authorities. Private charity copes with any existing want.
3. No.
4. No distress.

PARISH OF GLENBERVIE, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 887. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,518.

Letter from *John J. Wallace*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing; as it is not necessary.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF KINNEFF AND CATTERLINE, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 907. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,786.

Letter from *James Glegg*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF LAURENCEKIRK, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,934. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,186.

Letter from *George Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nil.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF MARYCULTER, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,030. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,014.

Letter from *James Macdonald*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish. Only a very few persons are wholly unemployed, and none of these are under any distress.
3. No.

PARISH OF MARYKIRK, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,307. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,302.

Letter from *John Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No; there is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF NIGG, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 4,513. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,225.

Letter from *Andrew D. Barnett*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. I BELIEVE so, but not to a large extent. The line fishermen have had very poor incomes during past six months, partly on account of stormy weather and other circumstances; quarry labourers, stone cutters, and general labourers have had little employment on account of the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) The Trades Council of Aberdeen, Police, and other agencies have been distributing charitable relief perhaps to the value of 10*l.* to 15*l.* No regular daily relief afforded. No application made to me as Inspector of Poor.

3. Not in this Parish.

4. I suggest that in open winters public authorities should have work reserved to offer, rather than encourage applicants for charity.

PARISH OF ST. CYRUS, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 1,327. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,808.

Letter from *George Moir*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. No applications for relief have been made to me during the recent storm.

3. Register not required.

PARISH OF STRACHAN, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.

Population (1891), 655. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,395.

Letter from *Neil Gilchrist*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district.

2. (*a.*) There is nothing being done as the state of matters is normal.
(*b.*) None.

PARISH OF CLEISH, COUNTY OF KINROSS.

Population (1891), 539. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,980.

Letter from *Thomas Dobbie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF FOSSOWAY, COUNTY OF KINROSS.

Population (1891), 1,053. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,853.

Letter from *William Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. A few labourers, such as drainers, cannot get at their usual work, but can find other employment.

2. (*a.*) Nothing by Public Authorities.
(*b.*) One gentleman, Mr. Mowbray of Naemoor by Dollar, distributed about 20 tons of coals last week among the poor and some of the labouring class.

3. No.

PARISH OF KINROSS, COUNTY OF KINROSS.

Population (1891), 2,385. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,692.

Letter from *Robert Wylie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress here on account of want of employment or the severe weather, and no application has been made by any parishioner for parochial relief, from either of these causes, all this winter.

2. Nothing done by any public authorities.

3. No.

PARISH OF ORWELL, COUNTY OF KINROSS.

Population (1891), 1,852. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,375.

Letter from *John Watson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress in this parish. Masons, plasterers, slaters, &c., are idle owing to the severe weather, but they are provident as a rule; should their savings run done, no difficulty in getting credit until they resume work. Agricultural servants are engaged by the year, consequently income not affected by weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing done by public authorities; there has been a good deal of charity by private individuals and churches in the shape of coals, tea and sugar, &c. In Milnathout, with a population of about 1,100, 50*l*. since the beginning of the year; that is within my knowledge, and, I presume, a good deal I have not heard of.

3. No.

4. I am of opinion the Poor Law is quite able to deal with the matter here.

PARISH OF PORTMOAK, COUNTY OF KINROSS.

Population (1891), 844. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,923.

Letter from *Wm. Glass*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. I DO not think there are half a dozen unemployed within the parish, and no case of destitution exists.

PARISH OF ANWORTH, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 724. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,325.

Letter from *John McClellan*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. NONE.

2. (*a*) Public subscription raised and work given.

(*b*) Twenty.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF BALMACLELLAN, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 745. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,140.

Letter from *George Coltart*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. So far as I am aware there is no exceptional distress in this parish at present. The "doles" from the Kirk Session have been distributed and have been more bountiful than on former occasions, consisting of coals, meal, tea, sugar, and bread. At statutory meeting of Parochial Board held here last Thursday, there was only one application for relief, and that was dealt with as "casual."

2. The curlers in this district have most kindly, on two or three occasions, distributed coals, meal, bread, &c. These donations have been chiefly to the deserving poor, not to those receiving parochial relief, and have been greatly appreciated by the workers during this severe weather.

3. No.

PARISH OF BALMAGHIE, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 839. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,516.

Letter from *William Sproat*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. VERY little, if any; if there is, it is wholly due to the severe weather. I feel sure not a person in the parish is in want.

2. Nothing by public authorities, the annual gifts of coals, &c., by private parties have again been given and have been gratefully received, especially on account of the severe weather, the recipients being those on the poor roll, and other poor through age or illness.

3. No.

4. No, none necessary.

PARISH OF BORGUE, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,121. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,002.

Letter from *John Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

PARISH OF BUITTLE, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 960. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,399.

Letter from *Hugh Knox*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. *See* answer to 1.

3. No.

4. *See* answer to 1.

PARISH OF CARSPHAIRN, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 394. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,045.

Letter from *Geo. C. McMillan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress here.

PARISH OF COLVEND, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,127. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,182.

Letter from *James McLelland*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. This is due to the circumstances peculiar to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing by public authorities, but by voluntary agencies.

(*b*) Six by private charity and voluntary agencies.

Note.—Agricultural labourers are suffering most, having had no work for about two months, but in a good many cases, members of their families, hired by the half-year, get advances from their masters and then assist their parents.

3. No.

4. If a sum of, say, 50*l.*, could be placed in the hands of the Kirk Session or of the Parochial Board, much distress could be alleviated for a time.

PARISH OF CROSSMICHAEL, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,348. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,280.

Letter from *John Clark*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. YES. The district is purely agricultural and the exceptional severity of the weather lately has precluded the possibility of field work.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities; a good deal by private benefaction. About 80 or 90 stones of meal, and several tons of coal (resulting from curling matches), have been distributed among the necessitous cases. All having been done privately, it is impossible for me to give numbers.

3. No.

4. No outside assistance seems to be required in this parish. Doles to the needy (from donations and bequests) are also made by the Kirk Session from time to time, but privately.

PARISH OF DALRY, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 925. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,314.

Letter from *James Barbour*, Chairman, *pro* Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress.

2. The interest of an endowment under the management of the Kirk Session, and other doles supplied by private charity, have been found sufficient to meet any cases of hardship, but no applications have been made for special relief.

3. None.

4. No.

PARISH OF GIRTHON, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,354. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,331.

Letter from *John Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the parish, caused principally by severe weather.

2. Public authorities employ 20 to 30 men for 10 days clearing away snow. County Council employed about 30 for 10 days clearing away snow. Voluntary agency maintain a soup kitchen, where about 20 to 25 are relieved daily.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KELLS, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 931. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,823.

Letter from *George Linton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO; there is no exceptional distress in the parish. Any cases of a little hardship caused by the severe weather have been, and are being, met by voluntary distribution of coal and meal, &c.

2. The public authorities have not been called upon in the matter; there is no necessity for them; there is no record of the numbers relieved voluntarily; they are not many.

3. No; there is no register, none being required.

PARISH OF KELTON, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 3,692. Rateable Rental (1893–94), £23,604.

Letter from *John Welsh*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. HAVE not been made aware of any exceptional case of distress in the parish, nor any applications for relief on account of the weather.

2. Ordinary winter soup-kitchen in the Burgh of Castle Douglas in this parish. The Town Clerk will be giving particulars of this in his return, as the kitchen, I understand, was primarily under the control of Town Council.

PARISH OF KIRKBEAN, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 714. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,421.

Letter from *James Fulton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 3,477. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,259.

Letter from *F. Finlayson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. The recent snowstorm has necessitated the clearing of the roads and streets, consequently there is no appreciable number of unemployed. In order to protect the bridge which spans the Dee at Kirkcudbright, the fishermen have been employed breaking the ice. A daily allowance of soup is supplied to all in need; the kitchen is supported by voluntary contributions.

3. No.

4. The means now employed are quite sufficient.

PARISH OF KIRKGUNZEON, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 539. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,066.

Letter from *William Copland*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF KIRKMABRECK, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,599. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,738.

Letter from *John Carson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. In explanation:—I have had only one application for parochial relief since the New Year. The granite quarries, which are almost the sole industry of the place, were at a standstill since the snowstorm on February 6th until the 20th, when re-lays of men have been working since then. I understand the full force of men will be employed in a day or so.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK DURHAM, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,157. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,112.

Letter from *Robert Grierson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOTHING other than that caused by the severe weather.
2. Voluntary distributions of meal, coals, bread, tea, &c., during severe weather, to working people.
3. No.
4. Labourers might be more fully employed after a snowstorm clearing the roads for traffic.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK IRONGRAY, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 747. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,225.

Letter from *David Douglas*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. Most of the working people are employed as yearly or half-yearly servants.

2. There is no need for anything being done by public authorities or by voluntary agencies. Some of the gentlemen have given money to purchase coals for the poorer families; but this is done every year to make their condition more comfortable during the coldest part of the year.

3. No register is kept.

4. No.

PARISH OF LOCHRUTTON, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 534. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,174.

Letter from *Henry R. Sewell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

3. No register of unemployed is kept, there being no need of such.

PARISH OF MINNIGAFF, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,425. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,513.

Letter from *James M'Kie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE at present.

2. Plenty of charitable bequests to meet all demands.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF NEW ABBEY, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 866. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,027.

Letter from *Peter M'Donald*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY distress here is due to severe weather.

2. Any cases of distress here has been very well attended to through private sources, proceeds from a charity ball, money from the Kirk Session. There has been coals distributed, and also meal, and are still distributing coals to-day.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF PARTON, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 692. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,972.

Letter from *W. Browne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No no unemployed in district.

PARISH OF RERRICK, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 1,582. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,425.

Letter from *James Ramsay*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. As some of the working men in this locality have done very little work since the frost began their families must be getting hard up, but I cannot say there is any exceptional distress in the district. Any distress that exists must be attributed to the severe weather, as, only for that, all the working men would have been fully employed.

2. (*a*) A good deal of charity has been dispensed in the shape of coals, oatmeal, loaves, and tea and sugar, by voluntary agencies.
(*b*) I cannot give any numbers; but, as this is a thinly-populated district, any necessitous case is soon known of and attended to.

3. No.

4. I can offer no suggestions.

PARISH OF TERREGLES, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 478. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,119.

Letter from *John A. Carse*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF TONGLAND, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 845. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,807.

Letter from *George Hunter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. "EXCEPTIONAL distress" cannot be said to exist. A few day labourers have been longer than usual off work owing to frost; they are all settled "residenters," who, as a rule, would get credit for a time after savings were exhausted; and, *see* under No. 2.

2. Every year, by means of concerts, a small fund is provided for exceptional and temporary needs. Some of the funds of the current and previous years still remain accessible to Inspector of Poor and County Councillor. About seven men (otherwise unemployed) were engaged at 3*s.* 4*d.* a day to help the regular surfacemen to clear roads during week ending 16th February.

3. Not required.

4. No.

PARISH OF TROQUEER, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 5,887. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £32,557.

Letter from *John Maxwell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Employment has been given by an association formed to collect subscriptions and provide work for the unemployed, and to distribute coals and soup to those in destitute circumstances.
(*b*) I understand the average number of men daily employed during the week ending 16th February 1895 to be about 36.

3. Yes, one is kept by the burgh officer.

4. In ordinary years the charitable agencies already mentioned have been found sufficient to cope with the distress.

PARISH OF TWYNHOLM, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 694. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,240.

Letter from *John Watson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Happy to report that there is no exceptional distress from want of employment.

PARISH OF URR, COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population (1891), 4,589. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,002.

Letter from *John Lowden*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is more or less distress every winter when work is stopped by storms or frost, which this year has been longer and more severe than usual.

2. A good deal has been done by public authorities and voluntary agencies to meet the temporary distress in cleaning roads and streets of snow.

3. No.

4. No suggestions. Granite quarries, which is the principal trade of the parish, is very brisk at present; the men were only off work for a short time.

PARISH OF AVONDALE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 5,069. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £35,247.

Letter from *Alexander Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES, wholly caused here by severe weather.

2. Parochial Board gave extra allowance to all in receipt of relief. Over 60 cases got provision orders for 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* weekly from subscriptions. Sixty labourers temporarily resident at waterworks here are being supported by private charity. A soup kitchen is open to all comers, but as the soup is carried away the number relieved in this way is not known accurately, say 30.

3. No register.

4. I have visited all the cases relieved privately and would respectfully suggest that parochial boards should have power to meet this distress either by providing work or giving temporary aid. Fuller inquiry would tend to better classification and fairer treatment of well-doing deserving cases.

PARISH OF BARONY, COUNTIES OF GLASGOW AND LANARK.

Population (1891), 309,812. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,411,480.

Letter from *James R. Motion*, for Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is at present considerable exceptional distress due, in my opinion, chiefly to the severity of the weather whereby out-door labour had generally to be suspended. On 17th ultimo special reports by my assistants, from inquiries made in the various districts, showed that there was no unusual distress, and had mild weather continued there would have been no necessity for exceptional measures of relief. (*See* copy letter to Town Clerk and relative reports enclosed herewith.)

2. The municipal authorities, the Charity Organisation Society, and public subscription have provided employment at stone-breaking, &c., for able-bodied men and opened soup kitchens controlled by the police, who also give other relief in money, provisions, and coals. The average daily number relieved can only be given through the Town Clerk of Glasgow and the Charity Organisation Society.

3. An unemployed register has been maintained by the Charity Organisation Society in a small way, but with little satisfactory result.

4. Measures taken by the authorities to cope with the distress have been carried out with little or no discrimination, and, in my opinion, will take years to eradicate the evils resulting therefrom. I am confident that about one-fifth of those relieved are habitual paupers either in receipt of out-door relief or who will not remain in the poorhouse. Few of the men engaged at stone breaking are *bonâ fide* unemployed tradesmen, but are composed chiefly of the discharged prisoner, the tramp, and the loafer. Barlinnie and Duke Street Prisons, I am informed, had never fewer inmates than now. The relief of such distress should be entrusted to the poor law authorities, who should have power to acquire or lease land for labour colonies, and the churches, trades unions, and other ordinary channels of private charity could then, without difficulty, cope with the small class of unemployed tradesmen.

Enclosure.

Parochial Board, Barony Parish, Glasgow,
17 January 1895.

Unemployed.

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 15th instant with reference to the above, I may state that on its receipt I called my out-door staff together and instructed them to make special inquiry as to the state of trade, &c., in their respective districts, and enclosed you have press copy of their individual reports.

You will observe that these reports are all to the same effect, viz., that trade is even better at present than it has been during the past year or two at this season, and that there is no call whatever for relief works for unemployed.

I have

I have also obtained and send you likewise statistics showing you the state of the collection of rates for the present year compared with past years, which speak for themselves. Two extensive house factors report also that rents are not more difficult to obtain just now than in previous years at this season. Of course, the magistrates are quite aware that at all seasons there are a number of so-called unemployed, and when it is remembered that from 40 to 60 persons are daily discharged from Barlinnie, and go to swell the ranks of the unemployed, it is not difficult to account for a great portion of those who are unable to find stated employment. If relief works were set in operation, and inquiry made at those who came forward, I have no doubt it would be ascertained that they were largely of the class I have indicated; but apart from this I am quite satisfied that the existing agencies are quite able to cope with the alleged destitution of the unemployed.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *Jas. R. Motion*,
Acting Inspector of Poor.

James G. Monro, Esq.,
Town Clerk Depute.

(State of Trade on 1st District.—Includes Possilpark, Springburn, Townhead, Blockhairn, Parkhead, and Camlachie.)

I have made inquiry regarding above, and have to state that trade generally in above districts is very good indeed; in fact, is better at this season of the year than what it has been for at least nine years. All the large iron, &c., works in these districts, where thousands of men are employed, are mostly on full time; a few of the smaller works being slack, but still enjoying a fair share of trade.

The building trade is also in a very fair condition, large blocks of dwellings being erected in Possilpark, Springburn, &c., employing a good number of masons, builders, slaters, joiners, &c.

Printers, compositors, painters, &c., are slack, but a good number of the men are in the different societies, and in receipt of benefit.

I spoke to several idle men, but most of them were general labourers. One of them was a steel worker, idle through a breakdown of machinery in the work; he expected to start daily. I also called on several respectable householders in these districts, and they could not point out to me a single case of destitution caused by a tradesman being idle.

I would point out that the state of trade can be pretty fairly gauged by the number of men found on the streets at Saracen Cross, corner of Parliamentary-road, and Castle-street, Springburn Cross, and Parkhead Cross. During the new year holidays large crowds of men congregated there, but now there is comparatively few, and most of these are unskilled labourers, the usual amount of "loafers," and others unfit for work supposing they got it.

(signed) *J. P. Brand*,
Assistant Inspector.

Glasgow, 17 January 1895.

(Work.—Calton and Mile End District.)

I beg to report that, as far as I can ascertain, work in the district at the present time is fairly brisk and remunerative.

Building, *Plasterers*, *&c.*, being busy (of course, during the frost masons, plasterers, joiners, &c., were idle).

The Mills for some time back were on short time, but since the holidays are working full.

Engineering work fairly brisk.

Railway (underground) and sewer works busy.

The only drawback is the stoppage of the works of Messrs. Laird and Thomson (where a great number of old men were employed as hand-loom weavers, and old women as outside pirn winders), but I hear that the works have been sold, and work is likely to commence in a month or so.

In this district there are always a number of so-called "unemployed," from the fact that they would rather loaf or beg than work. This class always swell the ranks of the unemployed.

I have inquired at several employers, who affirm that the winter has been open, work on the whole fairly busy, and that the time for the unemployed cry is past and gone.

16 January 1895. (signed) *M. D. Toner*,
Assistant Inspector.

(Unemployed.—Bridgeton District.)

From personal observations and inquiries made, I am satisfied that general trade in this district is up to the average standard of the past two or three years. Iron works, boiler works, and engineer works are all working full time, although, in some instances, the full complement are not employed. Tube works are fairly busy, and fully employed. The weaving trade is improving, and although all the mills are fully employed, in many instances the wages earned are small, the class of work being bad; but this has been the case for over a year past.

Potteries are very slack meantime, but nothing else is expected at this time of the year.

Miners are all working.

On the whole, I am of opinion that the respectable unemployed are not numerous—certainly not above the average at any time of the year, and so far as this district is concerned no call exists for the starting of relief works.

(signed) *A. B. Maclean*,
Assistant Inspector.

Glasgow, 17 January 1895.

(State of Trade.—Anderston District.)

I have this day inquired at several of the leading works in the above district as to the present state of trade, and the information obtained is as follows:—

Manager of Foundry says, trade is a little dull these times, and a good many men are going about idle; they could not employ any more at present.

Foreman of Engineering Works states their work presently is as brisk as at other times, not worse than three years ago, and wages are as formerly.

Manager of another Engineering Work says:—Extra busy at present with day and night shift, and our labourers are being paid from 16*s*. 10½*d*. to 18*s*. per week. Many through drink or failing to rise early enough lose their places, and so are thrown idle. He believes the shipbuilding yards are now also busy, although many were unavoidably idle during the recent severe frost, because of the danger of working upon scaffolding, and the difficulty experienced in handling cold iron.

Chief Clerk of Galvanising Works says that they have a day and night shift working, and their men earn from 20*s.* to 25*s.* per week presently, working full time.

Timekeeper in Rivet Works says they work only five days per week at present, on account of their trade being slack. They have no night shift.

Foreman of Brass and Copper Works says they are very busy, working day and night (different men for each shift). Wages 30*s.* 6*d.* per week. He says there are many who will not work. Some time ago a woman successfully pled with him to get her husband a job, but he worked only two days when he (without cause) disappeared, and he sent his son back to the works for what he had earned.

Foreman Labourer says there are doubtless many men in Glasgow idle at the present time, and numbers apply daily to get work. With them (at the Underground Railway) labourers earn from 22*s.* to 24*s.* per week.

A Carter says that trade in their line is not worse now than at other times; they earn from 22*s.* to 28*s.* per week.

Stevedore states that the labourers at the Harbour are not worse off now than they were two months ago. Most of those working earn from 4*s.* 6d. to 5*s.* per day.

(signed) *J. Chisholm*,
Assistant Inspector.

38, Cochrane-street, Glasgow,
16 January 1895.

(State of Trade.—Cowcaddens and Maryhill Districts.)

I have to-day made inquiry in the districts as to the state of trade, and the number of unemployed men.

In the Building Trade work is in a very healthy state at the present time in the Maryhill District, large blocks of houses being put up in Gairbraid Street, Oran Street, Campbell Street, Gilshochiel, &c., both masons and joiners being fully employed on the new properties. During the recent frost they were thrown idle, and also at the usual holiday season at the new year time, but work has been now generally resumed, and as far as I can learn there is no scarcity of work in the above trades and also for the general labourers. I am also informed that in the various potteries work is fairly good; although they are not working full time there is a general five days a week in them, with the exception of one pottery, where most of the men, girls, &c., are idle at present, and have been since the New Year's holidays, but I am told this is expected to be merely a temporary slackness.

Among the various foundries in the district there seems to be a fair share of work going; most of them are working five days a week, and one or two of them full time, and as far as I can learn there is only about the usual number of moulders and labourers unemployed at the present time of the year.

In going about the districts I do not see that there is any special increase in the number of men standing about the street corners, with the exception of a number of railway labourers who were employed on the different sections of the Underground Railway now completed. Among the canal labourers there is the usual amount of work going on, neither better nor worse, as in former years.

On the whole, I do not think there is any special want of work in the district at this time of the year.

(signed) *Duncan McInnes*,
Assistant Inspector.

Glasgow, 16 January 1895.

Parish of Biggar, County of Lanark.

Population (1891), 1,902. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,214.

Letter from *David Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. (1.) Only a little more than is usual in winter, and what is may be said to be confined within the boundaries of the burgh.
(2.) Due to unusual severity of the weather preventing labourers and other out-door workers from working.

2. (*a.*) There has not been distress requiring to be relieved by public authorities.
(*b.*) By voluntary effort of a few private individuals about 12*l.* was collected, and groceries and coals to that amount were distributed amongst poor persons—60 cases in all, including a few persons who could not work.

3. No.

4. During the week ending this date 28*l.* (realized as the proceeds of a concert) for the purchase of groceries and provisions have been distributed amongst about 80 cases—poor people including unemployed, and at Christmas 40 tons of coal were divided in like manner out of subscriptions collected annually for an annual distribution.

Parish of Blantyre, County of Lanark.

Population (1891), 11,352. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £35,894.

Letter from *A. B. Maxwell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. Being almost entirely a mining populace there is no exceptional distress in the parish. The few who are unemployed being stonemasons and bricklayers, and the labourers connected with them have almost wholly found temporary employment at the collieries.

2. There has been nothing done either by the County Council or Parochial Board, the only public authorities in the district, or by any voluntary agencies. None relieved.

3. No register of the unemployed has been kept.

4. None.

PARISH OF BOTHWELL, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 31,484. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £146,666.

Letter from *James Muir*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Masons and joiners have been thrown idle through the recent long frost, but as these classes of workmen, are usually thrifty there has been no public necessity for aiding them. Miners and ironworkers are, on the whole steadily employed at present.

2. *See* answers as above. As showing that there is no exceptional distress in this parish, it may be stated that there have been only 55 applications for relief from 1st December 1894 to date, as against 82 for the same period of 1893–94.

3. Not required.

4. In view of above replies I consider it unnecessary to offer any suggestions on the subject.

PARISH OF CADDER, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 8,232. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £44,411.

Letter from *Thomas M'Lelland*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish at the present time. During the recent severe frost scarcity of work was to some extent experienced by those engaged in the building trade, but not to such an extent as to entail hardship or privation to any special degree.

2. (*a.*) As stated above, no special distress prevails in the meantime.

(*b.*) There has been no voluntary agency at work in the parish.

3. No.

4. As stated above, no special distress prevails in the meantime.

PARISH OF CAMBUSLANG, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 15,364. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £82,344.

Letter from *Andrew Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. COMPARATIVELY little; what does exist is due to the severe weather.

2. Public authorities have not done anything to meet what distress exists. Voluntary agencies have distributed some coals, meal, and bread on two occasions.

3. No.

4. Did the distress require it, soup kitchens would be started.

PARISH OF CAMBUSNETHAN, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 22,709. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £68,418.

Letter from *W. Calderhead*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress in this district. Any distress is caused entirely by the severity of the weather, the sufferers being masons, plasterers, slaters, and their labourers.

2. The burgh magistrates are collecting subscriptions; 142 grocery orders for 2*s.* each have been issued since 16th February (the date on which they were commenced). A large quantity of coal has also been distributed during the winter; the unemployed received 20 tons on the 21st instant, and another 20 tons are to be distributed to-morrow, 26th February.

3. There is no register kept, but it is estimated that the total number of unemployed does not exceed 80.

4. No suggestions. The number of unemployed is limited, and they are being dealt with at present.

PARISH OF CARLUKE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 8,058. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £38,507.

Letter from *Daniel Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is not much exceptional distress in this district, but what there is is due to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) Voluntary subscriptions to the amount of 50*l.* or thereby have been collected. Relief was given in the form of provisions and coals, and, in some cases, money.

(*b.*) No daily relief was given.

3. No register maintained.

4. No.

PARISH OF CARMICHAEL, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 593. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,927.

Letter from *William Cadzow*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no particular distress in this parish. The population is small, and scarcely a cot house in the parish.

2. Nothing is requiring to be done.

3. No, not required.

PARISH OF CARMUNNOCK, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 703. Gross Rental (1893–94), £7,820. (Parish unassessed.)

Letter from *William Fleming*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Not required.

3. Not required.

4. No.

PARISH OF CARNWATH, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 5,324. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £30,793.

Letter from *James Forrest*, jun., Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF CARSTAIRS, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 1,977. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,676.

Letter from *Samuel J. Somerville*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF COVINGTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 396. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,874.

Letter from *George Dickson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. This is a purely agricultural parish, and the workpeople being engaged by the year or half-year, the weather has no effect upon their earnings.

2. No distress.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF CRAWFORD, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 1,634. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,264.

Letter from *James Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE. Every available man is employed either in clearing the roads or in helping to feed sheep.

2 Nothing. There is no exceptional distress in the district.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CRAWFORDJOHN, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 789. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,385.

Letter from *Alexander Renton*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF COULTER, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 420. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,883.

Letter from *Joseph Walker*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are no works of a public nature in this parish, men being chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits. They have been kept from working, but there has been no "distress," only inconvenience.

2. The resident registered poor were granted extra coals by the parochial board. They are three in number. No other action was necessary.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DALSERF, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 11,325. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £32,800.

Letter from *Robert Nicol*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. WE have no exceptional distress. Our population being a mining one the severe weather has very little effect.

2. There is a local committee who distribute annually about 100 tons of coal amongst the deserving poor. There is also a good working Dorcas Society who give warm clothing and boots to the same class of people, otherwise there has been nothing done.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF DALZIEL, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 19,228. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £77,123.

Letter from *John Miller*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. TRIFLING, wholly due to severe weather.

2. Nothing by public authorities. Charity Organisation Society of district dealing with exceptional cases.

3. No, unnecessary.

4. No, unnecessary.

PARISH OF DOLPHINTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 248. Gross Rental (1893–94), £2,768. (Parish unassessed.)

Letter from *Colin M'Kenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. The majority of the workmen are employed on the estates of the proprietors or with the farmers. Our three masons, one blacksmith, and one slater were, for a time at least, enjoying the frosty weather on the curling pond, with the *et ceteras*.

2. (*a.*) Nothing by the public authorities or by voluntary agencies.
(*b.*) None relieved.

3. No register.

4. Should it occur, I shall at once take what measures I can for its relief.

PARISH OF DOUGLAS, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 2,266. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,736.

Letter from *Alexander Hutchison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NO. None.

2. The parochial board is the only agency through which relief to the deserving poor is being obtained, but neither the registered or casual roll has been much increased during the severe spell of weather. The Curlers played in aid of the poor, and a concert is coming off in 10 days ; proceeds to be devoted to the same good cause.

3. No ; not required.

4. None necessary, in so far as this parish is concerned.

PARISH OF DUNSYRE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 191. Gross Rental (1893–94), £4,884. (Parish unassessed.)

Letter from *David Ayton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE at all.

2. No extra agency required.

3. None required.

4. None.

PARISH OF GLASGOW, COUNTY OF GLASGOW.

Population (1891), 176,824. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,043,075.

Letter from *A. Dempster*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Due almost wholly to exceptionally cold and severe weather, and to all the consequences flowing therefrom, such as out-door work stopped, water supplies disturbed, and various works unable to get along without water, bread-winners thrown out of employment, and illness resulting. It may be said that the frost, with fogs occasionally, has lasted over 50 days in Glasgow.

2. The

2. The corporation a fortnight ago started stone-breaking yards for men (2,100 working this morning), and set up soup kitchens in various parts of the city, and this is still going on, but more rigid investigation is now to take place; 9,000*l.* and upwards of a relief fund have come from citizens and others. The police constables and police offices have been utilised largely. Charity organisation is also lending assistance. This Board never had so many applicants for relief in my experience. There were 84 last Thursday, and 50 and 60 each day has been a common number for some time, the average number daily during the year being about 21.

Sorry I cannot supply the figures of the different agencies without inquiries, but the Town Clerk could do so.

3. I have no doubt an unemployed register is kept. The Town Clerk can furnish this information.

4. As to suggestions for relieving distress, I would fain hope that the worst is past, and with the end of the present week the numbers should be very much reduced. Relief by the corporation to those in need is at present being given to men in return for work; their families get lines for coal and food, and all who apply get soup. The Parochial Boards provide for all cases which may be brought under their notice, and these are many.

PARISH OF GLASSFORD, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 1,317. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,655.

Letter from *Andrew M'Ghie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOTHING exceptional. I have had no extra applications for aid. The severe weather has been felt by the poor most from want of fuel.

2. Nothing has been done by public authorities. A good many have been supplied with coals by voluntary aid.

3. No.

PARISH OF GOVAN COMBINATION, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 286,281. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,184,891.

Letter from *Andrew Wallace*. Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, there is exceptional distress in this parish mainly caused by the inclemency of the weather preventing out-door employment, and also producing a considerable amount of ill-health, such as bronchitis, &c. Trade in the parish, such as house-building, ship-building, and ordinary labourers' work would not be abnormally slack but for the severe weather. Warehouses, shops, and factories in the city and parish are not in a very thriving state, and a good many young people usually engaged in these places are idle.

2. The applications to the Parochial Board for relief have materially increased during the past month, and especially during the last two weeks, as will be seen from the following figures:—

Number of applications week ending			2nd	February,	111.	Corresponding period last year,		97.	Increase,	14.
Ditto	-	ditto	-	9th	„	106.	Ditto	-	ditto	87.	Ditto	19.
Ditto	-	ditto	-	16th	„	159.	Ditto	-	ditto	106.	Ditto	53.
Ditto	-	ditto	-	23rd	„	249.	Ditto	-	ditto	93.	Ditto	156.

The greater portion of these have been granted relief, out-door chiefly. This Board also granted 2 cwt. of coals to each pauper on the out-door rolls to the number of about 2,000, following a precedent during the winters of 1879-80 and 1880-81. The City of Glasgow, Govan, Partick, and Kinning Park Burgh Authorities have been giving employment at stone-breaking, &c., to about 4,000 or 5,000 unemployed men, and have also given lines for food, and opened soup kitchens in every district.

3. An unemployed register has been kept by the burgh authorities of those to whom employment was given. Inquiries have also been made by the police and Charity Organisation Society into those cases where orders for food have been granted. But soup has been given to nearly every one who applied. Along with some of my assistants I have aided the city authorities in the soup distribution. A good many cases of imposture have been discovered, but on the whole, the relief of the unemployed and destitute in the city and parish has been signally efficient, and I am not inclined to think that in any case has there been absolute want or starvation.

4. The relief works and soup kitchens will be continued for some time longer, but there is every appearance that the worst of the inclement weather is past.

PARISH OF HAMILTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 35,132. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £210,392.

Letter from *A. L. Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY distress in this district is due to the severity of the weather, which is affecting out-door labour.

2. The Town Council are employing the unemployed at 2*s.* per day making a public park. The average daily number working 58. The Cadzow Coal Company gave Provost Wylie 50 tons of coal to be distributed, and Rev. Dr. Hamilton, parish minister, distributed 20 tons, and other churches are giving coals and clothing.

3. Mr. Watson, Burgh Surveyor, keeps a register of the unemployed working in the public park, and the average daily number for week ending the 23rd February, was 71. A good many of which are of the tramp class.

4. I have no suggestions to make, as the Town Council are employing all the unemployed who are willing to work.

PARISH OF EAST KILBRIDE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 3,861. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £34,832.

Letter from *John Calderwood*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. CERTAINLY there is exceptional distress, but it is caused wholly by the severe weather, rendering working men idle for seven or eight weeks.

2. (*a.*) By voluntary agencies alone nearly £100 was raised, and meted out to families (in the shape of grocers' lines, &c.) by a self-appointed committee, to extend over a number of weeks, dealing with every case on its own merits; 100 tons of coal was given in the same way (*i.e.* by private agencies), and distributed at intervals; 20 dozen of 4lb. loaves have twice over been distributed by private benevolence, and meal and butter in small quantities by the principal farmers.

(*b.*) The average daily number might be on date mentioned 100, inclusive of all agencies.

3. No.

4. The unemployed have been especially well looked after and provided for during their enforced idleness, and all through voluntary agencies. The worst has now passed off.

PARISH OF LANARK, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 7,110. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £28,109.

Letter from *John Skinner*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the burgh of Lanark at present, mainly due to the severity of the frost, and its long duration. In the rural districts around here, there is virtually no distress.

In the town of Lanark there are many masons, slaters, and other tradesmen idle on account of the frost retarding the building industry. Day agricultural labourers are also out of employment.

This is a great fruit growing district. A large number of woman and children find employment at fruit gathering during the season which enables many households to save sufficient to tide them over the winter, but last year owing to the miners' strike taking place at the time the supply of labour was excessive, and the employment of those usually engaged at the work considerably reduced in consequence, therefore they save less than formerly. Single women especially have suffered much on this account.

In the landward parts there are many large private estates, and the proprietors, also the farmers have retained their workers, doing occasional work about the houses and grounds; moreover being a more provident class, so far, as I can ascertain, there is virtually no distress as the day labourers reside in the town, and are dealt with as stated.

2. In the burgh, the police magistrates are dealing with the male unemployed. About 45 engaged clearing away snow and ice from streets.

A committee of ladies and gentlemen formed, and subscriptions obtained. They mainly deal with the female workers out of employment. About 50 females in receipt of relief.

3. No register kept. Not required in a small town.

4. Not at present. A thaw set in on 23rd, and if it continues, it is expected work will be plentiful shortly.

PARISH OF LESMAHAGOW, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 9,752. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £57,296.

Letter from *George Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO, except a few masons on account of the weather.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF LIBBERTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 486. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,908.

Letter from *William B. Smellie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing. Workmen are mostly engaged at the farms.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF NEW MONKLAND, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 33,860. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £109,584.

Letter from *Andrew T. Alston*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is considerable distress in this district amongst out-door workers; generally, the industries of the district are fairly active, but the severe frost has stopped all out-door work.

2. The Town Council are asking for subscriptions, which are used for giving employment to men at stone-breaking. A townsman distributed 100 carts of coals last week. Private charity is the only relief in the landward district. Daily average relieved for week to 16th February, 40.

3. The only register is a list of the men employed, and the sum earned.

4. That powers be given to the landward committees to start relief works where required.

PARISH OF OLD MONKLAND, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 44,616. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £168,341.

Letter from *William B. Burnett*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. There are some 150 tradesmen, more or less, consisting of masons, plasterers, slaters, and their labourers, who are idle through the severe frosty weather.—N.B. To day (26th) the weather has changed and the prospect of constant employment is now assured.

2. The magistrates of Coatbridge have opened a subscription list which has been responded to by the public, and the most necessitous cases belonging to the class above stated, and numbering about 20, have been temporarily assisted.—N.B. There is no parochial check on the administration of this charity, any one may get it.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestions to offer. I would respectfully ask your perusal of the accompanying statement, obtained by special inquiry, which gives the state of employment in this large industrial (coal and iron) centre of the West of Scotland at the present day.

Addenda. Unemployed.

Old Monkland Parish, County of Lanark.

In continuation of Unemployed Return referred to in Circular Letter from Local Government Board, Scotland, 20th February 1895.

Preamble.

To obtain full and reliable information on the subject of the unemployed, I visited the principal works in the parish, also the model lodging-houses, tramps' mission-house, brick works, and other resorts of the unemployed. I also interviewed the Town Clerk of Coatbridge and the Captain Superintendent of Police for the burgh. The following is the result:—

1. There are three model lodging-houses in which were found 43 out of employment, mostly masons, labourers, and quarrymen.

2. A. & J. Stewart & Clydesdale's Tube Works, Coatbridge, number employed about 1,000. The manager tells me there are on an average from 18 to 20 men waiting about the doors of the works for employment each morning. The work is on full time and taking on hands when vacancies occur. No exceptional distress and no complaints.

3. Phœnix Iron Works, 300 men fully employed.

4. Coats' Tube Works, 160 men fully employed.

5. Clifton Iron Works, nearly fully employed, 300 is their full strength, but they are working at present with 280.

6. Kipp's Railway Workshops, 300 men fully employed.

7. Waverley Iron and Steel Company, 800 men fully employed. No exceptional measures necessary, and no complaints.

8. Sunnyside Engineering Works, 200 men working on short time. Discharged about 30 since the New Year. An average of six applications daily for work.

9. Gartsherrie Works (Coal and Iron), 1,350 men employed full time; more labourers wanted for special class work; no extra effort necessary. Work plentiful to all willing to work.

10. Summerlee Iron Works, 569 men employed. No exceptional measures necessary. Fully employed, and no complaints have reached their office. There is, of course, considerable less demand for work at times, but, on the other hand, they would be prepared to engage more good hands if they could get them.

11. Messrs. Robert Addie & Sons, Coal and Iron Masters, 900 employed; on an average one or two call at the works daily and have been taken on when vacancies occur. The want of employment in this branch does not exist at present.

12. Calder Iron Works (Coal and Iron), 450 men fully employed. No complaints. No want of employment in their firm. Brick works are all going full time.

13. Speedwell Engineering Works, number of men employed, when full time, 300. Now working at the reduced number of 196. Trade in this line dull since October last. Most of the men discharged have obtained employment elsewhere.

14. Whifflet Foundry, usually employ 120, but now working with 100, but of these 20 have obtained employment elsewhere. No exceptional measures necessary at present.

15. The Town Clerk of Coatbridge has given me the information contained in answer to Query 2.

16. The Superintendent of Police states that he has made personal investigation and finds that the want of employment only exists among the class of tradesmen detailed in answer to Query 1 and whose cases are being dealt with.

Parochial Office, Coatbridge.
26 February 1895.

William B. Burnett,
Inspector of Poor,
Parish of Old Monkland.

PARISH OF PETTINAIN, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 259. Assessable Rental (1893–94) £3,589.

Letter from *Adam Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. We have no distress in this parish.

PARISH OF RUTHERGLEN, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 16,178. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £65,836.

Letter from *Allan S. Edmiston*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress, wholly due to the exceptional severity of the weather. The applicants for assistance are almost wholly confined to the labouring class, whose occupations are dependent on the weather.

2. (*a*) The Town Council alone have met the distress.
(*b*) The number relieved is as under :—
On the 14th February, 65. On the 16th February the relief was continued to the 65 and other 33—Total, 98.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF SHOTTS, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 11,957. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £66,425

Letter from *James King*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress in this district, the bulk of the population being employed in pits and in iron making. There are a number of navvies and builders' labourers thrown out of work through the severe frost, but many of these have left the district and gone into the larger towns, while those who had practised some little thrift are quite able to maintain themselves off their savings.

2. My Board, at their last half-yearly meeting on 7th inst., increased the aliment of nearly the whole of their out-door paupers from one-fifth to nearly one-half, and gave a considerable amount of clothing more than they were in the habit of giving. Some time ago a table soirée was held, also a jumble sale, which raised a considerable amount of clothing, coals, &c., which were distributed for nothing, or next to nothing, amongst those who were thought to be needful, or those who pretended to be needful. I am of opinion that the coming Parish Councils election has created a charitable action in a number of individuals for, I think, securing votes at the coming election, and in many cases their charity is given where little required.

3. No.

4. I have been Inspector of Poor in this parish for upwards of 20 years, and never during that time have poor people, or those who made themselves appear to be poor, been anything like so well attended to. In fact, I think they are being pampered. The other day I found employment for one of a number of navvies who were considered to be the worst off in the district, but he declined to start unless he got at least 3*s.* per day. I presume he preferred to live on what he could get from the charitable instead of on the fruits of his own labour. My opinion is that there is a great deal more being done for the poor and unemployed than is necessary, and that that action is creating a beggarly spirit in many.

PARISH OF STONEHOUSE, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 3,400. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,798.

Letter from *Alexander Anderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS being principally a weaving and mining district, no appreciable distress exists. Both industries named are in a normal condition.

2. Nil.
Private donations have been increased to meet the requirements of those suffering from the late severe weather, and who are annual recipients of relief.

3. No.

PARISH OF SYMINGTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 432. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,211.

Letter from *Thomas Hamilton*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district.

2. Nothing requires to be done.

3. There is no unemployed register.

4. No suggestions necessary to make.

PARISH OF WALSTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 301. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,758.

Letter from *Matthew Anderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF WANDELL AND LAMINGTON, COUNTY OF LANARK

Population (1891), 305. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,420.

Letter from *Christopher Watson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are no unemployed in this parish, and no exceptional distress.

PARISH OF WISTON AND ROBERTON, COUNTY OF LANARK.

Population (1891), 497. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,245.

Letter from *A. F. Duncan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

2. No aid asked.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ABERCORN, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 863. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,274.

Letter from *Ralph Hardie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

3. No unemployed register is kept.

PARISH OF BATHGATE, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW

Population (1891), 11,359. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £39,113.

Letter from *John Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. Various small donations are given annually by charitably disposed gentlemen in the district.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF BO'NESS, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 6,399. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,209.

Letter from *John Paul*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is very little local distress here, except from masons' labourers and quarrymen. All our manufactories, such as iron foundries, potteries, coal pits, sawmills, dock, and harbours, are at work, more or less.

2. (*a*) The provost and magistrates started a subscription list and a soup kitchen. The subscriptions have been large and liberal, and a great deal more than is required. Not more than 20 to 24 adult persons have applied for free dinners daily, from 16th instant (the day the soup kitchen was opened) up till to-day.

(*b*) From 20 to 24 adults and about 300 school children are supplied daily with bread and soup.

3. There is no register kept, nor is a register required here. We have always about eight or ten men who scarcely ever work any. It is this class who get the dinners, but none are refused who call at the dining hall.

4. Had the fresh weather continued for a few days longer, every man in this parish would have been at work if he chose to do so. I may say that the School Board have given free dinners every winter for the past six years to children of poor parents to the extent of 250.

PARISH OF CARRIDEN, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 2,453. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,351.

Letter from *James Dodds*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS parish being mostly of the mining industry, the trade being fairly busy. The severe weather has had little effect upon the people.

2. There being no exceptional distress, there has been nothing done.

3. None.

PARISH OF DALMENY, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population, (1891), 2,112. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £36,856.

Letter from *David Mason*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. No necessity for anything being done.

3. No such register has been kept.

4. None.

PARISH OF ECCLESMACHAN, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 506. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,344.

Letter from *A. Cochrane*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this district caused by the weather.

2. There is nothing required to be done.

3. None.

4. This parish being an agricultural one, there is no distress caused by the weather, as the people are employed mostly by farmers.

PARISH OF KIRKLISTON, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 3,777. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £28,273.

Letter from *Thomas Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. The bulk of the working population are either shale miners or agricultural labourers, and the severe weather has not affected them. There are a few masons' and other labourers who, I daresay, are pinched enough.

2. A gentleman in the Newbridge District instructed the village schoolmaster to relieve any cases of distress that he heard of, and there was only one that he felt it his duty to relieve.

3. No unemployed register.

4. The Parochial Board would not hesitate to relieve any cases of distress.

PARISH OF LINLITHGOW, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 7,520. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £37,850.

Letter from *Alexander Dougal*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. To severe weather.

2. Nothing by public authorities except by employment of men to assist municipal officials during the severe weather. A committee consisting of the clergy and other public men (of which I myself am a member) meets every Monday morning, who distributed tickets for goods value 2*s.* 6*d.* to about 40 families, besides an amount of coals distributed at expense of private enterprise.

3. No.

4. No. I may state that I consider the distressed are well looked after in this district. A concert is to be given to-night, the funds of which are to be devoted by above-mentioned committee.

PARISH OF LIVINGSTON, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 1,616. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,948.

Letter from *William Forsyth*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in this district.

2. No need for anything to be done.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF QUEENSFERRY, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 768. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £1,828.

Letter from *George H. Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. THE distress in this parish, though exceptional, is not extreme, and is entirely due to the severe weather.

2. Measures have not been considered necessary till this week, when means have been raised by subscriptions. The Town Council have voted a sum of money, and the Parochial Board have also voted a sum to be drawn on if required.

3. Not so far as I am aware.

4. None but the means in use, and the counselling of thrift in future among the working classes.

PARISH OF TORPHICHEN, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 1,724. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,520.

Letter from *William Bruce*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress is well met by private charity.

2. (*a.*) No extra agencies necessary.
(*b.*) None.

3. No register kept, all well employed.

PARISH OF UPHALL, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 8,653. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £51,769.

Letter from *W. L. Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No. The oil works in this parish and district are in full operation, as also the pits connected therewith, so that the distress felt in other quarters is not making itself known here. The only difference is a slight increase in the number of applicants of the vagrant class, caused by the severe weather.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF WHITBURN, COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Population (1891), 5,782. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,191.

Letter from *D. J. Mitchell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE except some 30 men idle, who usually work at a freestone quarry.

2. A private subscription list has been issued to assist the quarrymen.

3. No.

4. None. The number of men thrown idle is so few that voluntary aid by subscription will be quite sufficient till the frost gives way.

PARISH OF ARDCLACH, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

Population (1891), 942. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,515.

Letter from *Thomas Simpson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish. All the labourers in the parish are employed at farm and estate work both winter and summer, and during the late severe weather have never been out of employment.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF AULDEARN, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

Population (1891), 1,315. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,042.

Letter from *A. J. Mackintosh*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, tradesmen (such as masons and carpenters), and labourers out of employment for last two months owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a.*) Small quantities of coal and meal distributed by voluntary agencies.

3. No.

4. With a continuance of present severe weather further supplies of provisions will be required.

PARISH OF CAWDOR, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

Population (1891), 1,009. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,529.

Letter from *John Joss*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. A LITTLE, by length of time of severe weather.
2. Something by individuals privately.
3. No.
4. Weather better; hoped at an end.

PARISH OF NAIRN, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

Population (1891), 5,250. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,516.

Letter from *Wm. Malcolm*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. The distress is in consequence of the duration of the severe weather.
2. A soup distribution daily and a distribution of meal and bread. Nearly 200 were relieved daily during the week ending 16th February.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF BIRSAY AND HARRAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 2,259. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,580.

Letter from *Thomas Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. I BELIEVE there are a few cases of hardship owing to the want of means of a livelihood, occasioned through want of employment. This appears to be due partly to circumstances peculiar to the district, and also to some extent on account of the weather.
2. (*a*) Nothing in particular is being done to meet the distress (which I do not think is very exceptional) by the public authorities or voluntary agencies. Parochial relief for a time has been given in two or three cases whose right thereto is perhaps doubtful (apart from their necessitous circumstances through want of employment or otherwise). Some help may be given now and again by some denomination, which so far as is known to your subscriber is but rare. Neighbours considerately give some help to the most needy.

   (*b*) Not known.
3. There is no unemployed register kept.
4. One or more voluntary agencies or charitable organisations in a parish or county might be able to do some good if formed, in procuring funds and giving help to the needful, and probably in devising some means for the better employment of the unemployed.

PARISH OF CROSS AND BURNESS, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,585. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,844.

Letter from *William Muir*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress, exceptional or otherwise, in the district. There is, and always have been, cases of a struggle for an existence, but nothing approaching "distress."
2. (*a.*) Nothing.

   (*b.*) Nil.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF NORTH RONALDSHAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), ——. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £—— (included in Cross and Burness).

Letter from *Peter Thomson*, Sub-Inspector of Poor, 5th February 1895.

1. No.
2. No necessity.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF EDAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 705. Gross Rental (1893-94), £1,505. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *James Tulloch*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. THERE is no actual distress here, as most of the poor people have small patches of land which (in most cases) yield them some bread as yet. The principal complaint is that when an occasional fine day comes there are no fish to be caught, as the inshore ground is completely destroyed by illegal trawling. If this matter is not looked into by the Government our fishermen will suffer very much, and the ultimate consequence will be starvation or pauperism.

2. (*a*) Nothing has yet been done although public authorities have brought the matter under the notice of the Fishery Board as well as other headquarters.

(*b*) None relieved.

3. No such register kept.

4. If the Secretary for Scotland could give a small grant to be expended in making some necessary roads, it would give employment to those who are most urgently in need. A little more land to crofting fishermen would be of very great value, as it would grow them more bread.

PARISH OF EVIE AND RENDALL, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,233. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,807.

Letter from *James Scarth*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is none.

2. (*a*) Nothing.

(*b*) None ; only the usual paupers.

3. No.

4. None, as we have none.

PARISH OF FIRTH, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 731. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,301.

Letter from *William Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

3. No unemployed register maintained.

PARISH OF HOLM, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 950. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,851.

Letter from *James Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. The principal industry in this parish is farming, with the exception of a few fishermen, and there does not seem to be any unusual distress.

PARISH OF HOY AND GRAIMSAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 537. Gross Rental (1893-94), £811 ; parish unassessed.

Letter from *R. H. Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish ; they all seem to be fairly well to do as far as I am aware.

PARISH OF KIRKWALL AND ST. OLA, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 4,755. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,289.

Letter from *John Guthrie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NOTHING beyond the ordinary hardships attendant in winter seasons in this locality.

2. Any known cases of distress relieved by charitable trusts, Ecclesiastical Charity Funds, or private charity. No means of ascertaining number of cases.

3. No register kept.

4. No.

PARISH OF LADY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 845. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,646.

Letter from *Wm. Muir*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is no case of distress in the district. There is, and always have been cases of a struggle for existence, but not bordering on distress.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) Nil.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ORPHIR, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,001. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £2,152.

Letter from *William Inkster*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, due either to circumstances peculiar to the locality or to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) There is nothing being done, because there is no distress.
(*b*) There were none relieved on Saturday, 16th February.

3. There is no unemployed register maintained, because unnecessary.

4. No.

PARISH OF PAPA WESTRAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 337. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £857.

Letter from *John Hourston*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. NONE whatever.

2. Nothing needed and nothing done.

3. No.

PARISH OF SOUTH RONALDSHAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 3,059. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,410.

Letter from *H. N. Mackenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, other than what usually follows severe wintry weather in crofting and fishing districts.

2. No special effort has been made by the parochial authorities, to relieve distress. A voluntary destitution committee, has, owing to the severe weather, been distributing a small sum to the most needful cases.

3. No register is kept.

PARISH OF ROUSAY AND EGILSHAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 988. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,098.

Letter from *James G. Craigie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I CANNOT say that there is exceptional distress in this parish. There is no doubt that those who depend on out-door labour for their earnings have been much affected by the late very severe weather, but there has been no application for relief as yet owing to such circumstances.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None ; no applications for such relief.

Note. I may say that the labourers here, being on the whole an honest class, are usually able to get "credit" from their merchants during times they are unable to secure work, and this I believe is a great reason why distress is often not made apparent.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ST. ANDREWS AND DEERNESS, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,607. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,883.

Letter from *Archibald Spence*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No distress.
2. Nothing required to be done.
3. No such register kept.
4. No.

PARISH OF ST. ANDREWS (DEERNESS DISTRICT), COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), ——. Assessable Rental (1892–93), £—— (included in St. Andrews and Deerness).

Letter from *Edward Petrie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NONE.
2. Nothing requires to be done.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF SANDWICK, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,109. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,494.

Letter from *William Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. IN this parish the people are principally engaged in agricultural work and consequently are not so readily thrown out of employment as those following other pursuits.
2. (*a*) Casual relief by parochial board, in the shape of allowance for coals, &c.
   (*b*) None.
3. No.
4. For the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (country districts) Government grants for making roads, footpaths, &c., would not only provide work for the unemployed, but be of material benefit to the localities.

PARISH OF SHAPINSAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 903. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,920.

Letter from *Robert Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF STENNESS, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 594. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,450.

Letter from *William Clouston*, Inspector of Poor, 5th March 1895.

1. NOT known in this locality.
2. The poor or non-paupers in this parish have their houses free ; they keep some hens, and have peat or coals for fire given to them ; in times of exceptional distress they receive casual relief.
3. No able-bodied persons are unemployed in this district ; any old persons are generally supported by their friends or relatives ; if not, they are supported as shown in No. 2.
4. *See* the above.

PARISH OF STROMNESS, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 2,333. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,616.

Letter from *W. M. Corston*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. WHILST there is considerable poverty in the district there cannot be said to be exceptional distress, and the very severe weather for some time past has pressed heavily on infirm poor, chiefly females, who have no profitable employment.

2. A considerable number of gratuities from various quarters have been distributed amongst the most necessitous, but it has not been reckoned necessary to do anything else meantime. A sum of 12*l.* 10*s.* from the Orkney Destitution Relief Society was received and distributed last week. There is no daily relief administered, nor is it thought needful at present.

3. No.

PARISH OF STRONSAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,309. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,596.

Letter from *Robert Miller*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish.

PARISH OF WALLS AND FLOTTA, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 1,505. Gross Rental (1893–94), £2,488. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Robert Malcolmson*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. None.

3. No.

4. There is no exceptional distress in this district, but the circumstances of our crofter fishermen would be benefited if a pier was built at which steamers could call and take their fish direct to Aberdeen; I may add also that the eggs sold by them would give a better price if they reached the market quickly.

PARISH OF WALLS &c., (FLOTTA DISTRICT), COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), ——. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £ ——(included in Walls).

Letter from *William Hay*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF WESTRAY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY.

Population (1891), 2,108. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,669.

Letter from *J. Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.

2. None; as nothing is required.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF BROUGHTON, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 676. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,678.

Letter from *Archibald Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in the district.

2. As there is no necessity, there is nothing done.

3. No; not required.

4. No.

PARISH OF DRUMELZIER, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 187. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,225.

Letter from *John Scott*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF EDDLESTON, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 571. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,207.

Letter from *Charles Gillespie*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in district. Parties are almost all dependent on agriculture, and, of course, in receipt of wages during winter.

2. Every winter coals are distributed to the needy from a fund collected by the minister of the parish.

PARISH OF INNERLEITHEN, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 4,161. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £15,852.

Letter from *H. A. Imrie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, among labourers and outdoor workers; due to the severe weather; especially those in the burgh of Innerleithen. I know of no case in the landward portion of the parish.

2. The Burgh Commissioners of Innerleithen have taken steps to relieve those cases in the burgh. Nothing required for the landward portion of the parish as far as I know.

PARISH OF KIRKURD, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 265. Gross Rental (1893–94), £3,094. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *James Runciman*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress in this parish.

3. None required.

PARISH OF WEST LINTON, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 1,005. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,900.

Letter from *Robert Sanderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district. A goodly number of masons, slaters, and labourers, say 15 to 20, are idle from severity of the weather.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities or by voluntary agencies.

3. No register is kept.

4. None at present.

PARISH OF LYNE, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 104. Gross Rental (1893–94), £1,755. Parish unasssessed.

Letter from *William Forrest*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF MANOR, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 249. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,302.

Letter from *John Richardson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. The population of this parish is entirely agricultural, and constant employment is given to all.

2. (*a*) Nothing.

(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF NEWLANDS, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 715. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,803.

Letter from *Walter Kyle*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF PEEBLES, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 5,261. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £26,463.

Letter from *William Whitie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS does exist to a certain extent in the town, which is to be attributed to dull trade in our mills, but principally to the prolonged and severe storm.

2. The Kirk Session have distributed 250 tons of coal, and are relieving 12 families with small sums weekly. The Town Council intimated that they would give the unemployed work at stone-breaking. Consequently, 29 have been kept at that work. A soup kitchen has been opened, whereby 90 families are supplied thrice a week with sufficient soup, bread, and meat; the Ladies' Benevolent Society and the Dorcas Society are actively at work.

3. The population of the town being over four thousand only, it is not considered necessary to keep a register of the unemployed, as the various agencies at work are being kept well posted up as to needful and deserving cases.

4. All deserving cases are being attended to here. With the view of getting more correctly at the amount of philanthropic work done by the various agencies, I would suggest that these societies should meet and discuss cases, and co-operate together in order to prevent overlapping of charities. I have come across cases where families have been supplied from three different sources.

PARISH OF SKIRLING, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 216. Gross Rental (1893–94), £3,060. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *David S. Moncrieff*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF STOBO, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 433. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,198.

Letter from *Andrew Jervis*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the parish, which is entirely rural.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF TRAQUAIR, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 700. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,674.

Letter from *Thomas Young*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NONE in the parish.

PARISH OF TWEEDSMUIR, COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Population (1891), 207. Gross Rental (1893–94), £5,870. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Yellowlees*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. (*a*) Nothing.

(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF ABERDALGIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 280. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,142.

Letter from *John Pollock*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. The district is a rural one, and the population consists largely of farmers and their servants, and of the labourers on Dupplin Estate.

3. No.

2. (*a*) *See* No. 1.

(*b*) *See* No. 1.

4. None, as no pressing distress exists.

PARISH OF ABERFOYLE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,023. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,273.

Letter from *John McIntyre*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in Aberfoyle at present. Centainly a few men have been prevented from following their usual avocations owing to the severe weather; but at the slate quarries, where the greater number of the men here are employed, these have had steady work all through the winter. The snow, fortunately, has not fallen to any great depth at any time.

2. There being no exceptional distress to cope with, the Public Authorities have not felt it incumbent on them to do anything. However, Aberfoyle has always been fortunate in having a number of generous people, who are ever ready to assist when distress exists. The Duchess of Montrose and the Hon. Wm. Campbell, of London, and a native of this parish, annually assist the poor of the parish with clothing, food, coal, &c. A great deal is always done by others, including work party in connection with Church of Scotland Young Women's Guild.

3. No.

4. Were there any exceptional distress here I am quite certain money could be raised by public subscription, and the best way of distributing it among necessitous cases would be by giving money orders for a certain sum to be presented to any of the grocers in the district.

PARISH OF ABERNETHY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,550. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,750.

Letter from *James Bennett*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE, except say about a couple of dozen of single women and elderly men, who got their livelihood at hand-loom weaving, which has nearly failed during the past year—at any rate, I see them going about idle, and hear them grumbling about not being able to get a web. This is a village which depends mainly on salmon fishing; most of the men went out on the 11th, but there are still some not able to get out owing to the freezing of the rivers Tay and Earn.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF ABERNYTE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 263. Gross Rental (1893–94), £2,483. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Alexander Tweedie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing needed.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ALYTH, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 3,453. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,071.

Letter from *James Smart*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THE distress here is owing to the long continuance of severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Police Commissioners, the Parochial Board, and a few others, including the clergyman of the town, formed themselves into a relief committee, and provided work for those who turned up at 2*s*. per day.
(*b*) The average number was 36 daily, mostly labourers, masons, and slaters; have made no complaint, and did not turn up at the bellman's call for the unemployed.

3. A sum of 21*l*. 4*s*. 2*d*. has been paid over to the workmen to 16th February. The Police Commissioners granted 6*l*., and the balance was got up by subscription. Twenty pounds has also been distributed in sums of 2*s*. 6*d*. and 5*s*. to families in necessitous circumstances. During the winter some 20*l*. worth of coals have been distributed throughout the town, and 20*l*. in clothing and coals to deserving poor over 60 years of age.

4. I understand that the Police Commissioners, through their clerk Mr. Reid, recommended that the Government should give a grant at once to relieve the existing distress. This certainly is commendable; at the same time, I consider that a sum equal to that given by Government should be raised in the various localities, as the public are generally benefited by the work done by the unemployed.

PARISH OF ARNGASK, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 564. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,779.

Letter from *John Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been little exceptional distress in this parish.

2. Private charity, by means of the distribution of coals, clothing, &c., has been quite sufficient to meet every necessitous case.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF AUCHTERARDER, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 3,494. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,707.

Letter from *Donald Treasurer*, Inspector of Poor, 9th March 1895.

1. THERE is no great distress in this district; the protracted severe storm; all outdoor labour was suspended for about nine weeks; previous to the severe weather manufactory of cloth was dull.

2. Nothing done by the authorities. Private parties have made gifts of coal and other articles of food.

3. No register.

4. No.

PARISH OF AUCHTERGAVEN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,081. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,573.

Letter from *Donald Cumming*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No; there is no distress. Some outdoor tradesmen—masons, slaters, &c., and their labourers—have been off work for seven or eight weeks, also fewer male or female hands have been required for farm work since December; but all that has now passed away, and work will be plentiful. Public works here linen, and in Stanley cotton, have been fully employed all winter. All outdoor industries now begin.

2. Nothing done nor required beyond the annual distribution of coal or money to the aged poor (who are not on the roll of paupers) by the Kirk Session.

3. No. There has been even fewer passing tramps than in former winters, being induced to remain about towns where soup kitchens are at work; but fine weather now setting in, will cause an exodus of the usual wanderers to a wider range and former pastures.

4. No; I have only had two genuine applications for relief since December, both of them from very aged people, 77 and 84 years, neither of them in the least affected by want of employment, although suffering from weather influences.

PARISH OF BALQUHIDDER, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 612. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,337.

Letter from *P. Ferguson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. None.

PARISH OF BENDOCHY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 529. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,595.

Letter from *W. T. Anderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I AM not aware of a single case of exceptional distress in this parish at present. The workpeople are engaged to the farmers for meal, and milk, and money. Even were there one or two cases of persons or families being ill off, they would have no difficulty in being helped.

2. There are neither public nor private agencies at work here; these not being necessary. No single case of urgent distress has come to my knowledge.

3. We have no unemployed register.

4. I shall look sharply about and inquire also regarding what I might consider likely cases of hardship in any part of the parish; and if any arise I will apply to the Kirk Session, who have a small fund at their disposal.

PARISH OF BLACKFORD, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,557. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,992.

Letter from *John Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are some cases of distress among those depending on out-door employment. This is due to the severe weather.

2. There have been coals and provisions distributed by voluntary agencies.

3. No unemployed register maintained; only a list of the most necessitous was made out when goods, &c., were distributed.

4. Should the severe weather continue much longer, other subscriptions will require to be raised for further distribution.

PARISH OF BLAIR ATHOLL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,808. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £27,434.

Letter from *James Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF BLAIRGOWRIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 4,739. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £26,326.

Letter from *Alexander J. R. Neilson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district worth mentioning. A number, of course, are out of employment due to the severe weather, but they are not in excess of those of former winters. There have been fewer applications for relief this winter than last, and in no case has an application been made through want of employment.

2. Public authorities have employed a few men clearing the streets of snow. A soup kitchen has been in operation for some time, the daily average supplied with soup for the week ending 16th February was 160. There have been extra supplies of coal distributed about the town by private parties, and from church funds.

3. No.

4. Now that the present storm has broken up, employment can be had at stone-breaking, trenching ground, and about the saw mills and woods.

PARISH OF CALLANDER, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,279. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £23,404.

Letter from *James Macdonald*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a considerable amount of poverty among the working classes, due entirely to want of work on account of the storm.

2. Various voluntary agencies have in all raised a sum of about 80*l*. There has been no special weekly allowance paid, but coals and money are being distributed as required.

3. No.

4. There does not appear to be the least danger of any person here being allowed to want any of the necessaries of life. In fact, I question if ever the poor were as well attended to as they have been this winter.

PARISH OF CAPUTH, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,179. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,397.

Letter from *Robert Miller*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. Nothing has been done to meet any distress in this district by public authorities; but the Kirk Session of the Established Church has funds at its disposal out of which the deserving necessitous poor in the parish have been, as usual, temporarily relieved and supplied with fuel, warm clothing, and blankets. No special relief was granted during the week ended Saturday the 16th February.

3. No unemployed register is maintained in this parish.

4. As I do not consider that such distress exists in this parish, I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF CARGILL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,318. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,399.

Letter from *Alexander Fergusson*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE are no exceptional cases of distress in this district.

2. Nothing required to be done.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF CLUNIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 574. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,586.

Letter from *William Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing.

4. I beg to suggest that people that are willing to work should be encouraged to live in country parishes. In this part of Scotland labourers cannot be got to work the land.

PARISH OF COLLACE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 419. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,292.

Letter from *George H. Dale*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no very exceptional distress in this district. The severe weather, no doubt, has prevented a few from pursuing their usual avocations.

2. Nothing necessary.

3. No unemployed register.

4. No.

PARISH OF COMRIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,591. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,911.

Letter from *P. Brough*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE has been less distress in this parish this winter than formerly, as labour has been abundant, and little or no snow in the strath to interfere with labour.

2. In this parish there is annually distributed over 100*l.* from various sources to meet the wants of necessitous cases, which are carefully seen to.

3. No unemployed register kept, but such cases are readily known.

4. I cannot recommend any change on existing management.

PARISH OF COUPAR ANGUS, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,760. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £14,200.

Letter from *T. B. Farquharson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; entirely due to the severity of the weather of the past eight weeks.

2. (*a*) A soup kitchen was started on the 9th February, and is being kept up by voluntary subscriptions, managed by a committee of gentlemen belonging to the parish.
(*b*) The average daily number relieved during the week ended the 16th February was 125 (rations of bread and soup, and sometimes butcher meat).

3. No.

4. If a grant were given from Government, say equal to the amount of voluntary subscriptions, it would, I think, give an impetus to those charitably inclined. (In our case the soup kitchen must be kept going until the frost disappears, and until workmen commence to receive wages again.)

PARISH OF CRIEFF, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 5,303. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £31,760.

Letter from *D. Kippen*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Caused by the severe weather.

2. Work is given to the unemployed. Daily average, 49. An average of about 100 loaves are distributed gratis daily. An average of about 71 are supplied with soup and rolls.

3. There is no register kept. All belonging to the town who ask for work get it.

4. The distress is so satisfactorily relieved that I cannot suggest anything better. The whole money required is raised by subscriptions, and many individuals privately give considerable sums in money and kind.

PARISH OF DRON, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 298. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,730.

Letter from *John Sprunt*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.
2. Nil.
3. No.
4. No

PARISH OF DULL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,462. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £16,958.

Letter from *Robert M'Laren*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. The long spell of severe weather has no doubt been severely felt by many families who depended on outside labour, but the "credit system" practised has enabled them to tide it over till work begins again.

2. The public authorities other than the Parochial Board have done nothing; but a soup kitchen and private charity provided all that was required.

3. Not required as yet.

4. None required.

PARISH OF DUNBARNEY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 829. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,276.

Letter from *James Deas*, jun., Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. The severe weather is the main if not the only cause. Masons and out-door agricultural servants are about the only classes affected, and even amongst them there are no cases calling for urgent assistance.

2. The various churches and several private parties have now and again distributed coals, clothing and various provisions to the more needful cases. One of the ministers told me lately that he had more money in hand to distribute than he could get away.

3. No.

4. None. (My opinion is that the poor of this parish are very well looked after.)

PARISH OF DUNBLANE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 3,633. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £24,853.

Letter from *Robert Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, there is exceptional distress; about 50 families out of work owing to the severity of the weather.

2. Nothing by public authorities. A soup kitchen has been going for five or six weeks; 120 rations of soup and bread distributed every second day; on Saturday an extra supply distributed. This is a voluntary agency, and the churches are doing a little extra in dispensing money, food, and clothing; 100 tons of coals also distributed.

3. No register.

4. The distress is being met in the manner stated, and it is believed to be sufficient.

PARISH OF DUNKELD AND DOWALLY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,074. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,730.

Letter from *William Cuthbert*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is not any exceptional distress in the district. There was a number of the labouring class idle through the severe weather, but the most of them have resumed work or will be able to do so in a few days.

2. (*a.*) There is a number of ladies in the district who have distributed food, coals, and clothing voluntarily. (*b.*) There was no account kept of the number relieved.

3. No use for any register of unemployed being kept in this district.

4. I cannot offer any suggestions; as the district is mostly agricultural there is never any serious distress.

PARISH OF LITTLE DUNKELD, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,108. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,526.

Letter from *J. A. Harris*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. For some time, owing to severe weather, the majority of the working class have been idle.

2. Nothing considered necessary to be done by public authorities in this parish; no one is known to suffer. On the Atholl and Marthly estates wood is obtained free in the forests, and much of it has been taken during the storm.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DUNNING, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,345. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,317.

Letter from *William Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a certain amount of distress in this district which is mainly caused by the severe weather, the people being mostly dependent on farm labour for their means of existence.

2. The Dunning Benevolent Society have made grants of coals, clothing, and food, in addition to their usual distribution, and the Curling Club have distributed loaves.

3. No register is maintained.

4. I am of opinion that this distress is only temporary, and if the weather was more favourable nearly all would get to work again.

PARISH OF ERROL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,158. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,831.

Letter from *John Pearson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress. Labourers have not been so regularly employed as if it had been an open winter; there are certain kinds of work which must be done, whatever the weather is. Labourers' work in this parish is as follows, viz.: The salmon fishing closes in August, harvest follows immediately, then potatoes lifting; in the end of December, reed cutting commences (and must be done), this continues till the end of January; in the beginning of February salmon fishing commences, and continues till August. Farmers are busy during hard weather in getting dung carted to the fields, and require the assistance of labourers.

2. Mr. Dalgleish, the chairman of the Parochial Board, thinking that some of the villagers might be a little straitened in their circumstances, got a list of all who were not working, and within a few days every one got half a ton of coals laid down free of charge. Mr. Clarke, vice-chairman of the Board, has for many years, during 12 weeks in December, January, and February, given weekly a four-pound loaf to those in the village who were reported in need of it.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF FORGANDENNY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 575. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,375.

Letter from *Thomas Moffatt*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish. The great majority of inhabitants are ploughmen, who are engaged by the year.

3. No.

PARISH OF FORTEVIOT, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 538. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,669.

Letter from *William Sprunt*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. I HAVE heard of no exceptional distress ; the people are engaged in agricultural occupations, and have had, and are having, constant employment.

2. No agencies have been employed, as none have been necessary.

PARISH OF FORTINGALL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,610. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,970.

Letter from *Robert Fisher*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress in the district.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

No.

PARISH OF FOWLIS WESTER, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 968. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,632.

Letter from *J. R. Martin*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. BEING a wholly agricultural district, there is not much exceptional distress, if any. Three or four masons have been idle since new year, owing to weather, but they are well-doing and above taking relief.

2. (*a.*) Nothing.
(*b.*) None.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF GASK, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 361. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,641.

Letter from *Henry Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF GLENDEVON, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 141. Gross Rental (1893-94), £5,586. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *W. N. Russell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No special distress.
2. Nothing. This is a purely pastoral district, and the sheep have been the only sufferers thus far.
3. We have no unemployed, no loafers; no need of any register.
4. No.

PARISH OF INCHTURE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 624. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,912.

Letter from *John S. Small*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.
2. Nothing required to be done by public authorities or by voluntary agencies.
3. No register maintained, not required.
4. No.

PARISH OF KENMORE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,401. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £10,010.

Letter from *Robert M'Laren*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, though the prolonged and severe snow and frost caused considerable inconvenience and hardship in consequence of the roads being blocked, and the difficulty of getting supplies.

2. Nothing has been done by any public authority except by the Parochial Board, Kirk Sessions, and private charity, but the Marquess and Marchioness of Breadalbane have, as usual, distributed liberal supplies of food, fuel and clothing among all the necessitous throughout the parish, which is part of the Breadalbane Estate.

3. No.

4. None required.

PARISH OF KILLIN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,402. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £14,328.

Letter from *Peter Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE are no cases of exceptional distress in this district.
2. There are no agencies, and no application has been made to the public authorities.
3. No.
4. None.

PARISH OF KILMADOCK, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,760. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £20,980.

Letter from *William Gray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF KILSPINDIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 630. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,105.

Letter from *George Nish*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress. The parish being agricultural, ploughmen have their wages and perquisites.

2. Nothing required.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,277. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,379.

Letter from *Alex. Sands*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THIS is wholly an agricultural district, and they are few (if willing) who did not find something to do during the severe weather.

2. The poor and deserving poor had a liberal supply of fire, &c. by voluntary aid, and nothing was required to be done by public authorities.

3. No.

4. None requisite.

PARISH OF KINCLAVEN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 613. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,006.

Letter from *John Foster*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress. The severe weather has not affected the circumstances or condition of the inhabitants.

PARISH OF KINFAUNS, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 562. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,784.

Letter from *John H Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is not. I do not think there has been during the present winter a single family whose circumstances could properly be described as distressing.

2. (*a*) Nil.
(*b*) Nil.

3. No. There is not at the present moment a man in the parish out of employment.

PARISH OF KINLOCH, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 192. Gross Rental (1893–4), £3,306. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Arnott*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. So far as I am aware there is no exceptional distress in this parish, which is entirely rural and agricultural.

PARISH OF KINNAIRD, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 228. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,521.

Letter from *Alexander Duncan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

2. There is nothing necessary to be done by public authorities or voluntary agencies.

3. No.

PARISH OF KINNOULL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 3,730. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,605.

Letter from *Robert Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish due to either of the above causes.
2. In the absence of exceptional distress, the need for action by public or private agencies is not required.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 935. Gross Rental (1893–94), £18,654. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *Alex. Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress complained of as yet within this parish. Working families who are out-door labourers are able to get credit for a time, but no one, that the inspector of poor is aware of, is in actual want.
2. Nothing as yet.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF LECROPT, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 273. Gross Rental (1893–94), £3,530. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF LETHENDY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 151. Gross Rental (1893-94), £2,352. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Arnott*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish so far as I know. The parish is purely agricultural, and the population sparse. Farm service is for long terms.

PARISH OF LOGIERAIT, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1991), 1,773. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £17,420.

Letter from *James McIntosh*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. There was only one application for relief during the last three months, the applicant being an old man of 82 years of age, and his wife is in her 81st year ; immediate relief was granted. The Duke of Atholl, the principal proprietor in the parish, employed a number of men who were kept on, working, clearing ice, &c., for curlers during the storm.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF LONGFORGAN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,779. Assessable Value (1893-94), £15,738.

Letter from *R. K. Christie*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No. There are virtually no able-bodied persons out of work.

2. The aged and frail poor are being assisted by the kindness of the well-to-do members of the community. Coals, money, and victuals are being supplied to them.

3. No.

4. The means specified above are fully overtaking present necessities. There is no call for the authorities to take any action.

PARISH OF MADERTY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 483. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,330.

Letter from *William Forbes*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress, although a few quarrymen are irregular in work owing to severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No register.

PARISH OF MEIGLE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 660. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,688.

Letter from *John Butter*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, to a small extent. This being an agricultural district outworkers on farms have suffered for want of work for 10 weeks, owing to the severe weather.

2. Nothing by the public authorities. Curlers of the district have several times distributed coals amongst the most necessitous.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF METHVEN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,747. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,110.

Letter from *Robert Moir*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is more distress than usual here, owing to the severe and lengthened storm. The population of this district depends mainly on agricultural or out-door work, which has been at a standstill for about eight weeks.

2. Nothing has been done by any public authority, but a good deal by private effort. For the last three weeks Colonel Smythe, of Methven, has been giving employment (burning brushwood, &c.) to all idle men in the parish who were willing to work for 2*s.* daily. About 20 were employed in this way.

3. No.

4. In this parish there are a considerable number of roads not on the list of public highways, which might with advantage be kept in repair by the new parish council. In connection with this a good deal of stonebreaking might be provided for those out of employment during the winter months by a little foresight on the part of the parish council.

PARISH OF MONEYDIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 251. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £3,325.

Letter from *A. I. Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress. The Kirk Session of the parish (of which I am a member) have funds, left recently by legacy, for people in distress in the parish, and we cannot get any one to take relief.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF MONZIEVAIRD AND STROWAN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 593. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,756.

Letter from *Alexander Hill*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. None.

3. No.

4. The population of the parish consists principally of estate workers, the remainder farm servants, all of whom being monthly or six-monthly engagements, have been receiving regular pay.

PARISH OF MONZIE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 501. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,489.

Letter from *William Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

4. None, as the population is entirely agricultural within the parish.

PARISH OF MOULIN, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,381. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,951.

Letter from *James Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. Not required.

4. No.

PARISH of MUCKART, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 542. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,174.

Letter from *Henry Sinclair*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish.

2. Nothing requires to be done beyond giving a few carts of coals, which has been done by one of the proprietors, J. J. Mowbray, Esq., of Naemoor.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF MUTHILL, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,123. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,456.

Letter from *William Miller*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing required to be done.

3. Not required.

4. No.

PARISH OF PERTH, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 26,744. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £129,030.

Letter from *Robert Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES. Wholly attributable to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Police Commissioners have instituted relief works. Three-fourths of those employed are tradesmen and their labourers, and farm labourers. The committee of the co-operative society have voted 100*l.* for the relief of the unemployed, and 100*l.* was subscribed at a public meeting of citizens held on 23rd instant.

(*b*) Police Commissioners at stone-breaking; average number employed, 79.
Police Commissioners at street cleaning; average number employed, 7.
Perth Co-operative Society; average number relieved daily, 22.
Society for Improving Condition of the Poor; average number relieved daily, 21.

3. No register kept, with the exception of registers of men employed by the Police Commissioners on relief works.

4. I have no suggestions to make, for the reason that I believe the destitution to be fully met by the agencies above-mentioned. The Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor is prepared to meet any demand which can possibly be made upon it. Church organisations are dealing with the poor of their congregations, and various other charity associations relieve distress, wherever it is known to exist. The parochial board have also been liberal in their dealing, so that, as far as known to me, there is no case of destitution which has not been relieved. I believe the city of Perth to be well prepared to meet any exceptional distress from whatever cause.

PARISH OF PORT OF MONTEITH, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,092. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,077.

Letter from *Alexander Cross*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. THERE has been no exceptional distress in the parish so far as known. The parish is purely agricultural, with the exception of the village of Gartmore; a large number of the labourers work on the railway, and work was regular.

2. No necessity for any agencies.

3. None necessary.

PARISH OF RATTRAY, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,667. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,716.

Letter from *Patrick J. Butchart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ANY exceptional distress that exists is due to the severity of the weather. Short time has had its effect, but only to a limited extent. From 1st December 1894 to 16th February 1895, there have been fewer applications for relief than for the corresponding period a year ago, and by far the largest proportion of such are those admittedly belonging to other parishes, proportion 14 to 9. There are in this, as in other parishes, a number of men who will not work, whose sole occupation is poaching, and otherwise living by their wits. These persons, of course, are the first to feel the pinch.

2. A soup kitchen has been in operation for some time. The daily average of persons relieved by this agency for the week ending 16th February was 65. The committee of the coal fund, kept up by voluntary contributions, have given a second supply of coal this winter to those out of employment principally.

3. No.

4. Stone-breaking in sheltered places or partially under cover. Local improvements.

PARISH OF REDGORTON, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,369. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,122.

Letter from *John Watson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, apart from the results of the severe and protracted storm, which laid idle several out-door labourers, who had no permanent work, and these have not been so straitened as to necessitate their making application for relief, in many cases having families employed in the works, which through the enterprise and energy on the part of the proprietors were kept running with very little interruption through the storm.

2. Nothing; as no cases demanding relief were made to the authorities.

3. No register kept.

4. No; as no particular cases came under the notice of the board purely from want of employment. Any increase of applications for relief made were entirely from the tramp class, who are ever ready to lay hold on anything in the shape of an excuse for making application. In every case I offered the poorhouse, which in some cases was not taken advantage of.

PARISH OF RHYND, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 270. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,987.

Letter from *John M'Leish*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THIS parish being purely agricultural, and the farm servants being engaged by the year, there are none strictly speaking unemployed, and consequently little or no distress.

2. *See* above.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ST. MADOES, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 420. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,265.

Letter from *John Leitham*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF ST. MARTINS, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 871. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,563.

Letter from *A. T. Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE have been no cases of exceptional distress in the parish, as far as I have been able to ascertain; and I have had not a single application for casual relief during the continued severe weather.

2. The churches have been causing small quantities of coal to be distributed amongst the deserving poor of their respective congregations.

3. No.

PARISH OF SCONE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 2,150. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,646.

Letter from *B. M'Kenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. No.

2. None.

3. Not required.

4 None.

PARISH OF TIBBERMORE, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 1,692. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,428.

Letter from *George Hill*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, it being chiefly an agricultural one.

2. No distress from want of employment in this parish. None have applied for relief to me.

3. No.

4. None existing, so far as I know.

PARISH OF TRINITY GASK, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 386. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,127.

Letter from *Alexander Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress from want of employment in this district.

3. No.

PARISH OF WEEM, COUNTY OF PERTH.

Population (1891), 437. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,480.

Letter from *John Cameron*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, and there has not been a single application for relief.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ABBEY, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 42,887. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £158,725.

Letter from *J. M. Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress at present in this district. It is wholly due to the severe weather, and is confined to persons employed at out-door work. In-door employment in the district is generally good.

2. (*a*) The Municipal Authority of Paisley is providing work in the cleansing department and town quarry for unemployed men. Wage given by the former at rate of 3*d.* per hour; by the latter, 1*s.* 6*d.* per yard for stone-breaking, and 1*s.* 3*d.* minimum per diem. Two soup kitchens in operation at the Abbey and burgh poor-houses; cost met out of voluntary subscriptions. Soup kitchen also at Johnstone; cost met in same way.

(*b*) Average daily number employed by cleansing department 59, for week ending 16th February. Average daily number employed by town's quarry, 61; commenced 18th February, week ending 23rd February. Paisley soup kitchens commenced 14th February; average daily portions to 16th February, 843. Johnstone soup kitchens, average daily for week (16th February), 350. Paisley, up to 16th February, 350 portions of coal, 2 cwt. each distributed. Coals also given in Johnstone, all met by voluntary subscription. In Paisley, on 23rd February, 437 heads of families supplied with soup tickets = 1,698 portions. To-day (25th February) 395 heads of families = 1,594 portions.

3. There is no regular register of unemployed. The burgh police, Paisley, enter in an application book list of all classes, males and females, who have applied since 13th February. Up till the 16th instant, 357 names are entered, and up till this date (25th February), 550. This does not include dependents, nor single men, who reside in common lodging-houses.

4. The Relief Committee of this Board, at a meeting held this evening, agreed that this query should be answered to the effect "that in seasons of exceptional distress Municipal Authorities should be empowered to deal with the unemployed in preference to the Parish Authorities."

PARISH OF CATHCART, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 16,509. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £100,795.

Letter from *John Grozier*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

2. This parish is partly within the boundaries of the City of Glasgow, and the authorities of Glasgow are attending to the unemployed within the city. Please see return of the Glasgow authorities.

3. No special register kept.

4. Only three able-bodied men have applied to the Inspector of Poor of Cathcart during the whole winter, and they received a little pecuniary relief or orders for provisions not exceeding for the three, 35*s.* These three are now at work. I do not feel myself competent to make any suggestions, as I have had very little experience of the cases of the unemployed.

PARISH OF EAGLESHAM, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 1,207. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,627.

Letter from *William Browning*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. SUCH distress as has existed since New Year is entirely due to the severity of the weather, and has affected the usual tradesmen, and those engaged as agricultural labourers.

2. (*a*) Within the last six weeks the feuars' managers voted 10*l.* or 11*l.* to be distributed among the most necessitous. A small legacy of 10*l.* was also apportioned among the most deserving. The landlord of the estate (Mr. Allan Gilmour, Junior) has also within the last three weeks forwarded 35*l.* to be spent in food, and fire, and clothing. At New Year, 50 carts of coal were distributed throughout the village—sum raised by subscriptions throughout the parish.

(*b*) This charity has not been organised in such a way as to tell what might be the average daily number, perhaps 12.

3. No such register maintained. All cases are well known in such a small village.

4. *See* 2 (*a*.). With the milder weather the distress is practically over.

Parish of Eastwood, County of Renfrew.

Population (1891), 16,042. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £61,016.

Letter from *D. Barrowman*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. There has been exceptional distress in the district, wholly due to the severe weather.

2. At a meeting of the Town Council of Pollokshaws, and representatives from the Parochial Board of Eastwood held on 13th February, it was agreed to start a "soup kitchen," and to give groceries and coals, besides soup, &c., to those in distress, the cost to be met by an appeal to the public for subscriptions. It was also agreed to give employment to as many as possible. These resolutions were immediately put into practice. On the 15th and 16th about 200 (including dependants) were supplied with bread and soup, coals and groceries, and gradually this number has increased until, on the 22nd and 23rd instant, about 700 (including dependants) were supplied with soup and bread, &c.

3. Only since the starting of the above-mentioned relief arrangements. Employment has been given by the committee to about 40 men, and they have been paid at the rate of 3*d.* per hour, with soup and bread for themselves and families, and coals. The work would not have been done but for the purpose of finding employment. The labour done has not been value for the cost.

4. Parochial Boards or the new Parish Councils should at least have a discretionary power to grant relief to able-bodied men who are out of employment. For exceptional distress such as we have had this year, caused by the severe weather, while Parish Councils might be given power to relieve it, I question very much whether the unemployed would fare as well as they are doing now, at least in this district under the voluntary system of relief described. No compulsory system of public relief to the able-bodied should be inaugurated unless some means are provided for a labour test, and Municipal Authorities are better able to provide such labour than any other Public Authority I know.

P.S. The above has not been submitted to my Board If you wish an expression of opinion in answer to Query 4 from the Board, I can submit the question to a meeting on Thursday first, provided I hear from you before then.

Parish of Erskine, County of Renfrew.

Population (1891), 1,691. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £16,111.

Letter from *J. Balfour Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. Any distress is due to the severe weather.

2. (1.) The Parochial Board, *pro tempore*, increased the weekly aliment of several of the resident poor. (2.) Granted coals, clothing, in some few instances. (3.) Private parties have relieved in other cases, the daily number of which I have no means of ascertaining.

3. Not so far as known to me.

4. What has been already done appears to me to be sufficient in the meantime.

Parish of Greenock, County of Renfrew.

Population (1891), 66,247. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £300,439.

Letter from *John S. Deas*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. There are not many cases of exceptional distress in this district at present, and what do exist are due to the ate very severe weather affecting those persons who are usually employed at out-door work.

2. The Municipal Authorities have given employment to 23 men at stone-breaking, giving each 2*s.* per day, and 61 men at cleaning the snow from the streets at 2*s.* per day each. The charitable society, acting through police, are relieving about 80 cases with food, &c., and the Parochial Authorities are relieving those which properly fall within their province.

3. There is no unemployed register maintained at present, as, speaking generally, there is no occasion for it.

4. There is no great amount of exceptional distress in this parish at present, and what really does exist can readily be met by the local agencies presently in operation. I have no special suggestions to make ; all the authorities in town are working harmoniously together.

PARISH OF HOUSTON, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 1,946. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,620.

Letter from *John Dalziel*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. EXCEPTIONAL distress has existed in this district during January and February, but purely owing to the severe weather. Number of unemployed about 110.

2. (*a*) *Houston and Crosslee Districts.*—By Lady Anne and Mr. A. A. Speirs, soup kitchen twice weekly supplying rations of soup and bread to destitute, and employment found for 25 unemployed, at 3*s.* per day. By Mr. C. Bine Renshaw, M.P., cheque for 10*l.* to supply provisions to destitute families. By Mrs. C. Bine Renshaw and others, coals, clothing, and rabbits.

Bridge of Weir District.—By Mrs. A. M. Brown, soup kitchen. By unemployed relief committee, provisions, coals, &c., to the extent of 70*l.* collected by voluntary contributions.

(*b*) Relieved in Houston and Crosslee by soup kitchen, &c.	- - - -	36 cases.
Relieved by employment found for one unemployed in each family	- - -	25 „
Relieved by relief committee in Bridge of Weir, and by soup kitchen	-	42 „
Total	- - -	103 „

3. No register is kept apart from the relief lists.

4. As the wants of the district have been amply met by private means, and milder weather has now set in, I do not consider any further steps necessary.

PARISH OF INCHINNAN, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 567. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,604.

Letter from *J. C. Crawford*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

PARISH OF INVERKIP (INVERKIP DISTRICT), COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 6,541. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £44,133.

Letter from *John Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, though the long continuance of frost has kept about two dozen persons from being employed since beginning of year; most of them are unmarried, some of them not very provident, and these will not be a bit the worse for any little pinching they have felt, if it teaches them to take better care of their money in future. There are three or four families who cannot have been well off during the last two months, but as there were no applications for help it must be assumed that they had sufficient credit to enable them to pull through.

2. (*a*) Nothing by the public authorities. A lady in the neighbourhood made an arrangement with the village baker to supply any person who appeared necessitous with a meal of bread and butter, tea or cocoa.

(*b*) Sixty-six persons, all strangers and tramps, were supplied under this arrangement from 13th till 25th February instant, an average of fully six each day. The shopkeeper tells me that in her opinion a great many served were undeserving.

4. Now that the frost seems to be disappearing the above conditions will pass away, as almost all these persons have work to begin to. A little money relief to the families referred to is all that I could suggest to help them out of debt. At the same time, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I think every one will manage to pull through without extraneous aid.

PARISH OF INVERKIP (GOUROCK DISTRICT), COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), ——. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £.——. (Included in Inverkip.)

Letter from *John Macmillan*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF KILBARCHAN, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 7,111. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,230.

Letter from *John Shaw*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a little exceptional distress, almost entirely owing to the severe weather.

2. The public authorities have not been called upon to do anything, but a voluntary relief committee has been giving assistance in coal, food, and money. During the week ended 16th February the committee distributed upwards of 50 tons of coal, and about 30*l.* in food and money; about 100 households were relieved. Now that the weather is changed it is not expected that any further exceptional relief will be required in the meantime.

3. We have lists of those who get relief, with the amount granted to each, but not what could be called an unemployed register.

4. Any distress that has arisen here has been promptly, and I think effectually, met by private charity, and meantime no other agency is required.

PARISH OF KILMALCOLM, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 3,649. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £32,102.

Letter from *Robert Knox*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. Two classes of working men, chiefly masons and labourers, have been suffering from exceptional distress, and this distress has been due to the severity of the weather.

2. (*a*) The distress has been relieved by voluntary agency.

(*b*) Prior to 16th February the agency has not been accurately ascertained, but since that date the Saturday Evening Entertainments Society have contributed 7*l.* 10*s.*; the United Presbyterian Church have collected 6*l.*

3. No register kept.

4. There is nothing to report as peculiar in the pauper class, and should any action be taken in respect of the classes I have named above, I would suggest that all means be employed to keep up the spirit of independence.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 3,477. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £23,127.

Letter from *James Kerr*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is exceptional distress in the district, owing to—

1st. The fall of a chair factory, blown down by a storm on 22nd December.

2nd. The severe weather interfering with out-door labour.

2. Voluntary agencies have met the distress—

1st. By a fund raised under the auspices of the Member for the county, and managed by a local committee. The necessities of sufferers from the fall of the chair factory are amply provided for, 39 of whom were relieved during the week ended 16th instant.

2nd. Ten pounds are in hands of a gentleman deputed by the donor to relieve those impoverished by the severe weather.

I understand this sum is to be distributed by tickets for provisions to about 40 families and individuals on 26th instant.

3. There has been no systematic register of unemployed started as yet.

PARISH OF MEARNS, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 3,426. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £21,025.

Letter from *James Wright*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF NEILSTON, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 11,374. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £43,068.

Letter from *Archibald Mackenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. PARTLY due to the stoppage of a public work and partly to the long-continued frost. A fund has been started for the relief of the poor, and is being administered by a committee of the town council of Barrhead, along with a committee of the subscribers. The parochial board, at the statutory meeting on the 11th instant, gave me discretionary power to relieve all necessitous cases of the unemployed.

2. Soup kitchens have been instituted in two districts of the parish, and are largely taken advantage of. The enclosed is a statement of the distribution, and arrangements are being entered into for the distribution of grocers' lines, &c. The different churches and private individuals have given coals and money to the poor. In Barrhead 150*l.* has been subscribed by the ratepayers, and the co-operative society distributed 100*l.* in money, and are giving four dozen of loaves daily to the soup kitchens and a quantity of beef and bones.

BARRHEAD SOUP KITCHENS.

Statement of Distribution.

	Good Templars'.	Dovecothall.	Good Templars'.	Dovecothall.	Good Templars'.	Dovecothall.
	Callers.		Supplies.		Loaves of Bread.	
Wednesday, 13th February - -	64	78	130	120	66	34
Thursday, 14th ditto - -	56	73	209	144	30	48
Friday, 15th ditto - -	75	140	244	160	120	58
Saturday, 16th ditto - -	65	63	263	163	114	72
Sunday, 17th ditto - -	65	63	259	163	108	72
Monday, 18th ditto - -	66	60	277	165	136	73
Tuesday, 19th ditto - -	79	62	267	151	140	72
Wednesday, 20th ditto - -	60	69	285	170	149	70

3. There is no unemployed register maintained, but a complete list of needful persons has been made for the guidance of the committee, and seems to work very well.

4. No further suggestion. We have no employment in the parish to give men out of work, and cannot very well make work for them during this severe frost.

PARISH OF PAISLEY, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 41,082. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £128,035.

Letter from *Robert Rowand*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is considerable exceptional distress in this district and parish. It is almost wholly due to the unusual severity of the weather. All trades not affected by the weather are fairly busy.

2. The public authorities are actively relieving all cases of distress, and in this they are successful, no known case of real destitution being left unrelieved. Private subscriptions are flowing in freely, which will meet all expenditure. Average daily number of men employed by the municipal authorities cleaning streets and breaking stones, 60; average daily number employed in stick factory under charity association, 35. Soup kitchen at Burgh Poorhouse gave out rations, consisting of 1 lb. bread, 4 oz. meal, and 1 pint of soup, to an average daily number of 116 families, representing 463 individuals. Coal, in quantities of 2 cwt, were distributed to 350 families. Cases of hidden distress have also been sought out and assistance given in small sums of money, and lines for provisions.

3. The names of applicants are taken down in a book at the police office. Tickets for the soup kitchen are issued to the families, and work is provided for a number of the men. Many of the men offered work do not turn up to begin work.

4. No special suggestions. The efforts of the public authorities are largely supplemented by many private benevolent agencies distributing clothing, food, and coal.
A private agency is also giving a hot dinner daily to all school children in poor circumstances.

PARISH OF PORT GLASGOW, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 11,973. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £38,314.

Letter from *Henry Nixon*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS. There has been reduced earnings and hardship among the shipbuilding artisans and labourers, due to want of employment peculiar to that special branch of business. Among the poor not engaged in shipbuilding there is no special distress. Previous to the severe weather there was less illness than usual, and the death rate of 1894 was below the average.

2. The town council provided relief works and employed 60 men daily. They further organised a relief fund and a medical aid scheme. Central rooms were opened at the town hall. Applications for relief were taken at the police station, opened first time 16 February 1895; 36 cases applied with 131 dependants, making 167 individuals relieved on that day. Any one in distress was invited to make his case known, and it would be attended to and relieved.

3. No.

4. Steps have been taken to meet any distress which may arise. The parochial board have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF RENFREW, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Population (1891), 9,338. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £34,911.

Letter from *John R. Parker*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE has been some distress, but only on account of the unprecedented severity of the cold. Trade prospects were good at the new year; but since that out-door work has been suspended. Now it is being resumed, however.

2. (*a.*) The local police, under Superintendent Deans, are finding out urgent cases and supplying groceries and coals; voluntary subscriptions have come in freely, about 110*l.* having been received in response to the magistrates' appeal. It is under consideration to supply boots and clothing to ragged children. About 165 school children are getting hot dinners from the fund.

(*b.*) Cannot say, as it only commenced about 16th.

3. There is none; applications for parochial relief are at the normal rate.

Newspaper Extract of 23rd February.

The prolonged spell of hard weather has made itself felt more or less amongst all classes. Probably it was under similar circumstances that Sam Weller significantly remarked, "It is splendid weather for them as is well wrapped up," but the majority of even such persons as can afford substantial wraps would, I think, prefer a little milder weather and a slight change of garment. It is, however, the poor who most keenly feel the pinch. Outside work has been at a standstill for several weeks back, and latterly the severity of the weather has even threatened to interfere with indoor labour—notably in shipbuilding and kindred trades. The result is that many of the classes who can least afford a holiday are idle not from choice nor from want of work, but because of unfavourable weather conditions. Poverty—"honest poverty"—and destitution are keener and their victims more numerous than is usual in our midst; and it is, therefore, with pleasure that I note the action of the provost and magistrates in making a timeous appeal, and the ready and liberal response which the public have given. I only hope that those in a position to give will think on how much remains to be done; and, to get an idea of this, I would advise them to visit the children's dinner table, so ably superintended by Chief Constable Deans.

Relieving the Distress.—In the end of last week, the provost and magistrates issued an appeal for subscriptions wherewith to relieve the distress existing in the burgh in consequence of the severity of the weather. On Monday, donations began to pour in to the office of the Burgh Chamberlain, and already Mr. M'Laren reports receipt of a considerable sum. On Monday a soup kitchen was opened under the superintendence of Chief Constable Deans and with the patronage of the provost, magistrates, and town council. Each day during the week a warm dinner has been served to each of over 150 school children, while necessitous adults have had a meal supplied to them at their homes. Besides this, numerous small sums of money, as well as supplies of provisions and coal, have been distributed.

The local relief fund amounted to over 30*l.* within two days, and is now about 70*l.*, which is satisfactory. One gentleman (whom I might name, did I think it necessary) guaranteed to defray all expenses connected with the soup kitchen, if it were necessary; but, in my opinion, it is better that such relief should be provided by the members of the community. It shows a better public spirit.

4. The establishment of relief test works in all industrial localities during dull times, or almost every year, can alone prevent imposture, and would be most useful to parochial boards.

PARISH OF ALNESS, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,039. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,513.

Letter from *Alexander Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DAILY labourers are somewhat pressed for money owing to the long snow-storm, but are not destitute.

2. Nothing by parochial board, but there are several local gentlemen who have distributed coals, and the Dorcas Society have supplied clothing and groceries. At the Alness School soup kitchen soup is given free five days a week to those in necessity, and a local committee distributed the funds made at a concert.

3. No.

4. Now that the thaw has set in there is abundance of employment in the parish. By giving grants in future to be disbursed at the discretion of the parish council, necessitous cases of destitution could be relieved.

PARISH OF APPLECROSS, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,786. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,384.

Letter from *Donald Mackenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES; it is entirely due to circumstances peculiar to the locality. Those of the people that have crofts (that is, small pieces of land) are not in distress.

2. Nothing is being done, either by Public Authorities or voluntary agencies, to meet the distress; and none has been relieved during the period in question.

3. No; all the resident labouring population of the parish are unemployed.

4. That the authorities concerned would employ the labourers in constructing public roads, of which this extensive parish is almost destitute, or other public works, seems to me the best manner of relieving the unemployed of this parish, as this would benefit them in several ways.

PARISH OF AVOCH, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,817. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,849.

Letter from *R. J. Gillanders*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES; partly due to severe weather, but chiefly due to circumstances peculiar to the locality, and to the fact of the fishermen being unable to go to sea regularly for want of suitable harbour accommodation.

2. Voluntary agencies in the way of money, soup kitchens, and relief works. Almost 90 families.

3. No.

4. A Government grant to assist in erection of a suitable harbour would be invaluable to assist the fishing population to prosecute their calling more regularly.

PARISH OF BARVAS, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 6,494. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,612.

Letter from *H. McL. Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress further than that peculiar to the locality, intensified by the late severe weather.

2. The Parochial Board has been able to relieve any distress in the parish. Applicants for relief not much in excess of last year.

3. No.

4. Late severe weather caused crofters to give large quantities of their crops to feed their stock, and they would require some aid for seed.

PARISH OF CONTIN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,436. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,961.

Letter from *George Maclennan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF CROMARTY, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 2,007. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,897

Letter from *A. MacKay*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

PARISH OF DINGWALL, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 2,576. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,316.

Letter from *A. Munro*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, entirely due to the severe weather.

2. No special call for relief was made to the Parochial Board. The Town Council and other private parties gave gratuitous relief.

3. No, so far as known to me.

4. The weather having now become milder the unemployed will soon get work to do.

PARISH OF EDDERTON, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 642. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,161.

Letter from *John Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in district.

2. Nothing required to be done.

3. No.

4. As there is to be a change shortly in the present system of Poor Law management, of which I have had 38 years' experience in this parish, I would not be inclined to make any suggestion at present.

PARISH OF FEARN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,900. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,658.

Letter from *John Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in district.

2. Nothing required to be done.

3. No.

4. As there is to be a change shortly in the management of the Poor Law, I would not be inclined to make any suggestion at present. I have had 37 years' experience of the present system of Poor Law management in this parish.

PARISH OF FODDERTY, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,897. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,134.

Letter from *Alexander MacDonald*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF GAIRLOCH, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 4,181. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,384.

Letter from *J. Macintosh*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing, their being no distress.

3. No. *See* No. 1.

4. No suggestion to make.

PARISH OF GLENSHIEL, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 394. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,523.

Letter from *J. M. Nicolson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE does not appear to be any exceptional distress in this parish.

2. No action has been taken by Public Authorities or by voluntary agencies. None relieved on 16th February 1895.

3. No.

PARISH OF KILLEARNAN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 951. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,566.

Letter from *George Maclennan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

PARISH OF KILMUIR EASTER, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,924. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,304.

Letter from Pro. *Donald Mackay*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish further than that caused by the severe weather.

2. The Parochial Board have increased the paupers' allowances. A concert, realising about 20*l.*, was held, and the parish minister, out of the Kirk Session funds, gave other 20*l.*, which sums (40*l.*) were distributed among the unemployed and poor, giving each person an average of 12*s.*

3. This is not required in so small a population, where every one is well-known to the Public Authorities and carefully looked after.

4. No.

PARISH OF KILTEARN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,301. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,214.

Letter from *Thomas Urquhart*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THE storm has prevented all out-door work, on which the villagers entirely depend, for nearly eight weeks. The class that suffers most are the industrious poor, who have too much self-respect to take parish relief, and whose occupation is put an end to by the severe weather.

2. The people are very generous to each other, and the neighbouring proprietors have given over 20*l.* worth of coal and meal, and one keeps up a soup kitchen.

3. No.

4. The Government should give a grant for relief of taxes, or a grant to enable Parish Councils to employ men during severe weather on roads other than county roads.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,417. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,257.

Letter from *David Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, a little, amongst the ordinary poor and casual labourers. This is partly due to the severe winter, entirely so with regard to paupers, and partly due to a scarcity of labour even when the weather is favourable, as proprietors of recent years expend next to nothing by way of improvements to their estates. This being a centre of Land Leagueism may account for the facts.

2. There are no voluntary agencies. Private charity is, no doubt, dispensed, and the Inspector of Poor has always authority to afford casual relief wherever he satisfies himself of the existence of real need.

3. No register of unemployed kept.

4. The parish is very badly off for highways, and public grants in aid of new roads would be considered a great boon, both as aiding towards improving the parish and affording labour to such as need it.

PARISH OF KINTAIL, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 588. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,179.

Letter from *J. M. Nicolson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE does not appear to be exceptional distress in this parish.

2. No movement has been made by Public Authorities or by voluntary agencies. No unemployed person relieved on the 16th February 1895, other than the ordinary paupers.

3. No.

PARISH OF KNOCKBAIN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,667. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,829.

Letter from *R. J. Gillanders*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing required.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF LOCHALSH, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,868. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,330.

Letter from *J. M. Nicolson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, although there are a few hundreds additional labourers in the district employed at the Highland Railway extension to Kyleakin. The most of these men were continuously employed, as the work was carried on during the winter, notwithstanding the severity of the weather.

2. No action was taken either by Public Authorities or voluntary agencies. None were relieved on 16th February 1895.

3. No.

PARISH OF LOCHBROOM, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 3,910. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,696.

Letter from *John Munro*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. Not called on to meet any distress.

3. No; not necessary.

4. No exceptional distress exists.

PARISH OF LOCHCARRON, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,642. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,052.

Letter from *Alexander Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF LOCHS, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 4,676. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,288.

Letter from *A. Mc. L. Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress further than that peculiar to the locality, intensified by the late severe weather.

2. The Parochial Board has been able to relieve any distress in the parish. Applicants for relief not much in excess of last year.

3. No.

4. A grant for roads much required in the parish, where in a considerable portion of it there are no public roads, and would give employment to many suffering from want of work. The parish has not participated in any of the Government grants received by other parishes in the island less necessitous. Also some aid for potato and corn seed.

PARISH OF LOGIE EASTER, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 870. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,587.

Letter from *Alex. Wills*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no case of exceptional distress in this parish. The population consists chiefly of crofters and farm servants, who are all in a position to tide over a severe winter. No village in the parish.

2. Individual charity has, in all cases of distress or hardship, been sufficient here.

3. No register kept.

4. None required for this parish.

PARISH OF NIGG, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 930. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,111.

Letter from *John Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in district.

2. Nothing required to be done.

3. No.

4. As there is to be a change shortly in the management of the Poor Law, I would not be inclined to make any suggestion at present. I have had in this parish 31 years' experience of the present system of Poor Law management.

PARISH OF RESOLIS, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,339. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,627.

Letter from *R. J. Gillanders*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing required.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ROSEMARKIE, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,343. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,759.

Letter from *R. J. Gillanders*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. To a certain extent. Due to the severe weather.

2. Voluntary agencies. Money. About 30 families participated.

3. No.

PARISH OF ROSSKEEN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 3,480. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,494.

Letter from *Alex. Wills*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE may be a few individual cases of distress, but not to any great extent, and those which do exist are entirely owing to the protracted severity of the weather.

2. Voluntary agencies are at work in this parish throughout the year, and these are quite sufficient to meet all cases of distress. In severe weather coals, meal, and other necessaries are supplied to the poor and unemployed. I consider the poor and unemployed in this parish are well provided for.

3. No such register is kept, so far as I am aware.

4. I am of opinion that voluntary agencies do not make sufficient investigation into each case. The distribution is generally entrusted to ladies, who are too frequently imposed upon.

PARISH OF STORNOWAY, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 11,799. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £17,714.

Letter from *J. F. Macfarlane*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, *i.e.*, in this parish, at present.

2. (*b*) None.

3. No.

PARISH OF TAIN, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 2,818. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,982.

Letter from *John Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE town clerk gives a statement of what has been done in the burghal portion of this parish. In the landward portion of the parish there has been no exceptional distress. In the burgh the Town Council took the matter in hand.

2. There was nothing done by the Parochial Board, as there were no calls made on them.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestions to make at present.

PARISH OF TARBAT, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 1,703. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,826.

Letter from *John Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district that has come under my observation.

2. There was nothing required to be done in regard to unemployed persons.

3. No.

4. As there is to be a change shortly in the management of the Poor Law, I would not be inclined to make any suggestion at present. I have had in this parish 37 years' experience of the present system of Poor Law management.

PARISH OF UIG, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 4,621. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,386.

Letter from *James Macrae*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. A few cases, such occurring annually at this time of the year, due to circumstances peculiar to the locality, not to severe weather, are relieved casually.

2. Nothing is being done by public authorities or voluntary agencies, but cases that may occur are relieved casually by the Parochial Board. Two cases of nine dependants casually relieved during the week.

3. No.

4. I would suggest giving employment in finishing the footpaths to the public schools as the most suitable at present. It is probable that the severe frost lately has severely damaged the potato seed, and I am afraid that this may be very serious.

PARISH OF URQUHART, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 2,328. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,150.

Letter from *Alexander MacDonald*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

No.

2. None.

3. No.

4. No exceptional distress.

PARISH OF URRAY, COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Population (1891), 2,283. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £12,538.

Letter from *George MacLennan*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No

PARISH OF ANCRUM, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,241. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,645.

Letter from *Alexander G. Catto*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. General labourers have been thrown idle for the past eight weeks by the severe weather, but have all been able to get along without requiring relief from the public.

2. None.

3. No.

PARISH OF BEDRULE, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 246. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,433.

Letter from *R. W. Ritchie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. This parish is wholly agricultural, and the population consists almost entirely of farm servants. Consequently there is no exceptional distress at this time.

3. No.

PARISH OF BOWDEN, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 694. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,482.

Letter from *John Dodds*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. YES; due to both causes.

2. Nothing by the public authorities. Voluntary agencies have supplied coals. The Kirk Session are expending 12*l.* on coals and grants of money to 24 individual families.

3. No.

4. People would work, but they cannot owing to the weather, and as the times are hard on the farmers and lairds, by bad market and increased rates, &c., they employ very few *orra* hands. A grant from Government would be welcome.

PARISH OF CASTLETON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 2,023. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,641.

Letter from *Jno. Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF CAVERS, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,497. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £19,185.

Letter from *G. Moodie*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. I HAVE been making inquiries, and have heard of no exceptional distress in the parish. I have had no applications for parochial relief since November last.

3. No.

PARISH OF CRAILING, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 600. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,610.

Letter from *George Fargie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. In this parish the people are all employed regularly on the various farms, hence the severe weather has thrown no one out of work.

PARISH OF ECKFORD, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 757. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,708.

Letter from *William Young*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no known case of exceptional distress in this parish, the population almost wholly being engaged in agricultural pursuits. Wages are paid as usual, and the people are consequently in no need of outside aid.

PARISH OF EDNAM, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 581. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,140.

Letter from *David Pringle*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this district. The people are engaged in farm work, and as they have yearly engagements, with a good upstanding wage, bad times do not affect them. All the paupers belonging to this parish are non-resident.

PARISH OF HAWICK, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 14,348. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £46,030.

Letter from *John Rule*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS exceptional; is due partly to dull trade and mainly to severe weather.

2. The

2. The town council have raised a fund by voluntary subscriptions, church collections, amateur concerts, &c., to meet the distress. The magistrates are distributing tickets for coals, bread, and other provisions, to from 150 to 200 families weekly, and they have started a soup kitchen which is open daily.

3. An unemployed register has been opened and contains the names of about 150 able-bodied men. These have been provided with work, as far as possible, in street cleaning, stone-breaking, and top-dressing the town's farm.

4. No.

PARISH OF HOBKIRK, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 631. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,663.

Letter from *Thomas Culbertson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. A FEW labouring men have been unemployed during the recent severe weather, but as they are almost entirely young unmarried men who live with relatives, there is no distress at all.

2. There have been no applications for relief.

3. No.

PARISH OF HOWNAM, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 223. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,263.

Letter from *James Cuthbert*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Not amongst the people, except in one case, perhaps, where a labouring man has wrought only one or two days since new year. The sheep are being well cared for. Rabbits and other lower animals have suffered greatly, but are also being hand fed in many cases.

2. Nothing, as far as I know.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF JEDBURGH, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,814. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £27,980.

Letter from *Thomas Smail*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is a good deal of distress, but it is entirely due to the severe weather we are at present experiencing.

2. (*a*) The Provost and Magistrates Relief Fund; soup kitchen daily; both voluntary subscriptions.
(*b*) Provost and Magistrates, six tickets for provisions of the value of 5*s*. each; soup kitchen, 160.

3. No.

4. A thaw.

PARISH OF KELSO, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,730. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,745.

Letter from *George A. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THE distress here is entirely due to want of employment in consequence of the severe weather.

2. (*a*) A committee, which was organized in 1878, for relief of the unemployed, is distributing aid to necessitous cases, besides co-operating with the Burgh Commissioners Cleaning Committee by contributing towards expenses of giving work on the streets to some of the unemployed men.
(*b*) The average daily number relieved was 20.

3. No register.

4. No.

PARISH OF KIRKTON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 320. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,900.

Letter from *John Turnbull*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Rural parish workers engaged by year.
2. Nil.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF LILLIESLEAF, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 649. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,822.

Letter from *James W. Mackay*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES, as regards agricultural labourers and masons, who have been idle during the last eight weeks owing to the severe weather. This enforced idleness is not unusual, though rather longer continued this winter.
2. (*a*) Some coals and firewood have been given by private individuals voluntarily, nothing by public authorities.
   (*b*) No relief given during week ended Saturday, 16th February.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF LINTON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 468. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,489.

Letter from *J. Cook*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.
3. No
4. No.

PARISH OF MAKERSTOUN, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 401. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,493

Letter from *F. T. Galloway*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No distress.
2. Nothing done.
3. No unemployed register maintained.
4. No suggestions to make.

PARISH OF MAXTON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 473. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,000.

Letter from *Thomas Boyd*, Inspector of Poor, 24th February 1895.

1. No. There are four or five families in the parish who no doubt feel the long continuance of bad weather. I was told on Saturday, by an employer of two of the above men, that he was giving their families food and coal.

2. Nothing is being done in the parish by public authorities. The four or five families referred to above (No. 1) being the only necessitous cases in the parish, there does not seem to be any necessity for anything further being done, at least, at present.

3. No.

4. No. The parish is purely agricultural, and the agricultural labourer does not feel the bad weather so far as wages are concerned.

PARISH OF MELROSE, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 4,882. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £32,401.

Letter from *Thomas Ballantyne*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ALMOST wholly due to severity of weather.

2. (*a*) Liberal subscriptions (all voluntary).
(*b*) Probably about 50 families in various districts.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF MINTO, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 430. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £5,392.

Letter from *Alexander Harvey*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, so far as I have been able to ascertain. There are one or two general labourers out of employment owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing special is being done by public authorities or by voluntary agencies.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF MOREBATTLE, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 846. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £9,393.

Letter from *James Henderson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DRAINERS, dykers, and masons, have of course been out of work during the prolonged frost, but no "distress" has been heard of.

2. Private or church charity as yet easily meets whatever approach to distress has occurred.

3. No.

4. *See* answer to (2).

PARISH OF OXNAN, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 684. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £8,761.

Letter from *John D. Little*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. POPULATION all engaged in agricultural work and resident in farm cottages. There has been no exceptional distress in this parish.

PARISH OF ROBERTON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 455. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £7,769.

Letter from *Thomas Wilson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

PARISH OF ROXBURGH, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 954. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,017.

Letter from *Robert Bell*, Inspector of Poor, 16th February 1895.

1. THERE is no distress in this parish at this time.

3. None.

4. This parish is entirely agricultural so there is scarcely any unemployed.

PARISH OF ST. BOSWELL'S, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 962. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,512.

Letter from *Thomas Lawrie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ABOUT 12 men were thrown idle owing to the severe weather, masons, slaters, and labourers. There was only one case of destitution, due to his own habits. His wants were supplied from a small fund in the hands of the heritors.

2. (*a*) Two or three of the above number received help from the above-named fund.
(*b*) One, as above.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF SMAILHOLM, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 340. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,369.

Letter from *John Brown*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district at the present time. The parish is entirely agricultural and the great majority of the people are hired to the farmers, and wages are therefore upstanding.

2. Nothing.

3. No register.

PARISH OF SOUTHDEAN, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 672. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,401.

Letter from *Alexander C. Milne*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. DISTRESS is non-existent.

3. No unemployed register.

PARISH OF SPROUSTON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 1,006. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,080.

Letter from *George A. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I HAVE not heard of any exceptional distress here.

PARISH OF STITCHEL, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 314. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,209.

Letter from *William Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF WILTON, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 6,375. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £22,529.

Letter from *James Shiel*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is some distress in that part of the parish situated within the burgh of Hawick. None in the landward part, which contains 938 inhabitants. The distress in the burghal portion is principally due to the severity of the weather, and amongst the thriftless portion of the population.

2. The magistrates of Hawick have raised a fund from private subscriptions and concerts, and are supplying the unemployed with soup, provisions, and coals—soup daily, provisions and coals weekly. As they are dispensing the charity themselves, I do not know the daily number relieved. Miss Wilson, of Wilton Manse, has also opened a soup kitchen, and is supplying 30 families with soup and bread daily.

3. I do not know.

4. I think when seasonable weather returns the distress will disappear, except perhaps amongst a few factory operatives out of employment.

PARISH OF YETHOLM, COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Population (1891), 884. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,296.

Letter from *G. Mather*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress ; but there has been a steadily diminishing population, owing to a steady lessening in the amount of labour to be got on farms. There is not much work to be got on these farms, as farmers have been gradually cutting down the amount of work given to any who are not regular servants. These also have been cut down in number.

PARISH OF ASHKIRK, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 479. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,579.

Letter from *Archibald M. Dunlop*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No unemployed.

PARISH OF ETTRICK, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 414. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,449.

Letter from *Andrew M'Laren*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No cases of distress.

PARISH OF GALASHIELS, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 17,941. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £54,852.

Letter from *John R. Skinner*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. YES. It is due both to the dulness of trade in all the factories, and to the severe cold frosty weather.

2. (*a*) The Parochial Board some years ago secured a site for new offices, and with the view of giving some work to the unemployed began removing the soil thereof on 4th instant, paying men 2*s.* per day. The work has been accomplished at a cost of 57*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* The corporation of the burgh has been employing from 30 to 40 men daily, at 2*s.* to 3*s.* per day, removing snow, &c. from the streets. A soup kitchen has been opened for poor children. A committee has been formed to collect subscriptions, and to distribute groceries and coals to the unemployed. A concert last week raised a sum of 100*l.*

(*b*) The Parochial Board employed on an average 17 men during the week ended 16th instant.

3. There is no register kept of the unemployed, further than the list of applicants seeking assistance from the unemployed fund.

4. The Parochial Board have no difficulty in coping with the slightly increased demands on them.

PARISH OF KIRKHOPE, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 500. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,042

Letter from *Thomas Elliot*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. NONE.

PARISH OF SELKIRK, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1881), 7,298. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £31,200.

Letter from *James Dobson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. A NUMBER of out-door workers are thrown idle. Due to severe weather.

2. An average of 20 men (married) have been employed by voluntary agencies at 2*s*. daily and dinner. A soup kitchen has been started, giving dinners every day to at least 200 men, women, and children.

4. Nothing but what is already being done by voluntary efforts. The funds in hand are expected to last till the weather improves.

PARISH OF YARROW, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), 638. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,831.

Letter from *William Bell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE.

3. No.

PARISH OF YARROW, MEGGET DISTRICT, COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

Population (1891), ———. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £—— —— (included in Yarrow).

Letter from *James Shaw*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

PARISH OF AIRTH, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 1,325. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £9,723.

Letter from *Alexander Bow*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. (*a*) Nothing.
(*b*) None.

3. No.

4. There is no distress in this district. The working class seem to be in fairly comfortable circumstances

---

PARISH OF BALDERNOCK, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 553. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,757.

Letter from *John Gibson*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NOT to any great extent is there exceptional distress here. The parish is purely agricultural, and a majority of the labourers are engaged from term to term. For day labourers there is always a slack time in winter, when they

they are only partially employed. The severe weather has prolonged this period of slackness. From this cause no application for relief has been made to me as Inspector of Poor.

2. There is no organised system of relief. The Kirk Session first, and a gentleman of the parish later, caused coal to be distributed amongst the most necessitous; and a load of meal, won by a rink of curlers, was similarly distributed.

3. No.

4. I do not consider the distress here so great as to call for action by the public authorities.

Parish of Balfron, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 1,203. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,933.

Letter from *John Henry*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

Parish of Bothkennar, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 4,134. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,305.

Letter from *William Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. There has been a larger number of unemployed, and for a longer period, this year than usual in Grangemouth, where at this season there is always a slackness of work among dock labourers and those who depend on the shipping for employment. I have, however, had no applications for parochial relief in consequence of distress in this district, nor from the landward part of the parish either, where the miners are fairly well employed.

2. In Grangemouth there is a fund subscribed by merchants in the port for coals to the poor, which has been more largely drawn upon this year, and cases of distress have been searched out by ladies and others, and lines for groceries given where required. The churches also have been busy in works of charity. The curlers also have contributed, I learn, about 12*l.*, so that what has been done here has been by voluntary agencies. The distress is principally, almost entirely, in the Falkirk portion of Grangemouth.

3. No register of the unemployed is kept. Only a list of the persons and families relieved.

4. The employment of agencies such as indicated above, with, where applied for, a little casual relief, would be sufficient to tide over such distress in this parish.

Parish of Buchanan, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 658. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,776.

Letter from *John Dunlop*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No distress.

2. Nothing.

3. None.

Parish of Campsie, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 5,338. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,095.

Letter from *J. Stewart*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing done yet. A local voluntary committee is at present inquiring as to the condition of the poor, and any unemployed in the district.

3. No.

4. There is no distress here calling for any special effort.

PARISH OF DENNY, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 6,373. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £23,963.

Letter from *Alexander Stark*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. ALTHOUGH a large number of out-workers have been for some time idle on account of the severity of the weather, I am not aware of any exceptional distress in this parish.

2. The School Board have, by voluntary subscriptions, been enabled to give about 200 children of the poorer classes their dinner daily for a week or two past.

3. No.

4. *See* query No. 1.

PARISH OF DRYMEN, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 1,512. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £28,636.

Letter from *William Melrose*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NONE; except a few quarrymen, who have been unemployed for the last seven weeks on account of the weather.

2. The Duke of Montrose threw open a wood in which there was a good deal of blown timber. A few took the firewood, but there were none specially relieved.

3. No

PARISH OF DUNIPACE, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 1,716. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £8,779.

Letter from *John Letham*, Inspector of Poor, 23rd February 1895.

1. NOT that I am aware of. There have been coals and clothing given to the poor people here, mostly widows, through the Simpson Trust Fund, interest of 500*l.*, left to the Kirk Session of Dunipace.

2. None, except from local charity.

3. No.

4. Pits and paper mills are fairly busy here, so that the severe weather has not been so much felt as in many localities.

PARISH OF FALKIRK, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 30,731. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £100,478.

Letter from *J. Beeby*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. YES; owing to the severe weather.

2. A soup kitchen has been established by voluntary agencies. Average number supplied with soup and bread, 124 daily. The town council employ able-bodied men at stone-breaking; the average daily number who take advantage of this is 30.

3. No.

4. I have no suggestions to make. The severe weather seems breaking up, and work will be plentiful here for all who desire to work.

PARISH OF FINTRY, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 357. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £4,300.

Letter from *George May*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. OUR community is entirely agricultural, and, owing to the protracted storm, out-door work is almost entirely stopped, and in consequence a good many families are idle; but there is no exceptional distress.

2. Fintry

2. Fintry Kirk Session have distributed to 19 of the most necessitous families 12*l.* in money and food and clothing, in amounts varying from 20*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*; and to each of 13 families 12 cwt. of coal.
A soup kitchen (voluntary agency) supplies soup to eight persons twice a week.

3. No.

4. The County Council ought to provide stone-breaking, and might very well have quantities of stone quarried against the winter. This would be in no sense charity, as the breaking is done at so much per yard, and the poorest breaker might earn, say, 2*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* every day during a storm like this.

Parish of Gargunnock, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 674. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,987.

Letter from *William Jamieson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. None.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No distress to relieve.

Parish of Killearn, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 1,182. Gross Rental (1893–94), £17,934. Parish unassessed.

Letter from *John Henry*, Inspector of Poor, 25th January 1895.

1. No.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

Parish of Kilsyth, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 7,424. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £30,585.

Letter from *Archibald Chalmers*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. None to the knowledge of this Board.

3. There is no register maintained in the district.

Parish of Kippen, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 1,486. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,509.

Letter from *Alexander Croft*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress has been known in this parish. In the village of Kippen a few masons and their labourers were idle owing to the severe frost, but so far as known they have been able to get along. In the village of Buchlyvie none have shown any signs of being so very ill off, and the other parts of the parish are purely agricultural.

2. No special agencies necessary.

3. None necessary.

Parish of Larbert, County of Stirling.

Population (1891), 8,340. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £23,383.

Letter from *Alexander Smith*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. There is no exceptional distess in the district.

PARISH OF LOGIE, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 4,252. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £26,880.

Letter from *Alexander Morrison*, Jun., Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is practically no distress in the district on account of the weather, or on any other account. The population consists mostly of people who reside in this locality on account of the climate, and there is in consequence at all times a very low ratio of pauperism. The working classes are engaged principally in two public works in which the employment is perfectly regular. In the landward part of the parish the population is almost wholly agricultural.

2. The proceeds of two ice carnivals have been devoted to supplying the few poor people in the district with coals and supplies of provisions.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 3,671. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,499.

Letter from *John Eccles*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. On the 16th of this month I purposely went through the parish to find out if there were any cases of distress on account of the severe weather, but found no case of destitution on account of such, and nothing has come to my knowledge that I could attribute to the weather since then.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF POLMONT, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 4,949. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £24,936.

Letter from *John Gentles*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. VERY little, so far as I can make out. A few canal boatmen may be hard pressed through stoppage of work from the severe frost. No complaints have been made, nor any special applications received.

2. An endeavour is being made through the minister of the parish to reach any necessitous case and relieve same.

3. No.

4. No. Distress limited and temporary. Will disappear now that thaw has set in.

PARISH OF ST. NINIAN'S, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 9,571. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £54,716.

Letter from *Samuel Reid*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

2. Some relief in money and kind has been given to people out of work in consequence of the severe weather, but no systematic plan of distribution has been adopted either by public authority or voluntary agency. Funds altogether from private subscribers.

3. No.

4. Where such distress exists a register of cases should be kept, and every one of them thoroughly inquired into.

PARISH OF SLAMANNAN, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 6,731. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,214.

Letter from *John Burt*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district at present. This district, being purely a mining one, the severe weather which has prevailed has not impeded work.

2. It has not been considered necessary to initiate agencies for relief, as work is being secured, as in ordinary circumstances, by the population.

3. No unemployed register has been maintained.

4. No exceptional distress exists in this parish ; the average number of days per week worked by the miners at present being about four days.

PARISH OF STIRLING, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 14,170. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £60,811.

Letter from *John Paterson*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. YES ; chiefly owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) The Stirling Soup Kitchen Association has made the following distributions : 1st (ordinary), meals at free table ; 2nd, soup to use at home ; 3rd (special), supplies of provisions, for which Town Council contributed 5*l*.

(*b*) Three hundred and forty-seven. *N.B.*—During week ending 23rd February over 200*l*. has been raised by subscriptions and entertainments. This is now being distributed under the supervision of Municipal Ward Committees and the Provost.

3. No.

4. For occasional distress the arrangements above-mentioned work very well.

PARISH OF STRATHBLANE, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Population (1891), 1,671. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £15,281.

Letter from *Peter Marshall*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress.

2. Nothing.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF ASSYNT, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 2,551. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £5,422.

Letter from *John Mackay*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. FROM the situation and resources of the parish there is almost each year more or less distress amongst the fishermen cotters and thriftless crofters at this time of year, aggravated this year by the severe weather.

2. Nothing ; no resources.

3. No.

4. A light railway from near Invershin on the Highland line to Lochinver would give work, and also enable the fishermen to prosecute their calling with success. Such a railway would benefit the fishing population of Scotland as well as the populous towns in the kingdom.

PARISH OF CLYNE, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,713. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,847.

Letter from *M. F. Myron*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF CREICH, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 2,013. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £10,117.

Letter from *David Ross*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. IT would be somewhat exaggerating to say that there is exceptional distress in this parish, where crofting is the main occupation. Those entirely dependent on day labour, and the ordinary out-door poor, have had undoubtedly a somewhat severe strain, owing entirely to the severe weather.

2. A special meeting of the Parochial Board was convened on the 23rd instant, with a view to instruct the Inspector of Poor as to the course to follow with regard to any extraordinary claims for relief. Supplies of coals have been distributed, and the Inspector has authority to use his own discretion wherever real necessity exists.

3. No register kept of unemployed.

4. None. Now that the severe storm is over there is little danger now, during this season, of any exceptional distress, even though it must be admitted that labour is somewhat scarce.

PARISH OF DORNOCH, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 2,331. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,569.

Letter from *J. Sutherland*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NO exceptional distress.

2. Nothing is being done by the public authorities—not necessary.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF DURNESS, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 960. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,698.

Letter from *Robert Sutherland*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE.

2. None.

3. None.

4. None.

PARISH OF EDDRACHILLIS, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,409. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £4,581.

Letter from *A. R. Cowie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is little or no exceptional distress in the district. The people do not much depend on public employment, but on the produce of their crofts and the produce of the sea. The severe weather of this season has affected their sea earnings by preventing their reaching the south markets.

2. Nothing has been done either by public authorities or other agencies.

3. No.

4. Where such distress exists, especially in large towns, work should be provided, and paid either by the nation or municipalities, the work to be improving congested areas and sanitation, and providing better dwellings for the labouring classes.

PARISH OF FARR, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 2,750. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,454.

Letter from *J. M'Dougall*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. NONE, so far as known to me.

2. All applications for relief are attended to by the Parochial Board. There were only three new applications during the last three months.

3. No; not found necessary.

4. There being no exceptional distress, I have no suggestions to make on the subject.

PARISH OF GOLSPIE, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,451. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,868.

Letter from *John Murray*, Inspector of Poor, 6th March 1895.

1. NO. During January and the greater part of February several workmen were out of employment owing to the severe weather, but now that the weather has improved they have resumed work; there has been no marked distress, and in no case was it necessary to make application for parochial aid.

2. Although there has been no marked distress, the Duke of Sutherland, while giving employment to many has kindly caused meal and fuel to be distributed amongst the most necessitous poor of the parish.

3. No.

4. None.

PARISH OF KILDONAN, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,828. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,209.

Letter from *James Campbell*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district. There may be some cases of temporary hardship consequent on the severe weather.

2. There has been no action taken by any public authority, further than to watch anxiously the condition of the people. There are two bequests in the parish, and amounting in the aggregate to about 53*l.*, which have been distributed on the poor, not paupers, since this stormy weather begun. I have been consulted on more than one occasion since 1st January, and I was glad to give the names of poor, not paupers, who were in consequence relieved.

3. There is no unemployed register. I know the circumstances of every one in the parish.

4. There is no actual distress in the parish, but should any occur it can be met by private charity. I know of funds to meet urgent cases, and available.

PARISH OF LAIRG, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,169. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £6,861.

Letter from *R. McInnes* Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NIL.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF LOTH, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 528. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,031.

Letter from *Archibald McEwen*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

PARISH OF ROGART, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,268. Assessable Rental (1892–93), £5,783.

Letter from *J. J. MacKenzie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. I HAVE not as yet received a single application for relief, consequent on the state of the weather and being out of employment. There are a few exceptional cases, but these are met either by friends or by gentlemen residing in the parish.

2. Nothing has been done by the Parochial Board, nor do I expect that any action on their part will be necessary.

3. There is no register kept.

4. I have no suggestions to make under this head.

PARISH OF TONGUE, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

Population (1891), 1,925. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,912.

Letter from *William Morrison*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. THERE is not.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF GLASSERTON, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,154. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,049.

Letter from *William Byron*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1 NONE.
2. Nothing required.
3. Not required.
4. No.

PARISH OF INCH, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 3,981. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £20,872.

Letter from *John Wither*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No. Any distress has arisen from the severe weather.
2. Nothing.
3. No.
4. No.

PARISH OF KIRKCOLM, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,705. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,406.

Letter from *David Wallace*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. NIL.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.

PARISH OF KIRKINNER, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,455. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £14,636.

Letter from *James Christison*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. DUE to severe weather.
2. (*a*) Soup has been given daily to persons in want.
   (*b*) About 25 families. Meal and bread has been given through private charity.
3. No.
4. No. Possibly by private charity.

PARISH OF KIRKMAIDEN, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,192. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,085.

Letter from *Quintin Cochrane*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. Clearing away the snow on the roads is affording employment to whatever unemployed there are But there is no unusual distress.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF KIRKCOWAN, COUNTY OF WIGTON.

Population (1891), 1,263. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £8,252.

Letter from *James McWilliam*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No exceptional cases of distress. The two woollen manufactories here are fully employed, and have been all the winter. During the severe weather the labouring class were employed cleaning the snow from the public roads.

2. The landed proprietors and others interested in the parish (through the parish minister) are very mindful in giving donations towards the relief of any necessitous cases during the winter months. There are also coal and clothing clubs, which are beneficial to the working classes. A soup kitchen has been started for the benefit of the school children and the deserving poor.

3. No.

4. No. All is being done that seems absolutely necessary.

PARISH OF LESWALT, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,320. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £11,395.

Letter from *R. H. Bradford*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. In the burghal part of this parish there is no exceptional distress owing to weather. The few labourers and tradesmen idle do not appear to avail themselves of the means of employment open to them. During the time the snow was on the streets, the Town Council afforded an opportunity for workmen to clear same, and it was a matter of surprise how few availed themselves of the offer. The landward part of the parish was not affected by the weather or want of work, and no applications for relief could be attributed to any distress in district.

2. Beyond the Town Council providing work cleaning streets of snow, &c., in the burgh, no work was provided. A soup kitchen was started by a local gentleman, but the ordinary poor of the town availed themselves only. Already tradesmen are resuming work, and, if the thaw continues, in less than a week all classes will be fully employed, as there is plenty of work in the district.

3. No.

4. None. Being strictly dependent on agriculture, this district is not affected so seriously for want of trade as manufacturing districts.

PARISH OF NEW LUCE, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 588. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £7,928.

Letter from *Robert C. Lupton*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. All the labouring classes in the parish were out of employment for several weeks before the late severe snowstorm. Since that date they got employment in clearing snow off the line of railway, and several are still employed in assisting to clear the public roads. If the severe weather continues I fear a number will be in distress.

2. (*a*) I understand some of the more necessitous cases were relieved by private charity, dispensed by the clergymen of the place from funds at their disposal. No applications have been made, as yet, to the Parochial Board for relief.
(*b*) Unable to supply number required.

3. No.

4. As the funds available (referred to above) are possibly exhausted, and as it would be difficult to get voluntary agencies set agoing, I consider it would be advisable to empower the Parochial Board to make a few advances, if required, using a separate register and pay roll for such cases.

PARISH OF OLD LUCE, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,517. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £18,142.

Letter from *James Nish*, Inspector of Poor, 26th February 1895.

1. No. What little we had was owing to the severe weather.

2. (*a*) Nothing is being done by public authorities. Our curlers gave those with large families a supply of meal and groceries.
(*b*) About ten daily.

3. No.

PARISH OF MOCHRUM, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,166. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £13,265.

Letter from *Peter Galloway*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. No distress in this parish. The poor have been well cared for by donations from natives, of coal, clothing, and food. The labouring classes have been employed in clearing the public roads of the snow-blocks.

2. Nothing.

3. No register kept.

PARISH OF PENNINGHAME, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 3,593. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £21,740.

Letter from *J. Johnston*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. SEVERE weather only.

2. One able-bodied man's sick wife relieved because weather prevented his finding employment. She had lately come out of prison. A committee, composed of the Town Commissioners and voluntary agencies, have given relief in food tickets to an average of 56 persons, giving 2*s.* each, weekly, in groceries, meal, &c., for past three weeks of severe weather, and is continued this week.

During last two weeks about 25 men have been employed by the Town Council clearing snow from the streets, &c., at 2*s.* a day. This work had been publicly offered to all who chose to accept it.

3. No.

4. None additional.

PARISH OF PORTPATRICK, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,219. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £6,314.

Letter from *Alexander Rankin*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No exceptional distress in the district.

PARISH OF SORBIE, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,563. Assessable Rental (1893-94), £12,820.

Letter from *John Fingland*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No.

3. No.

4. No.

PARISH OF STONEYKIRK, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,703. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £18,261.

Letter from *John McCaig*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. As most of the labouring class are farm servants under yearly engagements (or half-yearly) there is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. Nil.

3. No unemployed register is maintained.

4. Nil.

PARISH OF STRANRAER, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 3,158. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £13,115.

Letter from *George D. Baillie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. No, but—(1.) The hurricane on 22nd December destroyed most of the fishing boats, and about 150*l.* of private subscriptions have been collected to restore the damage.
(2.) The severe frost has thrown masons, plasterers, and labourers idle for several weeks.

2. (1.) A soup kitchen was started on the 16th instant, and twice a week about 60 families are supplied. About 20*l.* of private subscriptions have been collected.
(2.) A considerable number of labourers (otherwise idle) have been employed to clear the railway, and the town streets of snow. More men could have been employed if they had been willing to work.

3. No.

4. The distress has been fully met without parochial aid.

PARISH OF WHITHORN, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 2,574. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £15,096.

Letter from *A. MacVea*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district, although owing to the late snow-storm a few people could not get working in the fields.

2. A number of gentlemen formed themselves into a committee, and have voluntarily been giving bread, tea, sugar, &c., and a few blankets to the poor; coals, as is customary at this season, have also been sold at a cheap rate to the poor.

3. No.

4. Immediately after the snow-storm, all the men who were willing to work were employed clearing away the snow at 3*s.* a day. The people who felt it most were women who have children, but no husbands, and who have to work in the fields. To such I gave a few pounds as casual relief; if a little could be given to assist the latter class it would be very acceptable, seeing they are not paupers.

PARISH OF WIGTOWN, COUNTY OF WIGTOWN.

Population (1891), 1,911. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,017

Letter from *William Mackie*, Inspector of Poor, 25th February 1895.

1. VERY little exceptional distress. There are no public works, and the severe weather has been felt by the agricultural day labourer only, and that only when the frost was severe.

2. Since the heavy fall of snow on the 5th and 6th February, every available male labourer has been employed clearing the snow-block from streets, roads, and railway. The Town Council has spent 42*l.* on this work, and about as much more would be spent by other authorities in the immediate district.
About 80 tons of coals have been distributed by public subscription, the Kirk Session, and Parochial Board.

3. No register.

4. Milder weather has set in, and farm labour is being resumed. A number are back to work to-day. Applications for casual relief have been unusually few this winter.

PARISH OF BRESSAY, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 802. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £887.

Letter from *George Wilson, M.A.*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is not, in my opinion, any exceptional distress in this parish. The majority of the people earn their livelihood from the sea, and the severe weather has had no appreciable effect upon earnings. The summer of 1894 was very favourable in Zetland, and there is less distress than in previous years—*e.g.*, that of 1892.

PARISH OF DELTING, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 1,512. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,421.

Letter from *Robert Robertson*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. THE unusually severe weather, with snow-storms now for more than two months, is, of course, felt to be a hardship by all, and has caused some loss of outlying animals; but there is no exceptional distress in this parish, and no applications more than usual for parochial relief.

2. None.

3. No unemployed register.

4. No.

PARISH OF DUNROSSNESS, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 3,752. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,840.

Letter from *M. Goudie*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this parish, so far as I know; I have not even heard of a single individual in it who is at any loss for the means of subsistence.

2. Nothing such necessary, as yet.

3. No.

4. None in present circumstances.

PARISH OF FETLAR, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 363. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £544.

Letter from *George Garster*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. As yet, there is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. As there is no exceptional distress there is nothing being done by the public authorities, &c. None relieved.

3. None.

4. As no exceptional distress exists at present I have no suggestions to make.

PARISH OF LERWICK, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 5,757. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £11,750.

Letter from *James Innes*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is little or no exceptional distress prevailing in this district at present. There are very few of the labouring class in this district, the great majority of the people being sailors and fishermen; and although a great many of them are in very poor circumstances, the severe weather has not to any extent prevented them from prosecuting their ordinary calling.

2. (*a*) There being no exceptional distress prevailing nothing has or is being done by public authorities or other agencies.
(*b*) Nil.

3. No unemployed register maintained.

4. Although the greater portion of the community are in very poor circumstances, there does not appear to be any exceptional distress at present. I have, therefore, no suggestions to offer.

PARISH OF NESTING (NESTING DISTRICT), COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,589. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,694.

Letter from *John Spence*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. I DO not consider that there is at present exceptional distress in this district. No doubt persons entirely dependent on fishing are feeling the severe weather, and crofters are short of fodder. The people are dependent for their support during winter on the returns of the preceding harvest of the land and sea. The fishings of 1894 were fairly good, and the crops were above the average. Hence the majority of the people are self-supporting as yet. Many will, however, be pressed for seed on account of the demand on fodder.

2. No application has as yet been made for relief by able-bodied persons. Crofters and fishermen can, as a rule, get credit from local dealers for a season.

3. No. There is no regular employment in this parish. The people are all crofters and fishermen, or sailors, and the females knit Shetland hosiery. Persons who have none of these employments must be idle. The want of some regular land work is the cause of much of the poverty of these islands.

4. Any relief that may be forthcoming might, to the greatest advantage, be given in the form of a special grant for the construction of footpaths and bridges, chiefly with the view of promoting school attendance in rural districts.

PARISH OF NESTING (LUNNASTING DISTRICT), COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), ——. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £——— (Included in Nesting).

Letter from *William Pottinger*, Inspector of Poor, 4th March 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in this district.

2. (*a*) Nil.
(*b*) Nil.

3. No.

4. While there is no exceptional distress in the district the want of some remunerative employment in the district is very seriously felt. If the Government would give a free grant of money for road construction, it would be a great boon to the district.

PARISH OF NESTING (WHALSAY DISTRICT), COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), ——. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £——— (Included in Nesting).

Letter from *John Irvine*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. NONE.
2. *See* No. 1.
3. *See* No. 1.
4. *See* No. 1.

PARISH OF NORTH MAVINE, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,197. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,502.

Letter from *James Bruce*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. As far as I am aware, there are no exceptional cases of distress in this parish.

3. None.

PARISH OF SANDSTING, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,562. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,689.

Letter from *P. Thomson*, Inspector of Poor, 28th February 1895.

1. THIS is a crofter and fishing district; only a small proportion of labourers. Owing to the long-continued severe weather many must have suffered, and sought advances from employers and shops.

2. Nothing done by public authorities or by voluntary agencies, as yet.

3. No register is kept. Applications not encouraged.

4. I have no suggestions, and I am not inclined to make any without the authority of the Parochial Board.

PARISH OF TINGWALL, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,329. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £3,504.

Letter from *Charles C. Beatton*, Inspector of Poor, 2nd March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. Nothing publicly as yet; but private gentlemen may be helping needful cases.

3. No.

4. If money could be had, no doubt some public employments might be engaged in which would confer a benefit to parties who might be in need.

PARISH OF UNST, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,280. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,858.

Letter from *D. T. White*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. THERE is none. The parish has not been in such good circumstances for many years; both fishings and crops having proved exceptionally good during past year.

PARISH OF WALLS AND SANDNESS, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,057. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £1,228.

Letter from *James Laurenson*, Inspector of Poor, 1st March 1895.

1. No exceptional distress.

2. Nothing extra done by any agency, for there is no call for it.

3. No such register kept.

4. No suggestions to make.

PARISH OF YELL, COUNTY OF ZETLAND.

Population (1891), 2,511. Assessable Rental (1893–94), £2,353.

Letter from *J. W. Barclay*, Inspector of Poor, 27th February 1895.

1. THERE is no exceptional distress in the district.

APPENDIX, No. 33.

PAPER handed in by the *Chairman.*

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS.

Page.

1. Explanation of the method in which the answers to the letter sent out by the Local Government Board, have been summarised with regard to the existence of distress in England and Wales - - - - 802

2. Table showing nature of distress reported, together with the numbers, population, and percentages of population of districts making returns - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 803

3. Summary of the above table, and conclusions drawn from the figures given - - - - - - - 804

4. Remarks on these conclusions, with explanatory excerpts from the letters themselves, showing—

   1. The reasons for the absence of distress in country districts - - - - - - - - - 804

   2. The character of the distress to be dealt with - - - - - - - - - - - 804

   3. The various remedies suggested - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 805

5. A further analysis of the trade distress in England and Wales, showing—

   1. The localities complaining, arranged alphabetically - - - - - - - - - - 807

   2. The same localities arranged by groups of trades - - - - - - - - - - 813

   3. Short summary, and conclusions drawn from the tables - - - - - - - - - - 820

DISTRESS IN ENGLAND AND WALES,

IN THE

MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1895,

AS SHOWN BY THE RETURNS MADE BY MAYORS AND CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT COUNCILS.

In the table opposite will be found a summary of the answers to the Circular Letter addressed to the mayors of towns, and chairmen of district councils (*vide* First Report, page iii), in so far as they relate to the existence and nature of the distress in England and Wales in the early part of the year 1895. Out of a total population for England and Wales of 29,002,525 (1891 census), replies were received from districts representing 26,591,394 persons, or 91 per cent. of the whole. These various districts have been classified as follows:—

1. Metropolitan areas under vestries and district boards;

2. County boroughs (which are, by statute, administrative counties of themselves);

3. Non-county boroughs (*i.e.*, all municipal boroughs which are not county boroughs);

4. Urban-districts (not being municipal boroughs);

5. Rural districts;

and, with their populations, have been tabulated in accordance with the reports received, as under:—

(*A.*) No exceptional* distress.

(*B.*) Some distress due to weather, but not exceptional (*i.e.*, such that the ordinary means of relief were sufficient to meet it).

(*C.*) Exceptional distress ascribed to the severity of the weather (implying that extra pressure has been put upon existing relief works, or that others have been called into existence).

(*D.*) Distress chiefly owing to bad trade.

(*E.*) Distress of which bad trade and the severe weather are equal causes.

---

* Note that "exceptional" is an indefinite and not a scientific term, so that there was, in a few cases, some doubt as to the exact division to which certain of the answers properly belonged. But it was generally possible to come to a decision as to the character of the distress, after consideration of the replies made to the other questions contained in the Local Government Board's letter; and it is believed that the relations between the various columns will be found to be fairly accurate.

TABLE showing the Nature of the Distress reported as existing in *England* and *Wales* in February 1895; with the Number of Districts making Returns, and the Population and Percentages of Population of those Districts.

Nature of Distress Reported.	By Metropolitan Parishes and Districts.	By County Boroughs.	By Non-County Boroughs.	By Urban Districts.	By Rural Districts.	Total.
1. Number of Districts Reporting:						
No exceptional distress	8	4	40	289	326	667
Some distress due to weather, but not exceptional.	6	6	40	117	84	253
Exceptional distress due to weather	20	33	121	210	91	475
Distress chiefly owing to bad trade	—	5	7	31	14	57
Distress owing to bad trade and weather	2	14	24	54	28	122
Total Number of Districts	36	62	232	701	543	1,574
2. Populations of Districts Reporting:						
No exceptional distress	605,644	201,009	290,087	1,834,347	3,456,446	6,387,533
Some distress due to weather, but not exceptional.	347,336	914,322	591,528	950,064	1,100,817	3,904,067
Exceptional distress due to weather	2,404,125	4,022,814	1,995,700	2,019,021	1,350,867	11,792,527
Distress chiefly owing to bad trade	—	429,557	150,413	266,325	274,257	1,120,552
Distress owing to bad trade and weather	223,601	1,727,100	440,532	559,170	436,312	3,386,715
Total Population	3,580,706	7,294,802	3,468,260	5,628,927	6,618,699	26,591,394
3. Percentages of Populations Reporting:						
No exceptional distress	17 %	3 %	8 %	33 %	52 %	24 %
Some distress owing to weather, but not exceptional.	10 %	12 %	17 %	16 %	17 %	15 %
Exceptional distress due to weather	67 %	55 %	58 %	36 %	20 %	44 %
Distress chiefly owing to bad trade	—	6 %	4 %	5 %	4 %	4 %
Distress owing to bad trade and weather	6 %	24 %	13 %	10 %	7 %	13 %
Total Percentage	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

GENERAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

General Summary of Table.

The sum of the figures in the first two lines, headed "No exceptional distress" and "Some distress due to weather, but not exceptional," may be taken as representative of the population not suffering unusual distress. The figures in the third line represent those affected by bad weather. And the sum of the figures in the last two lines represent the population suffering from bad trade, or bad trade and bad weather combined. On this basis we find that, out of 1,574 replies received from districts representing 26,591,394 persons, there was at the time, in 920 localities with 10,291,600 persons, no exceptional distress; that in 475 localities, with a population of 11,792,527 persons, there was exceptional distress, due solely to the severity of the winter; and that in 179 localities, with a population of 4,507,267, there was, apart from want of employment due to weather, an exceptional lack of work in consequence of slackness of trade, depression of agriculture, or particular local or industrial causes.

Conclusions.

The significance of these figures can be most clearly traced in the table of percentages (Table III.), and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom appear to be :—

1. That there existed in the early part of 1895 considerable exceptional distress, reported as chiefly due to the unusually severe weather; since 44 per cent. of the total population making returns made this complaint.

2. That the distress due to the weather was far more apparent in the metropolis and county and non-county boroughs than in urban or rural districts, and that, generally speaking, towns suffered more severely than country districts.

*3. That there was but little distress owing to commercial depression.

Reason for absence of Distress in Country Districts.

With regard to the second point mentioned, it is one of the most curious features of these tables that the town districts seem to have suffered so much more acutely from the exceptional weather than the agricultural, although it would naturally be supposed that the work of the agricultural labourers would have been to a greater extent interfered with by the prolonged frost than that of the mechanic and artisan, who are for the most part dwellers in towns. Thus, if we compare the two upper lines (in Table III.) with the three lower, we find that there was no great distress reported by the metropolitan vestries and district boards in districts representing 27 per cent. of the population, and exceptional distress in districts containing 73 per cent. While in the rural districts, following the same principle, we find no distress in those representing 69 per cent. of the rural population, and exceptional distress only in those with 31 per cent.

In one case, at least, special attention is called to the difference between town and country. It is reported from
p. 241. the rural parishes of the Blandford district that "there have been no indications of unusual distress. In the town of Blandford, however, the distress has been exceptionally great."

The explanation of this may, perhaps, be found in some of the answers to the other questions in the letter sent out by the Local Government Board, from which the following excerpts are made :—

p. 320. "The great decrease in the population of rural parishes has largely reduced the number of labourers dependent on such occasional work as drainage, &c., and the inhabitants of the villages are now little more than sufficient for the regular work of farmers,—horsekeeping, shepherding, and attendance on cattle."

pp. 241. 296. 298. 367. pp. 184. 245. 432. Again: "Farmers do not discharge their hands in severe weather, as townsmen are compelled to do," and in many places "the agricultural population are paid upstanding wages, so that the weather would not affect those engaged on farms."

pp. 228. 338. 412. In other districts the possession of allotments was of great assistance, as from this cause there was "a good supply of corn, potatoes, and bacon in many homes," and "very few men having allotments of one acre came up for relief. In the few cases of men with allotments asking for relief, their distress has been due to their thriftlessness and drunken habits."

The Character of Distress to be met.

Here and there the replies give an insight into the character of the distress to be dealt with; *e.g.*, from Greenwich it is reported, that "there is a chronic class of men in our district, and no doubt throughout London, who suffer from want of employment and who are deserving of aid, and it is the great problem how to help such men. They seem to consist of—

(1) Men who, through some physical defect, are not of full efficiency, and who naturally fall behind in the competition with more effective men.

(2) Old Army and Navy men, who have families, and not having any trade they are effective at, cannot secure sufficient work to keep their families.

(3) Men who through sickness or other temporary cause have lost their employment, and find it difficult to win their way back to the ranks of the fully employed.

There is, however, a class as large, or perhaps larger, who are mere loafers, who will do no more work than is necessary to keep them going, and spend their ingenuity in dodges to secure a living without work. These are the men who are most likely to secure the pay when extra men are taken on by the local bodies, and who when employed trust to secure the pay for as little work as possible."

p. 261. But, notwithstanding, "there is a certain percentage of the population in almost every place which, poor at all times, experiences especial hardship during exceptionally severe weather."

Of

* A further analysis is given in the next table of the trades and localities reporting commercial depression.

Of the opinions expressed and the various remedies suggested for the relief of distress from want of employment, the following may be taken as samples :— SUGGESTED REMEDIES.

"Private benevolence may be relied upon at all times to meet distress through severe weather. With regard to the normal unemployed, the town councils should have powers conferred on them to deal with such cases as may appear to them to be purely local in character, to require only temporary assistance, and where it is not desirable that such temporary assistance should be rendered by the boards of guardians. The larger question of finding work for the unemployed is a national question to be dealt with by the Government." pp. 258. 456.

With regard to the creation of work for the unemployed it is further proposed that— THE CREATION OF WORK.

"Municipal authorities should be empowered to levy a small tax upon ground rents, to provide a fund applicable only to permanent public improvements; and that Government should grant loans free of interest in aid of relief works during periods of exceptional distress." pp. 266. 279.

While for the better distribution of existing work some suggest that, where circumstances will permit,— pp. 278. 323.

"Roads and footpaths should be made and improved during the winter months, instead of during that period of the year when employment is general, and a good deal of overtime is worked in order to cope with the demand."

And other suggestions for this purpose are :—

"The afforestation of waste lands, the embankment of rivers, and reclamation of marsh lands." pp. 305. 380.

"The formation of a labour home in each union centre, where all persons purporting to be seeking work should be sent, and where work of various kinds should be found suited to the applicants, without the stigma of the casual ward. All persons not availing themselves of this opportunity to be treated vigorously as rogues and vagabonds." p. 430.

"Local authorities should have power to establish labour works as a kind of test-house without pauperisation. Every district should have a properly organised voluntary agency for the relief of distress, which, whenever necessity arises, would prevent the overlapping of agencies, and thus the abuse of charity. Boards of guardians should have power to grant sums of money to approved voluntary agencies for the relief of distress." p. 308.

Closely connected with the creation of work is the request from many places of a "greater celerity on the part of the Local Government Board in the approval of local loans, especially in times of distress." pp. 69. 76. 77. 85. 259. 280. 284. 404. 457.

Further suggestions as to the means of raising money or granting relief are :— OTHER REMEDIES SUGGESTED.

A moderate duty on corn and foreign manufactured goods.	p. 296.
Payment from the poor rate of the increased cost of employing the unemployed.	p. 437.
A change of Government.	p. 309.
The sale of food at or even below cost price in times of exceptional distress.	p. 310.
Free grants of money by Local Government Board, or by loans at a very low rate of interest.	p. 313.
Extension of out-relief to able-bodied in times of exceptional distress.	pp. 116. 132. 192. 357.
Prevention of improvident marriages.	p. 361.
Government grants in aid of distressed persons in proportion to the distress.	pp. 65, 66. 70. 101. 123. 138. 151. 372.
The removal of the cause of unemployment, *i.e.*, excessive drinking.	pp. 61. 148. 150. 177.
Emigration.	pp. 77. 129. 213.
The formation of clubs against hard times and old age.	pp. 78. 79.
A more general application of the Allotments Act.	p. 85.
The removal, in times of exceptional distress, of the condition of disfranchisement consequent on receipt of relief from the guardians.	pp. 63. 101. 131. 135. 161. 190. 209. 210. 341. 360. 402. 407. 457. 462.
Old age pensions.	p. 129.
Government assistance in aid of those who wish to take up small holdings.	p. 196.

With regard to the difficulties attendant on giving relief, and to methods by which relief should be distributed or works instituted, the following are among the principal recommendations :— RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF, AND THE ATTENDANT DIFFICULTIES.

"In any time of exceptional distress there is always plenty of help forthcoming. The chief difficulty is in getting at the deserving cases. The experience of the past winter seems to point to the conclusion that the larger the scale on which any charitable scheme is undertaken the greater the proportion of waste. In a small town all cases of urgent need are pretty sure to be reached by private charity, and, from any point of view, the less display made about works of relief the better." p. 405.

"The district council had under consideration the finding of employment, but it was almost impossible to get men to do the work required, or to give them such work as they would be willing to undertake." p. 460.

"The admirable spirit of the men engaged in watch and ribbon factories at Coventry creates a difficulty, inasmuch as public efforts made at such a time as the present to reach the most deserving cases of distress are too apt to fail in their object, and to be intercepted by those who trade on charity." p. 257.

"May I urge that the Local Government Board should forbear to issue, at any rate to rural districts, circulars on the subject of exceptional distress such as those of 1886-92-93-95, which suggest impossible schemes and ineffectual remedies, and only serve to raise expectations in the minds of the unemployed and unemployable which cannot be realised?" pp. 290. 321.

"The frost is three feet in the ground, which makes work according to the circular impossible." pp. 280. 294.

p. 250. "Relief should be given from a central agency after careful investigation."

p. 139. 267. "There should be a permanent relief committee in every town; and district visitors appointed t administer relief."

p. 268. "Preference was given to married men or men who were supporting families. Each man applying fo work had to produce a note from his late employer stating that he had been working in that district (to avoi an influx from the country round). And further inquiries were made into each case, and the workman wa dismissed if his answers were found to be incorrect."

p. 276. "A house-to-house visitation to ascertain the extent of distress, and then an appeal for subscription was very successful."

p. 308. "The relief of distress should be left in the hands of men who are known, and who also know the peopl Each organisation should work within a certain radius. Upon each application the name and address of th applicant should be registered and extent of relief defined. Men engaged in this work should mee periodically and compare notes."

pp. 108. 119. 164. 358. 370. 400. 423. 439. 443. "Voluntary agencies form the best means of meeting exceptional distress."

The best remedy of all was to be found in the cessation of the frost, and in many of the returns which wer made after the thaw had commenced it is pleasant to read that—

pp. 417. 419. 422. 424. 433. 439. 443. 446. 456. 457. 458. 459. "Now that the frost is over there is no distress; in fact, it is difficult to get men to do all the work th there is."

TRADE DISTRESS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (FEBRUARY 1895).

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF TRADE DISTRESS.

A FURTHER analysis is here presented of those places which complained of distress owing to want of employme in particular industries.

In the first instance the localities are stated alphabetically, with their character, their population, and the tra distress from which they are suffering.

In the second place these same localities are re-stated by groups of trades.

For the purpose of the second arrangement, the different trades have been grouped into four main divisions; the first two of which severe weather is in the main the disturbing element, while, in the last two, depression of tra (specified or unspecified) is chiefly responsible for the prevailing want of employment.

Thus, in the first division have been included all those industries which are especially liable to disturbance continued frost, such as—

1. Building and other out-door trades (unspecified).
2. Brick and cement works.
3. Quarries.
4. Canal traffic.
5. Market gardens.

In the second, those which, although affected by frost, suffer also from trade depression, such as—

1. Shipbuilding.
2. Agriculture.
3. Fisheries.

In the third, those whose suffering was almost entirely due to depression of trade, such as—

1. Tin plate works.
2. Iron and steel works.
3. Pottery and glass works.
4. Chemical works.
5. Textile and clothing factories.
6. Collieries.
7. Sundry small industries.

And, finally, in the fourth division will be found complaints from various localities of distress brought on depression in trade (unspecified), or by some such accidental cause as the recent completion of large works, and consequent presence of a surplus body of labour which could find no immediate outlet.

LIST of Places with Trade Depression, in Alphabetical Order.

Reference to page of Second Report.	Name of Place.	Character. †	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
376	Abercorn (Monmouth)	Urban	10,464	Depression of trade.
386	Abersychan (Monmouth)	ditto	15,296	Stoppage of local ironworks.
*258	Aldeburgh (E. Suffolk)	Non-County	2,159	Distress among men in building trades, and poverty among fishermen.
81	Altrincham (Cheshire)	Urban	12,440	Distress among men in building trades.
64	Appleby	Non-County	1,776	Distress among out-door workers (unspecified).
64	Ashton-under-Lyne	ditto	—	Distress among men in building trades.
147	Aspull (Lancashire)	Urban	8,952	Bad trade.
182	Atherstone (Warwick)	Rural	14,076	Hat manufacture depressed.
268	Atherton (Lancashire)	Urban	15,833	Long depression in coal mining industry.
410	Auckland (Durham)	Rural	62,893	Stoppage of collieries.
141	Audley (Stafford)	Urban	12,631	Inundation of Diglate Colliery.
418	Aylesbury (Buckingham)	ditto	8,680	Distress among men in building trades.
400	Aylesbury (Buckingham)	Rural	16,906	Agricultural depression.
83	Bala (Merioneth)	Urban	1,622	Distress among men in building trades.
65	Barnsley	Non-County	35,427	ditto ditto.
394	Barrow-in-Furness	County	51,712	Depression of iron and steel trade.
*83	Barton-upon-Humber (Lincoln)	Urban	5,226	Distress among men in building and cement works.
258	Batley (York, W.R.)	Non-County	28,719	Out-door workers (unspecified).
317	Bedford	Rural	24,269	Completion of railway.
183	Belper	ditto	23,173	Out-door workers (unspecified).
269	Bilston (Stafford)	Urban	23,453	Bad trade.
269	Bingley (Yorkshire)	ditto	10,023	Spinning and wool combing.
59	Blackburn	County	120,064	Cotton trade depressed.
150	Bollington (Chester)	Urban	3,913	Stoppage of cotton factory.
84	Bowdon (Cheshire)	ditto	2,792	Distress among men in building trades.
458	Bradford (Wiltshire)	Rural	5,408	Employment in woollen cloth restricted.
151	Brierfield (Lancashire)	Urban	5,888	Depression in cotton trade.
151	Brierley Hill (Stafford)	ditto	11,847	Bad state of trade.
335	Bromley (Kent)	Rural	26,862	Extensive works completed.
446	Bromsgrove (Worcester)	Urban	5,072	Wrought nail trade failing.
219	Buckfastleigh (Devon)	ditto	2,646	Distress among men in building trades.
205	Burnley	County	87,016	ditto ditto.
66	Bury St. Edmunds	Non-County	16,630	ditto ditto.
153	Calverley (Yorkshire)	Urban	2,525	Falling demand for labour in manufacture of woollen cloth.
291	Cannock (Stafford)	Rural	15,387	Distress among men in building trades.
211	Carlisle (Cumberland)	Non-County	39,176	ditto ditto.
405	Carmarthen	ditto	10,264	Tin plate and tin works partially stopped.
113	Castle Donington (Derby)	Rural	6,393	Basket-making slack.
85	Castleford (Yorkshire)	Urban	14,143	Glass-bottle works closed, pits working short time.
366	Caxton and Arrington (Cambridge and Huntingdon).	Rural	8,506	Agricultural depression.
67	Chelmsford	Non-County	11,003	Distress among men in building trades.

Note * are mentioned in the table of classification by trades more than once.
† For explanation of terms used under this heading, *vide* p. 802.

LIST of Places with Trade Depression, in Alphabetical Order—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
67	Chichester	Non-County	7,838	Completion of drainage works and men discharged.
243	Christchurch (Southampton)	Rural	12,442	Out-door workers (unspecified).
*154	Clayton-le-Moors (Lancaster)	Urban	7,155	Distress among men in building trades, and earnings in cotton mills reduced owing to bad trade.
362	Cleator Moor	ditto	9,464	Depression in steel and iron.
436	Clerkenwell Parish	Metropolitan	66,216	Distress among men in building trades.
291	Clitheroe (Lancaster)	Rural	7,101	Out-door workers (unspecified).
*260	Clitheroe (Lancaster)	Non-County	10,815	Distress among men in building trades, and in cotton mills and quarries.
362	Coalville (Leicester)	Urban	11,223	- - ditto - - ditto.
87	Cockington (Devon)	ditto	1,718	- - ditto - - ditto.
87	Coleford (Gloucester)	ditto	2,450	Want of trade at collieries.
87	Colne (Lancashire)	ditto	16,774	Out-door workers (unspecified).
366	Congleton	Rural	12,495	Iron works closed.
155	Coseley (Stafford)	Urban	21,899	Great depression of trade.
257	Coventry	County	52,724	Watches, and ribbon weaving failing.
420	Cowpen (Northumberland)	Urban	12,982	Distress among men in building trades.
114	Cranbrook (Kent)	Rural	13,730	Agricultural depression.
88	Crediton (Devon)	Urban	4,207	Distress among men in building trades.
186	Crick (Northampton)	Rural	2,427	Agricultural depression.
88	Cuckfield (Sussex)	Urban	1,737	Distress among men in building trades.
406	Darlington (Durham)	Non-County	38,060	Closing of steel works.
420	Denby and Cumberworth (York)	Urban	3,174	Textile industry; running short time.
60	Derby	County	94,146	Distress among men in building trades.
261	Doncaster (York)	Non-County	25,933	Building, and canal boatmen.
187	Dorchester (Dorset)	Rural	10,416	Distress among men in building trades.
355	Drayton (Salop)	ditto	11,969	Agricultural depression.
135	Droitwich (Worcester)	Non-County	4,021	Depression in trade.
394	Dudley	County	45,740	Many iron works closed.
430	Eaton Bray (Bedford)	Rural	17,017	Agricultural depression, and failure of plaiting industry.
70	Eccles	Non-County	29,633	Out-door workers (unspecified).
158	Eccleshill (York, W.R.)	Urban	7,928	- ditto - - ditto.
244	Egham (Surrey)	Rural	10,187	Distress among men in building trades.
430	Ellesmere (Salop)	ditto	8,119	- - ditto - - ditto.
465	Emley (York)	Urban	1,406	Want of trade at collieries.
70	Evesham	Non-County	5,836	Out-door workers (unspecified).
70	Falmouth	- ditto	12,791	- ditto - - ditto.
294	Farnham (Surrey and Southampton)	Rural	13,411	Distress among men in building trades.
159	Fleetwood (Lancaster)	Urban	9,274	- - ditto - - ditto.
91	Felling (Durham)	ditto	17,490	Chemical works closed.
362	Fenton (Stafford)	ditto	16,998	Bad state of potting trade, and improvidence.
438	Flint (Flint)	Non-County	5,247	Alkali works closed for three months.
159	Flockton (York)	Urban	1,213	Closing of two principal collieries.
223	Frome (Somerset)	ditto	9,613	Distress among men in building trades.

LIST of Places with Trade Depression, in Alphabetical Order—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
397	Frome (Somerset)	Rural	13,233	Depression in coal trade.
91	Gainsborough (Lincolnshire)	Urban	14,372	Distress among men in building trades.
394	Gateshead	County	85,692	United Alkali Company closed for some weeks.
245	Glendale (Northumberland)	Rural	10,156	Distress among men in building trades.
160	Gorton (Lancaster)	Urban	15,215	Short work in large iron works.
*347	Grays Thurrock (Essex)	ditto	12,219	Distress in building trades, and serious depression in cement trade.
92	Great Harwood	ditto	9,073	Out-door workers (unspecified).
386	Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth (York)	ditto	389	Iron and steel trade depressed.
161	Hadleigh (Suffolk)	ditto	3,224	Agricultural depression.
197	Halesowen (Worcester)	Rural	34,151	Large iron works at Corngreaves stopped.
382	Ham (Surrey)	Urban	—	Stoppage of work in market gardens.
128	Hanley	County	54,946	Distress among men in building trades.
138	Harwich (Essex)	Non-County	8,202	Mechanics, shipbuilders, and quay porters.
463	Hawarden (Flint)	Rural	15,802	Large colliery about to stop.
407	Hayward's Heath (East Sussex)	Urban	2,452	Distress among men in building trades.
349	Hebburn (Durham)	ditto	16,645	Chemical and copper works closed.
93	Hebden Bridge (Yorks)	ditto	6,365	Distress among men in building trades.
72	Hedon	Non-County	979	- ditto - ditto.
189	Hemsworth (York, W. R.)	Rural	14,631	- ditto - ditto.
93	Hexham (Northumberland)	Urban	5,932	Distress among out-door workers (unspecified).
*447	Hipperholme (York)	ditto	3,309	Distress among out-door workers and quarrymen.
275	Holywell	ditto	3,018	Stoppage of lead mines and collieries.
94	Hoylake and West Kirby (Cheshire)	ditto	6,545	Distress among men in building trades.
363	Hoyland Swaine (York)	ditto	648	Bad trade and short time at Penistone Steel Works.
275	Horfield (Gloucester)	ditto	8,202	Distress among men in building trades.
374	Hoxne (Norfolk)	Rural	11,461	Agricultural depression.
459	Hungerford (Berks, Wilts, Southampton).	ditto	16,834	- ditto - ditto.
163	Idle (York)	Urban	7,118	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
345	Ilkeston (Derby)	Non-County	19,744	Distress among men in building trades.
404	Ince-in-Makerfield (Lancaster)	Urban	19,255	Iron trade bad.
437	Ipswich	County	57,360	Slack trade.
73	Kendal	Non-County	14,430	Out-door workers (unspecified).
247	Kettering (Northampton)	Rural	9,802	Distress among men in building trades.
328	Kidderminster (Worcester)	Non-County	24,803	Market gardens, and canal traffic, and depression in carpet trade.
163	Kidsgrove (Stafford)	Urban	3,841	Distress amongst canal boatmen.
262	Kidwelly (Carmarthen)	Non-County	2,732	Tin works closed.
357	King's Norton (Worcester)	Rural	28,300	Out-door workers (unspecified).
374	Kingswinford (Stafford)	ditto	20,708	Iron and glass trades depressed.
95	Kirkby Lonsdale (Westmoreland)	Urban	1,802	Distress among men in building trades.
403	Kiveton Park	Rural	6,761	Colliery (seam) closed.
164	Knaresborough (York, W. R.)	Urban	4,649	Distress among men in building trades.
*95	Leek (Stafford)	ditto	14,128	Distress among men in building trades and those engaged in silk manufactories.
363	Leyland (Lancaster)	ditto	5,972	Building and out-door workers.
423	Leyton (Essex)	ditto	63,056	Out-door workers (unspecified).

List of Places with Trade Depression, in Alphabetical Order—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	Name of Place.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
192	Linton (Cambridge)	Rural	12,120	Agricultural depression.
398	Linthwaite (York)	Urban	6,666	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
164	Littleborough (Lancaster)	ditto	10,878	Distress among men in building trades.
164	Little Halton (Lancs.)	ditto	6,693	Cotton manufacture and coal mining.
73	Longton	Non-County	34,327	Several collieries closed and potters on half-time.
277	Lower Brixham (Devon)	Urban	7,978	Distress owing to prohibition of trawling.
444	Lunesdale (Lancaster)	Rural	7,347	Out-door workers (unspecified).
378	Luton (Bedford)	ditto	8,529	ditto ditto.
140	Luton (Bedford)	Non-County	30,006	Dulness in straw goods last autumn.
74	Macclesfield	ditto	36,009	Silk manufacture handicapped by imported silk.
263	Maldon (Essex)	ditto	5,397	Agricultural depression.
320	Market Bosworth (Leicester)	Rural	15,640	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
97	Market Harborough (Leicester)	Urban	5,876	Distress among men in building trades.
454	Market Harborough (Leicester)	Rural	6,822	ditto ditto.
192	Marston Sicca (Gloucester)	ditto	1,635	ditto ditto.
278	Maryport	Urban	12,380	Slackness in steel rail mills, iron works, collieries, and shipbuilding yards.
464	Melford (West Suffolk)	Rural	8,981	Agricultural depression.
332	Morecambe (Lancs.)	Urban	6,476	Scarcity of fish.
165	Morgan (Glamorgan)	ditto	6,274	Stoppage of one tin-plate works.
462	Morley (York)	Non-County	21,068	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
346	Mossley	ditto	14,162	Out-door workers (unspecified).
*167	Nanty (Gloucester) and Blaina (Monmouth).	Urban	12,410	Out-door workers (unspecified), and entire stoppage of tin works.
263	Neath (Glamorgan)	Non-County	11,113	Distress among men in building trades.
279	Newquay (Cornwall)	Urban	1,891	ditto ditto.
*194	Newton Abbot (Devon)	Rural	24,372	Distress among men in building trades, and among those in pottery works.
458	New Windsor	Non-County	12,327	Heavy floods in November last.
424	Northowram (York)	Urban	3,014	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
298	Northwich (Chester)	Rural	21,218	Depression in salt trade.
257	Nottingham	County	213,877	Depression in trade; influx of men seeking work on new railway.
100	Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton (Warwick).	Urban	15,297	Distress among men in building trades.
101	Ottery St. Mary (Devon)	ditto	3,855	ditto ditto.
169	Panteg (Monmouth)	ditto	6,479	Tin and iron works.
425	Paul (Cornwall)	ditto	5,977	Fishermen stopped by boisterous weather.
333	Pemberton (Lancs.)	ditto	18,400	Mining industry depressed.
333	Penrith (Cumberland)	ditto	8,981	Agricultural depression.
75	Penzance (Cornwall)	Non-County	12,432	Building and out-door workers.
456	Plymouth	County	84,248	Distress among men in building trades.
459	Pontardawe (Glamorgan)	Rural	17,374	Stoppage of two tin plate works.
372	Pontypool	Urban	5,842	Stoppage of large collieries, iron works, and tin-plate works.
433	Pwllheli (Carnarvon)	Rural	17,555	Distress among men in building trades.
230	Radstock (Somerset)	Urban	3,438	ditto ditto.
364	Ramsbottom (Lancs.)	ditto	16,726	Cotton mills standing still; quarries.
76	Rawtenstall	Non-County	29,507	Building and out-door workers.
195	Redruth (Cornwall)	Urban	19,546	Closing of tin mines.

List of Places with Trade Depression, in Alphabetical Order—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	Name of Place.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
352	Redruth (Cornwall)	Urban	10,324	Foreign imports of tin and fall of price.
315	Rishton (Lancaster)	ditto	6,010	Out-door workers (unspecified).
62	Rochdale	County	71,401	ditto ditto.
103	Romford (Essex)	Urban	8,733	Distress among men in building trades.
416	Rotherham (York)	Non-County	42,061	Short time in iron works.
103	Rowley Regis (Stafford)	Urban	30,791	Bad trade; works closed.
172	Runcorn (Chester)	ditto	20,050	Chemical works closed.
393	Runcorn (Chester)	Rural	22,467	Chemical works closed in two districts.
172	Rushden (Northampton)	Urban	7,443	Building and out door workers.
315	Ryton (Durham)	ditto	5,553	Distress among men in building trades.
143	Saffron Walden (Essex)	Non-County	6,104	Stagnation in building and allied trades, notably cement-making.
408	Sandgate (Kent)	Urban	1,756	Distress among men in building trades.
310	Shaftesbury (Dorset)	Non-County	2,122	ditto ditto.
104	Shanklin (Isle of Wight)	Urban	3,352	ditto ditto.
173	Sheerness (Kent)	ditto	14,492	ditto ditto.
383	Shipley (York)	ditto	23,387	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
173	Silsden (York, W. R.)	ditto	3,866	Distress among men in building trades.
409	Sittingbourne (Kent)	ditto	8,302	Brickwork stopped by frost.
283	Skipton (York, W. R.)	ditto	10,376	Out-door workers (unspecified).
131	South Shields	County	78,391	Stoppage of work in shipbuilding and shipping on the Tyne.
77	South Molton	Non-County	3,126	Distress among men in building trades.
401	Spenny Moor (Durham)	Urban	6,041	Dull trade (coal miners).
76	St. Albans	Non-County	12,898	Distress among men in building trades.
172	St. Anne's-on-Sea (Lancaster)	Urban	2,588	ditto ditto.
130	St. Helen's	County	71,288	Liquidation of London and Manchester Plate Glass Works, and stoppage of alkali works; collieries short time.
264	St. Ives (Cornwall)	Non-County	6,094	Failure of fisheries.
455	Stafford (Stafford)	Rural	10,320	Distress amongst canal boatmen.
300	Staines (Surrey)	ditto	17,733	Heavy floods in November last.
441	Stanley (Durham)	Urban	7,614	Coal trade depressed.
175	Stapleton (Gloucester)	ditto	14,589	Depression of general trade in Bristol.
216	Stockton-on-Tees	Non-County	49,708	Iron and steel, depressed owing to frost affecting shipbuilding.
300	Stoke-upon-Trent (Stafford)	Rural	5,122	Coal miners, depressed state of trade.
409	Stone (Suffolk)	Urban	5,754	Out-door workers (unspecified).
175	Stowmarket (Suffolk)	ditto	4,339	Slack trade of Explosive Company and Nitric Acid Works.
284	Street (Somerset)	ditto	3,535	Distress among men in building trades.
77	Sutton Coldfield	Non-County	8,685	ditto ditto.
62	Sunderland	County	131,015	Shipbuilding and shipping generally.
339	Swaffham (Norfolk)	Rural	8,757	Agricultural depression.
62	Swansea	County	90,349	Steel and tin plate works at a standstill.
176	Thornhill (Yorks.)	Urban	9,606	Glass-bottle works stopped, and trade depression.
284	Thurlstone (York, W. R.)	ditto	2,735	Distress among men in building trade.
442	Thurmaston	ditto	1,681	Slackness in hosiery trade.
301	Truro (Cornwall)	Rural	22,608	Mines no longer working.
379	Tynemouth (Northumberland)	ditto	23,678	Scarcity of work at Shine Moor Colliery.

List of Places with Trade Depression, in Alphabetical Order—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	Name of Place.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
198	Ulverston (Lancaster)	Rural	18,773	Distress among men in building trade.
198	Uxbridge (Middlesex)	ditto	14,439	ditto ditto.
334	Walker (Northumberland)	Urban	11,341	Strike of moulders and pattern-makers, affecting shipbuilding and engineering.
78	Wallingford	Non-County	2,989	Out-door workers affected.
63	Walsall	County	71,789	Staple trade of saddlery depressed.
178	Walton-on-Thames (Surrey)	Urban	7,988	Market gardens and building trades.
179	Ware (Hertford)	ditto	5,256	Distress among men in building trade.
110	Warminster (Wilts)	ditto	5,563	Silk factories closed.
435	Wells (Somerset)	Rural	11,380	Distress among men in building trades.
180	Wellingborough (Northampton)	Urban	15,068	ditto ditto.
199	West Ashford (Kent)	Rural	8,204	Agricultural depression.
145	West Hartlepool (Durham)	Non-County	42,710	Shipbuilding, building and timber affected by frost.
119	West Penrith (Cornwall)	Rural	18,200	Tin mining depressed.
302	Whiston (Lancs.)	ditto	19,110	Depression in chemical and copper.
372	Whitby (York, N. R.)	Urban	13,075	Distress among men in building trade.
302	Whitchurch (Southampton)	Rural	5,655	Want of employment.
410	Whitstable (Kent)	Urban	—	Want of trade owing to oyster scare.
311	Widnes (Lancs.)	Non-County	30,011	Alkali trade. Chemical works partially stopped.
437	Wigan	County	55,013	General slackness of trade.
111	Willesden (Middlesex)	Urban	61,265	Distress among men in building trade.
330	Wilton (Wilts County)	Non-County	2,120	ditto ditto.
199	Wimborne, Cranborne } Dorset	Rural	13,950	Agricultural depression.
303	Woodbridge (Suffolk)	ditto	15,563	ditto ditto.
344	Worcester	County	42,908	Porcelain and glove works depressed.
266	Workington (Cumberland)	Non-County	23,490	Depression in iron and steel trade.
145	Wrexham (Denbigh)	ditto	12,552	Completion of railway.
330	Yeovil (Somerset)	ditto	9,648	Glove-making industry depressed.
358	Yeovil (Somerset)	Rural	18,783	Glove-making, stone-quarrying, and dressing trades affected.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades.

Reference to page of Second Report.	Name of Place.	Character. *	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION I.			
	Building and Out-door Work.			
60	Derby	County	94,146	Distress amongst men employed in the building trades.
64	Ashton-under-Lyne	Non-County	—	ditto
65	Barnsley	ditto	35,427	ditto
66	Bury St. Edmunds	ditto	16,630	ditto
67	Chelmsford	ditto	11,008	ditto
71	Folkestone	ditto	23,905	ditto
72	Hedon	ditto	979	ditto
75	Parish of Penzance	ditto	12,432	ditto
76	Parish of St. Albans	ditto	12,898	ditto
–	South Molton	ditto	3,126	ditto
77	Sutton Coldfield	ditto	8,685	ditto
81	Altringham (Cheshire)	Urban	12,440	ditto
83	Bala (Merioneth)	ditto	1,622	ditto
83	Barton-upon-Humber (Lincoln)	ditto	5,226	ditto
84	Bowdon (Cheshire)	ditto	2,792	ditto
87	Cockington (Devon)	ditto	1,718	ditto
88	Crediton (Devon)	ditto	4,207	ditto
88	Cuckfield (Sussex)	ditto	1,737	ditto
91	Gainsborough (Lincoln)	ditto	14,372	ditto
93	Hebden Bridge (Yorkshire)	ditto	6,365	ditto
94	Hoylake and West Kirby (Cheshire)	ditto	6,545	ditto
95	Kirkby Lonsdale (Westmoreland)	ditto	1,802	ditto
95	Leek (Stafford)	ditto	14,128	ditto
97	Market Harborough (Leicester)	ditto	5,876	ditto
100	Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton (Warwick).	ditto	15,297	ditto
101	Ottery-St.-Mary (Devon)	ditto	3,855	ditto
103	Romford (Essex)	ditto	8,733	ditto
104	Shanklin (Isle of Wight)	ditto	3,352	ditto
111	Willesden (Middlesex)	ditto	61,265	ditto
128	Hanley	County	54,946	ditto
154	Clayton-le-Moors (Lancaster)	Urban	7,155	ditto
159	Fleetwood (Lancaster)	ditto	9,274	ditto
164	Knaresborough (York, W. R.)	ditto	4,649	ditto
172	St. Anne's-on-the-Sea (Lancaster)	ditto	2,588	ditto
173	Sheerness (Kent)	ditto	14,492	ditto
173	Silsden (York, W. R.)	ditto	3,866	ditto
179	Ware (Hertford)	ditto	5,256	ditto
180	Wellingborough (Northampton)	ditto	15,068	ditto
187	Dorchester (Dorset)	Rural	10,416	ditto
189	Hemsworth (York, W. R.)	ditto	14,631	ditto

* For explanation of terms used under this heading, *see* p. 802.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION I.—*continued.*			
	BUILDING AND OUT-DOOR WORK—*continued.*			
192	Marston Sieca (Gloucester)	Rural	1,635	Distress amongst men employed in the building trades.
194	Newton Abbot (Devon)	ditto	24,372	ditto.
198	Ulverston (Lancaster)	ditto	18,773	ditto.
205	Burnley	County	87,016	ditto.
211	Carlisle (Cumberland)	Non-County	39,176	ditto.
219	Buckfastleigh (Devon)	Urban	2,646	ditto.
223	Frome (Somerset)	ditto	9,613	ditto.
230	Radstock (Somerset)	ditto	3,438	ditto.
244	Egham (Surrey)	Rural	10,187	ditto.
245	Glendale (Northumberland)	ditto	10,156	ditto.
247	Kettering (Northampton)	ditto	9,802	ditto.
258	Aldeburgh (East Suffolk)	Non-County	2,159	ditto.
260	Clitheroe (Lancaster)	ditto	10,815	ditto.
263	Neath (Glamorgan)	ditto	11,113	ditto.
275	Horfield (Gloucester)	Urban	8,202	ditto.
279	Newquay (Cornwall)	ditto	1,891	ditto.
284	Street (Somerset)	ditto	3,535	ditto.
84	Thurlstone (York, W. R.)	ditto	2,735	ditto.
291	Cannock (Stafford)	Rural	15,887	ditto.
294	Farnham (Surrey and Southampton)	ditto	13,411	ditto.
310	Shaftesbury (Dorset)	Non-County	2,122	ditto.
315	Ryton (Durham)	Urban	5,553	ditto.
330	Wilton (Wilts County)	Non-County	2,120	ditto.
345	Ilkeston (Derby)	ditto	19,744	ditto.
347	Grays Thurrock (Essex)	Urban	12,219	ditto.
362	Coalville (Leicester)	ditto	11,223	ditto.
372	Whitby (York, N. R.)	ditto	13,075	ditto.
407	Haywards Heath (E. Sussex)	ditto	2,452	ditto.
408	Sandgate (Kent)	ditto	1,756	ditto.
418	Aylesbury (Buckingham)	ditto	8,680	ditto.
420	Cowpen (Northumberland)	ditto	12,982	ditto.
430	Ellesmere (Salop)	Rural	8,119	ditto
433	Pwllheli (Carnarvon)	ditto	17,555	ditto.
435	Wells (Somerset)	ditto	11,380	ditto.
436	Clerkenwell Parish	Metropolitan	66,216	ditto.
454	Market Harborough (Leicester)	Rural	6,822	ditto.
456	Plymouth	County	84,248	ditto.
62	Rochdale	ditto	71,401	Distress amongst out-door workers (unspecified).
64	Appleby	Non-County	1,776	ditto.
70	Eccles	ditto	29,633	ditto.
70	Evesham	ditto	5,836	ditto.
70	Falmouth	ditto	12,791	ditto.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION I.—*continued.*			
	BUILDING AND OUT-DOOR WORK—*continued.*			
73	Kendal	Non-County	14,430	Distress amongst out-door workers (unspecified).
78	Wallingford	ditto	2,989	ditto ditto.
87	Colne (Lancashire)	Urban	16,774	ditto ditto.
92	Great Harwood	ditto	9,073	ditto ditto.
93	Hexham (Northumberland)	ditto	5,932	ditto ditto.
158	Eccleshill (Yorkshire, W. R.)	ditto	7,928	ditto ditto.
164	Littleborough (Lancaster)	ditto	10,878	ditto ditto.
167	Nantyglo and Blaina (Monmouth)	ditto	12,410	ditto ditto.
183	Belper	Rural	23,173	ditto ditto.
198	Uxbridge (Middlesex)	ditto	14,439	ditto ditto.
243	Christchurch (Southampton)	ditto	12,442	ditto ditto.
258	Batley (York, W. R.)	Non-County	28,719	ditto ditto.
283	Skipton (York, W. R.)	Urban	10,376	ditto ditto.
291	Clitheroe (Lancaster)	Rural	7,101	ditto ditto.
315	Righton (Lancaster)	Urban	6,010	ditto ditto.
346	Mossley	Non-County	14,162	ditto ditto.
357	King's Norton (Worcester)	Rural	28,300	ditto ditto.
378	Luton (Bedford)	ditto	8,529	ditto ditto.
409	Sittingbourne (Kent)	Urban	8,302	ditto ditto.
409	Stone (Suffolk)	ditto	5,754	ditto ditto.
423	Leyton (Essex)	ditto	63,056	ditto ditto.
444	Lunesdale (Lancaster)	Rural	7,347	ditto ditto.
447	Hipperholme (York, W. R.)	Urban	3,309	ditto ditto.
75	Penzance	Non-County	12,432	Slackness in building and out-door works.
76	Rawtenstall	ditto	29,507	ditto ditto.
172	Rushden (Northampton)	Urban	7,443	ditto ditto.
363	Leyland (Lancaster)	ditto	5,972	ditto ditto.
398	Linthwaite (York, W. R.)	ditto	6,666	ditto ditto.
	BRICK AND CEMENT WORKS.			
409	Sittingbourne (Kent)	Urban	8,302	Brickwork stopped by frost.
83	Barton-upon-Humber (Lincoln)	ditto	5,226	Distress amongst cement works men.
347	Grays Thurrock (Essex)	ditto	12,219	Serious depression in cement trade.
143	Saffron Walden (Essex)	Non-County	6,104	Stagnation in building and allied trades, notably cement making.
	STONE QUARRIES.			
163	Idle (York)	Urban	7,118	Stone quarries stopped by frost.
320	Market Bosworth (Leicester)	Rural	15,640	ditto ditto.
383	Shipley (York)	Urban	23,387	ditto ditto.
398	Linthwaite (York)	ditto	6,666	ditto ditto.
424	Northowram (York)	ditto	3,014	ditto ditto.
447	Hipperholme (York)	ditto	3,309	ditto ditto.
462	Morley (York)	Non-County	21,068	ditto ditto.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION I.—*continued.*			
	CANAL TRAFFIC.			
261	Doncaster (York)	Non-County	25,933	Distress amongst builders and canal boatmen.
455	Stafford (Stafford)	Rural	10,320	Distress amongst canal boatmen.
163	Kidsgrove (Stafford)	Urban	3,841	- - ditto - ditto.
	MARKET GARDENS.			
328	Kidderminster (Worcester)	Non-County	24,803	Stoppage of work in market gardens and canal traffic, and depression in carpet trade.
382	Ham (Surrey)	Urban	—	Stoppage of work in market gardens.
178	Walton-on-Thames (Surrey)	ditto	7,988	Stoppage of work in market gardens and building trades.
	DIVISION II.			
	SHIPBUILDING, &c.			
62	Sunderland	County	131,015	Stoppage of work in shipbuilding and shipping generally.
138	Harwich (Essex)	Non-County	8,202	Distress amongst mechanics, shipbuilders, and quay porters.
131	South Shields	County	78,391	Stoppage of work in shipbuilding and shipping on the Tyne.
334	Walker (Northumberland)	Urban	11,341	Strike of moulders and pattern makers affecting shipbuilding and engineering.
145	West Hartlepool (Durham)	Non-County	42,710	Shipbuilding, building, and timber affected by frost.
	AGRICULTURAL.			
114	Cranbrook (Kent)	Rural	13,730	Agricultural depression.
161	Hadleigh (Suffolk)	Urban	3,224	- ditto - ditto.
186	Crick (Northampton)	Rural	2,427	- ditto - ditto.
199	West Ashford (Kent)	ditto	8,204	- ditto - ditto.
199	Wimborne Cranborne (Dorset)	ditto	13,950	- ditto - ditto.
192	Linton (Cambridge)	ditto	12,120	- ditto - ditto.
263	Malden (Essex)	Non-County	5,397	- ditto - ditto.
303	Woodbridge (Suffolk)	Rural	15,563	- ditto - ditto.
333	Penrith (Cumberland)	Urban	8,981	- ditto - ditto.
339	Swaffham (Norfolk)	Rural	8,757	- ditto - ditto.
355	Drayton (Salop)	ditto	11,969	- ditto - ditto.
366	Caxton and Arrington (Cambridge and Huntingdon.)	ditto	8,506	- ditto - ditto.
374	Hoxne (Norfolk)	ditto	11,461	Agricultural.
400	Aylesbury (Bucks)	ditto	16,906	- ditto.
430	Eaton Bray (Bedford)	ditto	17,017	Agricultural, and failure of plaiting industry.
459	Hungerford (Berks, &c.)	ditto	16,834	Agricultural.
464	Melford (West Suffolk)	ditto	8,981	- ditto.
	FISHERMEN.			
258	Aldeburgh (Suffolk)	Non-County	2,159	Poverty among fishermen.
264	St. Ives (Cornwall)	- ditto -	6,024	Failure of fisheries.
277	Lower Brixham (Devon)	Urban	7,978	Distress owing to prohibition of trawling.
332	Morecambe (Lancashire)	ditto	6,476	Scarcity of fish.
410	Whitstable (Kent)	ditto	—	Oyster scare.
425	Paul (Cornwall)	ditto	5,977	Fishermen stopped by boisterous weather.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION III.			
	TIN-PLATE WORKS, &c.			
62	Swansea	County	90,349	Steel and tin-plate works at a standstill.
165	Morgam (Glamorgan)	Urban	6,274	Stoppage of one tin-plate works.
167	Nantyglo and Blaina (Monmouth)	ditto	12,410	Entire stoppage of tin works.
169	Panteg (Monmouth)	ditto	6,479	Tin and iron works affected.
262	Kidwelly (Carmarthen)	Non-County	2,732	Tin works closed.
372	Pontypool	Urban	5,842	Stoppage of large collieries, ironworks, and tin plate works.
405	Carmarthen	Non-County	10,264	Tin-plate and tin works partially stopped.
459	Pontardawe (Glamorgan)	Rural	17,374	Stoppage of two tin-plate works.
119	West Penwith (Cornwall)	ditto	18,200	Depression in tin mining.
195	Redruth (Cornwall)	Urban	19,546	Closing of tin mines.
301	Truro (Cornwall)	Rural	22,608	Mines no longer working (tin).
352	Redruth (Cornwall)	Urban	10,324	Foreign imports of tin and fall of price.
	IRON AND STEEL WORKS.			
160	Gorton (Lancaster)	Urban	15,215	Short work in large ironworks.
197	Halesowen (Worcester)	Rural	34,151	Large iron works at Corngreaves stopped.
266	Workington (Cumberland)	Non-County	23,490	Depression in iron and steel trade.
278	Maryport	Urban	12,380	Slackness in steel rail mills, iron works, collieries, and shipbuilding yards.
362	Cleator Moor	ditto	9,464	Depression in steel and iron.
363	Hayland Swaine (York)	ditto	648	Bad trade and short time at Penistone Steel Works.
366	Congleton	Rural	12,495	Iron works closed.
386	Abersychan (Monmouth)	Urban	15,296	Stoppage of local ironworks.
386	Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth (York)	ditto	389	Iron and steel trade depressed.
394	Dudley	County	45,740	Many iron works closed.
394	Barrow-in-Furness	ditto	51,712	Depression of iron and steel trade.
404	Ince-in-Makerfield (Lancaster)	Urban	19,255	Iron trade bad.
406	Darlington (Durham)	Non-County	38,060	Closing of steel works.
416	Rotherham (York)	ditto	42,061	Short time in ironworks.
216	Stockton-on-Tees	ditto	49,708	Iron and steel depressed owing to frost affecting shipbuilding.
	POTTERY AND GLASS WORKS.			
85	Castleford (Yorkshire)	Urban	14,143	Glass bottle works closed; pits working short time.
130	St. Helens	County	71,288	Liquidation of London and Manchester Plate Glass Works and stoppage of alkali works; collieries short time.
176	Thornhill (Yorkshire)	Urban	9,606	Glass bottle works stopped and trade depression.
194	Newton Abbot (Devon)	Rural	24,372	Pottery trade depressed.
362	Fenton (Stafford)	Urban	16,998	Bad state of pottery trade and improvidence.
374	Kingswinford (Stafford)	Rural	20,708	Iron and glass trades depressed.
	CHEMICAL WORKS.			
91	Felling (Durham)	Urban	17,490	Chemical works closed.
172	Runcorn (Chester)	ditto	20,050	ditto.
175	Stowmarket (Suffolk)	ditto	4,339	Slack trade of Explosive Company and nitric acid works.
298	Northwich (Chester)	Rural	21,218	Depression in salt trade.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891).	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION III.—*continued.*			
	CHEMICAL WORKS—*continued.*			
302	Whiston (Lancashire)	Rural	19,110	Depression in chemicals and copper.
311	Widnes (Lancashire)	Non-County	30,011	Depression in alkali trade; chemical works partially stopped.
349	Hebburn (Durham)	Urban	16,645	Chemical and copper works closed.
393	Runcorn (Chester)	Rural	22,467	Chemical works closed in two districts.
394	Gateshead	County	85,692	United Alkali Company closed for some weeks.
448	Flint (Flint)	Non-County	5,247	Alkali works closed for three months
	TEXTILE AND CLOTHING FACTORIES.			
59	Blackburn	County	120,064	Cotton trade depressed.
74	Macclesfield	Non-County	36,009	Silk manufacture handicapped by imported silk.
95	Leek (Stafford)	Urban	14,128	Want of employment in silk manufacture.
110	Warminster (Wiltshire)	ditto	5,563	Silk factories closed.
150	Bollington (Chester)	ditto	3,913	Stoppage of cotton factory.
151	Brierfield (Lancashire)	ditto	5,888	Depression in cotton trade.
153	Calverley (Yorkshire)	ditto	2,525	Falling demand for labour in manufacture of woollen cloth.
154	Clayton-le-Moors (Lancashire)	ditto	7,155	Earning power of persons in cotton mills reduced owing to bad trade.
164	Little Halton (Lancashire)	ditto	6,693	Cotton manufacture and coal mining in a bad state.
257	Coventry	County	52,724	Watch making and ribbon weaving failing.
261	Clitheroe (Lancashire)	Non-County	10,815	Cotton trade depressed; quarrying stopped by frost.
269	Bingley (Yorkshire)	Urban	10,023	Spinning and wool-combing depressed.
364	Ramsbottom (Lancashire)	ditto	16,726	Cotton mills standing still; quarries stopped.
420	Denby and Cumberworth (York)	ditto	3,174	Textile industry running short time.
442	Thurmaston	ditto	1,681	Slackness in hosiery trade.
458	Bradford (Wiltshire)	Rural	5,408	Employment in woollen cloth restricted.
	COLLIERIES.			
73	Longton	Non-County	34,327	Several collieries closed, and potters on half time.
87	Coleford (Gloucester)	Urban	2,450	Want of trade at collieries.
141	Audley (Stafford)	ditto	12,631	Inundation of Diglate Colliery.
159	Flockton (York)	ditto	1,213	Closing of two principal collieries.
268	Atherton (Lancashire)	ditto	15,833	Long depression in coal-mining industry.
275	Holywell	ditto	3,018	Stoppage of lead mines and collieries.
300	Stoke-upon-Trent (Stafford)	Rural	5,122	Coal mines—depressed state of trade.
333	Pemberton (Lancashire)	Urban	18,400	Mining industry depressed.
379	Tynemouth (Northumberland)	Rural	23,678	Scarcity of work at Shire Moor Colliery.
397	Frome (Somerset)	ditto	13,233	Depression in coal trade.
401	Spennymoor (Durham)	Urban	6,041	Dull trade (coal miners).
403	Kiveton Park	Rural	6,761	Colliery (seam) closed.
410	Auckland (Durham)	ditto	62,893	Stoppage of collieries.
441	Stanley (Durham)	Urban	7,614	Coal trade bad.
465	Emley (York)	ditto	1,406	Want of trade at collieries.
463	Hawarden (Flint)	Rural	15,802	Large colliery about to stop.

NAMES of Places with Trade Depression, grouped by Trades—*continued.*

Reference to page of Second Report.	NAME OF PLACE.	Character.	Population (1891)	Nature of Trade Depression.
	DIVISION III.—*continued.*			
	SUNDRY INDUSTRIES.			
113	Castle Donington (Derby)	Rural	6,393	Basket making slack.
63	Walsall	County	71,789	Staple trade of saddlery depressed.
140	Luton (Bedford)	Non-County	30,006	Dulness in straw goods last autumn.
182	Atherstone (Warwick)	Rural	14,076	Hat manufacture depressed.
330	Yeovil (Somerset)	Non-County	9,648	Glove making depressed.
344	Worcester	County	42,908	Depression in porcelain and glove making.
358	Yeovil (Somerset)	Rural	18,783	Glove making depressed; stone quarrying affected by weather.
446	Bromsgrove (Worcester)	Urban	5,072	Wrought nail trade failing.
	DIVISION IV.			
	BAD TRADE (unspecified).			
103	Rowley Regis (Stafford)	Urban	30,791	Bad trade; works closed.
135	Droitwich (Worcester)	Non-County	4,021	Depression in trade.
147	Aspull (Lancashire)	Urban	8,952	Bad trade.
151	Brierley Hill (Stafford)	ditto	11,847	Bad state of trade.
155	Coseley (Stafford)	ditto	21,899	Great depression of trade.
175	Stapleton (Gloucester)	ditto	14,589	Depression of general trade in Bristol.
269	Bilston (Stafford)	ditto	23,453	Bad trade.
302	Whitchurch (Southampton)	Rural	5,655	Want of employment.
376	Abercarne (Monmouth)	Urban	10,464	Depression of trade.
437	Ipswich	County	57,360	Slack trade.
437	Wigan	ditto	55,013	General slackness of trade.
257	Nottingham	ditto	213,877	Depression in trade; influx of men seeking work on new railway.
	COMPLETION OF WORKS.			
67	Chichester	Non-County	7,838	Completion of drainage works, and men discharged.
145	Wrexham (Denbigh)	ditto	12,552	Completion of railway.
317	Bedford	Rural	24,269	- ditto - ditto.
335	Bromley (Kent)	ditto	26,862	Extension works completed.
	SPECIAL CAUSES.			
300	Staines (Surrey)	Rural	17,733	Heavy floods in November last.
458	New Windsor	Non-County	12,327	- - ditto - - ditto.

SHORT SUMMARY of foregoing TABLES.

There were thus complaints of distress, as follows:—

Building and out-door (unspecified) trade	From	110	districts
Brick and cement works	„	4	„
Stone quarries	„	7	„
Canal traffic	„	3	„
Market gardens	„	3	„
		127	

Division I.

Shipbuilding	From	5	districts
Agriculture	„	17	„
Fisheries	„	6	„
		28	

Division II.

Tin plate works	From	12	districts
Iron and steel works	„	15	„
Pottery and glass works	„	6	„
Chemical works	„	10	„
Textile and clothing factories	„	16	„
Collieries	„	16	„
Sundry small industries	„	8	„
		83	

Division III.

Bad trade (unspecified)	From	12	districts
Completion of works	„	4	„
Special causes	„	2	„
		18	

Division IV.

USIONS.

There does not, then, appear from the above to be any evidence of widespread trade depression.

Of those industries which complain of distress caused directly by the severity of the weather the building trade forms the most conspicuous example. In this case suffering is general, and is not confined to any particular district in England. Opposed to this, in the sense that the men employed belong chiefly to one district and are engaged in an industry that is not directly affected by the weather, is the tin plate trade of Wales. This is the most strongly marked instance of local trade distress, affecting a great number of workers.

Turning to the other trades mentioned, there is the usual complaint of depression of agriculture, which contrasts strangely with the absence of distress in country districts spoken of above. The absence of any general complaint from the large cotton towns is also noticeable. But, beyond these few points there does not seem to be anything in the above tables that calls for especial remark.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX.

LIST of the PRINCIPAL HEADINGS in the following INDEX, with the pages at which they may be found.

PAGE

ABBEY MILLS (RELIEF WORKS) - - - - 823

AGRICULTURE:

1. *Agricultural Employment as affected by the severe weather and by the general depression of Agriculture* - - - 824
2. *Migration of Agricultural Labourers to the Towns; Suggestions hereon for improved methods of Cultivation and for the retention of Labour on the Land* - - - - - - - - 825
3. *Wages and Social Condition of Labourers* - - - - - - - 826

ALLOTMENTS - - - - - - - - 828

AMOUNT AND CAUSES OF DISTRESS - - 829

BATTERSEA - - - - - - - - 834

BOARDS OF GUARDIANS - - - - - 839

BRADFIELD UNION (BERKS) - - - - 843

BUILDING TRADE - - - - - - 845

CAMBERWELL - - - - - - - - 846

CHARITABLE RELIEF (CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY) - - - - - - 849

CHURCH ARMY - - - - - - - - 850

Colonisation - - - - - - - - - 852

Dock Labour - - - - - - - - 857

Engineering Trades - - - - - - 861

FARM AND LABOUR COLONIES:

I. *Scheme of Farm Colonies proposed by Mr. Mather:*

1. Explanations and Advocacy on general Grounds - - - 863
2. Two Classes of Colonies, for Temporary and Permanent Employment, respectively - 863
3. Supply of Labour through the Poor Law Unions - - 863
4. System of State Loans for the Provision of Land and Buildings; adequacy of the Security - - - - - - 864
5. Administration and Detailed Management - - - 864
6. Cultivation, Produce, Auxiliary Employments, &c. - - 865
7. Financial Considerations and Results - - - - - 865
8. Paper submitted by Mr. Mather containing Explanations in Detail - - - - - 866

PAGE

FARM AND LABOUR COLONIES—continued.

II. *Explanations by Mr. Willink and Mr. Moore respecting Labour Colonies on the Continent; Conclusions upon the Question of their adoption in this Country* - - - - - - - 866

III. *Particulars in connection with the Labour Colony or Relief Works at Wanstead Flats and the action of the West Ham Unemployed Committee, with Suggestions as regards Labour Colonies generally* - - - - 868

IV. *Proposals by Mr. Hunt on the subject of Small Labour Colonies or Homes* 869

V. *Suggestions by Mr. Lansbury for the grouping of Metropolitan Unions for the acquisition of Land for Employment* - - - - - - - 869

VI. *Action taken by the Whitechapel Board of Guardians* - - - - - 869

VII. *Conflicting Evidence upon the Question, generally, of Farm Colonies for the Unemployed* - - - - - 869

FRANCHISE:

1. *Evidence in favour of the Removal of Disfranchisement, in times of Distress, as a Condition of Relief under the Poor Law* - - - - - - 873
2. *Evidence to a Contrary Purport* - - 873
3. *Conclusions of the Committee* - - 874

GLASGOW:

1. *Number and Class of Unemployed; Extent and Character of the Distress* 875
2. *Action of the Corporation; Provision and Administration of Relief Works* - 876
3. *Liberal Help provided by the Citizens: how administered* - - - - 876
4. *Trade Unions* - - - - - - 876
5. *Common Good Fund* - - - - 877
6. *Employment on Corporation Farms* - 877
7. *Question of Reclamation of Foreshore* - 877
8. *Immigration from Outside Districts* - 877
9. *Model Lodging Houses* - - - 877
10. *Paper submitted by the Lord Provost containing Explanations in detail on various points* - - - - - 877
11. *Information supplied by the Town Clerk and by the Inspector of Poor* - - 877

PAGE

Hadleigh Farm Colony (Salvation Army):

1. *Number and Class of Men employed at the Colony; their capacity for Work and for Improvement* - - - 880
2. *Operations carried on, System of Management, &c.* - - - - 881
3. *Payments to the Men and Cost of Administration generally; annual Financial Results* - - - - 881

Holland (Dutch Labour Colonies) - - 889

Hours of Labour - - - - - - - 890

Imports - - - - - - - - 893

Islington - - - - - - - - 894

Labour Bureaux - - - - - - - 898

Labour Department (Board of Trade) - - 898

Labour Test (Stone-yard, &c.) - - - 898

Land (Acquisition by Boards of Guardians and Municipalities) - - - 899

Leeds - - - - - - - - - 902

Liverpool - - - - - - - 903

Local Authorities - - - - - 905

Local Government Board - - 905

Mansion House Committee - - - 910

Metropolis:

1. *Returns and Statistics as to Pauperism and Relief* - - - - - - 916
2. *Operation of the Equalisation of Rates Act, and the Common Poor Fund* - 917
3. *Increase of Distress during the past Winter: great variation between different Parishes and Districts in the Charge for Relief* - - - - 917
4. *Growing Want of Employment in the East End* - - - - - - 917
5. *Proposals by Mr. Benn: Scheme for utilising the Common Poor Fund in connection with Relief Works* - - 918
6. *Incidence of the Cost of Out-door Relief* - - - - - - - 918
7. *Amended System proposed as regards Labour Colonies, &c.* - - - 918
8. *Recommendation by the Committee respecting the Cost of Employment by the Sanitary Authorities* - - - 919

Migration of Labour - - - - - 919

Number and Classification of Unemployed 926

Out door Relief:

1. *Orders and Regulations of the Poor Law Board and Local Government Board, with Official Explanations as to the powers of Boards of Guardians* 927
2. *Views of the several Inspectors upon the Question of Modification of the existing Regulations* - - - 928
3. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally as to the Administration and Operation of Out-door Relief* - - - 928

Pauperism - - - - - - - - 935

PAGE

Pontypool (Monmouth):

1. *Exceptional Distress, mainly through Depression in the Tin Plate Industry and in the Coal Trade* - - - 939
2. *Extensive provision of Relief by Voluntary and Charitable Organisations* - 939
3. *Employment and Relief by the Local Boards or Urban District Councils, and by the Poor Law Guardians* - 940
4. *Claim to State Aid* - - - - 940

Poor Law System - - - - - - 940

Poplar - - - - - - - - 941

Provincial Districts - - - - 942

Reclamation Works - - - - 943

Relief Works:

1. *Experience hitherto in the provision of Relief Works for the Unemployed* - 944
2. *Scheme of Mr. Hills for a System of Relief Works or Labour Colonies throughout the United Kingdom, to be aided and subsidised by the State on certain conditions* - - - - - 944
3. *Rate of Payment of Men employed on Relief Works* - - - - - 945
4. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally upon the Question of Relief Works for the Unemployed, and of Contributions by the State* - - - - - 946

Rural Districts - - - - - - - 948

St. George's-in-the-East:

1. *Explanations respecting the extent and character of the Distress and the action of the Poor Law Authorities as regards Out-door Relief, &c.; Strict Administration in the Parish* - 946
2. *Information as to the Operations of the Charity Organisation Society; beneficial Results claimed* - - - - 950

St. Olave's Union:

1. *Considerable Extent of St. Olave's Union* 951
2. *Abnormal Increase of Poor Relief in St. Olave's as compared with other Metropolitan Unions; several causes of the Local Distress and Want of Employment* - - - - - - 951
3. *Stone-yard: Particulars as to its Administration, the Facilities as to Admission, Numbers Employed, Rate of Pay, and Total Cost* - - - 951
4. *Employment irrespective of the Stone-yard* - - - - - - - 953
5. *Workhouse Accommodation* - - - 953
6. *Rates* - - - - - - - - 955
7. *Equalisation of Rates Act and Common Poor Fund* - - - - - - 953
8. *Details respecting the Amount and Cost of Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively* - - - - - - - 953
9. *Lunacy* - - - - - - - - 954
10. *Vagrants* - - - - - - - - 954
11. *Regulations generally as regards the Administration of In-door and Out-door Relief* - - - - - - - 954

PAGE

St. Pancras - - - - - - - 954

Salvation Army - - - - - - 955

Scotland - - - - - - - - 956

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades - - 958

Small Holdings (Agriculture) - - 958

State Aid (Relief of Distress):

1. *Scheme of Treasury Grants or State Aid advocated by Mr. Keir-Hardie; Safeguards against abuse* - - - 964
2. *Scheme of State Aid advocated by Mr. Alden; Conditions to be imposed* - 965
3. *Concurrence of other Witnesses in favour of State Aid* - - - 965
4. *Concurrence of Evidence adverse to any Grants by the State in Relief of Local Distress* - - - - - - 966
5. *State Grants not necessary with reference to the recent Distress through the Severe Weather, the Crisis having passed* - - - - - - - 966

Swansea - - - - - - - - 968

Tin-plate Trade - - - - - - 971

Trade Depression:

1. *Statistics and Explanations as to the Fluctuations of Labour and of unemployment, and as to the extent of Want of Employment in different years* - 972
2. *Consideration of the Causes of Depression in Trade and of Labour Fluctuations, with Suggestions on the Subject* 973

Trades Unions - - - - - - - 974

Tramps and Vagrants - - - - - 978

Vestries (Metropolis) - - - - - 979

Wages - - - - - - - - - 979

Wandsworth and Clapham Union:

1. *Large Extent and Large Rateable Value of the Union* - - - 980
2. *Amount of Distress and Cost of Poor Relief* - - - - - - - 981
3. *Stone-yard and Out-door Relief; Objections to the Operation of the former* - - - - - - - 982

PAGE

Wanstead Flats (West Ham Relief Works):

1. *Explanations generally as to the Extent and Character of the Experiment at Wanstead Flats; the Labour on which the Men were employed, and the Results as regards subsequent Employment* - - - - - - 982
2. *Rate of Payment of the Men, and Financial Results* - - - - - - 982
3. *Exceptions taken to the Experiment* - 982

Weather (Stoppage of Employment) - 983

West Ham:

1. *Number of Unemployed in West Ham Union; Local Census taken* - - 984
2. *Extent and Causes of the Distress in the Union* - - - - - - - - 985
3. *Out-door and In door Relief, respectively; amount of Poor Rate and other Rates* - - - - - - - - 985
4. *Stone-yard and Labour Test* - - 986
5. *Local Action in the Provision of Relief Works and of Employment; particulars as to the Cost, Administration, and Result of the Works* - 986
6. *Question of Government Aid towards relief of the Distress; alleged inability of the Guardians or Local Authorities to cope with the evil* - - - 987
7. *Migration and Immigration of Labour* 988
8. *Exception taken to Circular of Local Government Board* - - - - 988
9. *Papers submitted by Dr. Hilleary in elucidation and amplification of his Evidence on certain Points* - - 988
10. *Full Inquiry by the Committee into the case of West Ham* - - - - 988

Whitechapel:

1. *Generally as the Amount of Poor Relief and the Number of Paupers* - 989
2. *System of Out door Relief, and of Employment on Relief Works* - - 989
3. *Question of Employment on the Land: Active part taken by the Board of Guardians in this direction* - - 990

Women and Children - - - - 993

INDEX.

[*N.B.*—In this Index the Figures following the Names of the Witnesses, and those in the Analysis of Evidence of each Witness, refer to the Questions in the Evidence: the figures following *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) and *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) refer to the Pages in the Appendices; and the Numerals following *1st Rep.*, *2nd Rep.*, and *3rd Rep.*, to the Pages in the several Reports and the Proceedings of the Committee.]

A.

ABBEY (*RENFREW*). Letter from the Inspector of Poor for this parish, dated 25th February 1895, stating that there is exceptional distress among out-door workers, wholly due to the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 767.

ABBEY MILLS (*RELIEF WORKS*):

Special reference to the Abbey Mills scheme as a precedent to be considered in connection with work for the unemployed, *Benn* 3110–3112. 3165——Excellent work obtained from the men employed at Abbey Mills, witness strongly advocating payment of the current rate of wages in connection with similar schemes, *ib.* 3165.

Acceptance by the Mansion House Committee (for the relief of the unemployed) of the offer made by the London County Council of about thirty acres of waste land at Abbey Mills, at a rent fixed upon the basis of out-of-pocket expenditure, in order to provide an efficient test of work for the casual element, *Smart* 11199——Information as to the mode of procedure and management of the work at Abbey Mills, the men, when taken on, receiving a work ticket, with the rules printed on the back (copy of which is handed in); object of the scheme to provide for the permanent re-instatement of the men in some kind of work, *ib.* 11202-11205. 11362, 11363.

Explanation that out of the 372 applicants who were entered on the case papers in the first year, 224 finished their period of test work, the test period being fourteen days, at the end of which time the men came before the Committee and presented their schemes for settlement, either for migration, emigration, or in some other way, *Smart* 11206–11210——Financial details in connection with the scheme, the total expenditure amounting the first year to 1,315*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, of which 142*l.* represented the cost of management; no profit under the scheme, except that derived by a poor neighbourhood from the land being let out at reasonable charges to working men, *ib.* 11239–11244. 11364–11375.

Decision of the Mansion House Committee, in January 1894, to repeat the scheme of the previous year, waterside labour being greatly depressed and a large number of people out of work; improvement of the scheme by extending the area, removing the restriction as to the men being engaged in waterside labour, and reducing the age from sixty-four to fifty-five, *Smart* 11245–11247——Satisfaction of the London County Council valuer with the work done at Abbey Mills; description of an average day's work accomplished with a staff of forty-one men, *ib.* 11276–11280.

Total cost of 780*l.* incurred in 1895, only those cases being taken in hand that afforded a reasonable hope of re-instatement; extension of the time of working to three months, the works having been closed in the first week of June, *Smart* 11296–11299——Utility of the scheme as an experiment in dealing with the unemployed; witness is not aware of any attempt that has succeeded so well and worked so safely in spite of the smallness of the returns, *ib.* 11300–11304.

Abercarn (*Monmouth*). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 376.

Aberdare (*Glamorgan*). Limited extent of distress in the Aberdare Urban District; sufficiency of a voluntary relief fund, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 330.

Aberdeen. Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 566——Information supplied by the Inspector of Poor respecting the amount of distress and the steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 612.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Abergavenny (*Monmouth*). Considerable amount of distress in the Abergavenny Urban District in February 1895; relief given by voluntary agencies, some additional employment having been provided by the District Council, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 267.

Abersychan (*Monmouth*). Very acute character of the local distress through the stoppage of ironworks; employment provided by the District Council, as well as by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 385.

Abertillery (*Monmouth*). Existence of much distress in the Abertillery Urban District in February 1895; voluntary relief given whilst the Council were preparing means of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 267.

Aberystwith. Absence of exceptional distress in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 428.

Abingdon (*Berks*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief; an unemployed register not kept, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 64.

Able-bodied Poor. Definition of the term "able-bodied" for poor law purposes; limit of age usually applied, *Sir H. Owen* 651-655——Relief to able-bodied male persons on the ground of want of employment conditional under the Out-door Regulation Order of December 1852, on either the acceptance of an order of admission to the workhouse or the performance of an adequate task of work as a labour test; exceptions to this rule, *Vallance* 11534.

See also *Boards of Guardians. Farm and Labour Colonies. Labour Test. Migration of Labour. Out-door Relief. Poor Law System. Tramps and Vagrants.*

Accrington (*Lancaster*). Consideration of complaints on the part of Accrington as to the undue delay of the central Board in dealing with applications for sanction of loans for certain works; unavoidable delay in many of these cases, whilst in others very prompt action is taken, *Sir H. Owen* 675–689.

Letter from the town clerk, dated 1st March, explanatory of the amount of distress; relief by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 368, 369.

Acton (*Middlesex*). Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 418.

Afforestation. Suggestion that the State might promote afforestation profitably as a means of employment, *Alden* 2057–2063— Further advocacy of employment in afforestation, as upon the Crown lands, *ib.* 2172–2175. 2303, 2304. 2332–2334. 2449–2456.

Agricultural Training Homes. See *Colonisation. Farm and Labour Colonies. Hadleigh Farm Colony. Whitechapel.*

AGRICULTURE:

1. *Agricultural Employment as Affected by the Severe Weather and by the General Depression of Agriculture.*
2. *Migration of Agricultural Labourers to the Towns; Suggestions hereon for Improved Methods of Cultivation and for the Retention of Labour on the Land.*
3. *Wages and Social Condition of Labourers.*

1. *Agricultural Employment as Affected by the Severe Weather and by the General Depression of Agriculture:*

Information as to the general state of agricultural employment during the period from last autumn till the middle of January (before the frost); irregularity of such employment chiefly in the corn-growing and arable districts, though for certain reasons it was more continuous than usual until the frost set in, *Smith* 4655-4658. 4668—— Stoppage of agricultural employment severely felt in certain counties during the frost, whilst there has been a gradual increase of employment since the thaw, *ib.* 4658–4667.

Information on the foregoing subject obtained chiefly through Mr. Wilson Fox, as agricultural correspondent, *Smith* 4650–4665——Statement respecting the sources of information upon which the reports of Mr. Wilson Fox are founded; conclusion from these reports that until the recent frost agricultural employment was fairly continuous, *ib.* 4888–4898.

Probability that the lack of employment in agricultural districts is mainly due to the low price of produce and to the difficulty in getting land; doubt as to over-production being one of the causes, *Dodd* 7800–7810.

Communications from local authorities respecting the amount of distress through agricultural depression, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*

Memorandum

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

AGRICULTURE—continued.

1. *Agricultural Employment as Affected by the Severe Weather, &c.*—continued.

Memorandum prepared by Mr. Wilson Fox respecting the employment of enginemen and thatchers in 1894–95; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 512, 513.

Lists of places, seventeen in number, making complaint with special reference to distress through agricultural depression, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 807–812. 816. 820.

2. *Migration of Agricultural Labourers to the Towns; Suggestions hereon for Improved Methods of Cultivation and for the Retention of Labour on the Land:*

Probability of there being some method by which a greater population than at present can be employed upon the land; decided objection, however, to the State introducing protection in order to try and bolster up a failing industry, *Mackay* 5398–5411. 5428 *et seq.*; 5758–5761——Possibility of some scheme being devised by which the agricultural labourer could be prevented from coming into the towns, *Cox* 6471–6476.

Experience of witness that one of the chief causes of want of employment in the towns is the rural exodus from the villages; statistics showing that the decrease in the village population began in 1873 and is getting worse every year, *Tuckwell* 6948–6951. 6989 *et seq.*; 7217–7229——Argument that the exodus from the villages is due to the farmers throughout England continuing obsolete methods of farming with a diminished number of hands, and to the increasing discontent of the labourer with his condition, *ib.* 6952 *et seq.*; 7010–7022. 7141 *et seq.*; 7420–7423. 7442–7449.

Desirability of establishing agricultural technical schools or training colleges to teach improved methods of cultivating land, and of the educational endowments being re-converted to the use of *pauperes scholares*, for whom they were bequeathed, *Tuckwell* 7157–7159. 7165–7170.

Recommendation that the influx of agricultural labourers and others into the towns should be checked by the provision of allotments, proper cottages, and small holdings; disposition of witness to place confidence in, and responsibility upon, the parish councils in these matters, *Dodd* 7589–7592. 7636–7638. 7669–7674. 7805–7810.

Strong comment upon the decay of agricultural industry and upon the steady immigration of rural labourers into the towns, where labour is already far in excess of the demand; great aggravation thereby of the growing difficulties of the labour problem *Mather* 8975——Unnatural character of the accumulation of rural labour in the manufacturing districts, this resulting (in witness' view) from the imperfect development of agricultural industries, *ib.*

Contract between the highly-organised condition of the manufacturing industries and the undeveloped and declining condition of agriculture, *Mather* 8975——Enormous import of farm products from abroad, whilst land at home is lying unproductive and labour is languishing in the absence of a proper system of hand tillage in lieu of big farms and grain crops, *ib.* 8975. 8987–8992.

Argument in further support of the proposition that, in contrast with manufactures agriculture in this country has not been conducted with proper enterprise and skill, that the growing of grain crops cannot be continued profitably, that hand tillage should be more extensively employed, and more valuable and profitable products cultivated, *Mather* 9110–9126——Reiteration of the view that a large quantity of land is now cultivated for crops which could not possibly yield a profit, which land may be made to pay, *ib.* 9139–9143. 9165–9171.

Proposition that small settlements be established with State aid, not only in connection with training colonies, as proposed by witness, but irrespectively thereof, as a means of retaining rural labour upon the land, and of bringing it into more profitable cultivation, *Mather* 9373–9402.

Consideration of the question of the people of England being unable to grow food at a profit, *Lansbury* 10460–10468.

3. *Wages and Social Condition of Labourers:*

Necessity of a labouring man with a wife and four growing children having at least 21*s.* a week in order to live with any decency or comfort; estimate that the average wage of agricultural labourers in England, after making every allowance, is not more than 15*s.* per week, *Tuckwell* 6954, 6955. 7112 *et seq.*——Liability of the agricultural labourer to be turned out of his cottage if he complains of his surroundings, or votes against the will of his employer, *ib.* 6955. 7153–7156. 7248–7272.

Utter hopelessness of the position of the agricultural labourer in England, there being no chance of an increase on his 10*s.*, 12*s.*, or 14*s.* wages per week, and the end being the workhouse, *Tuckwell* 6955. 7415–7419——Comparison of the agricultural systems of France and England, the French peasant being comfortable, independent, and full of hope and happiness, while the English peasant is degraded, underpaid, servile, and despairing, *ib.* 6979, 6980. 7037–7042. 7065–7073. 7086–7088. 7171 *et seq.*

Reports, 1895 – *continued.*

AGRICULTURE—continued.

3. *Wages and Social Condition of Labourers*—continued.

General statement that agricultural wages have not risen during the last ten years, *Tuckwell* 7115–7119——Table handed in showing how the estimate of 21*s.*, the minimum sum per week on which a labourer with a wife and four children can live, is made up; witness has no experience of such a family living decently and comfortably on 14*s.* per week, *ib.* 7190-7216.

See also *Allotments. Bradfield Union. Farm and Labour Colonies. Hadleigh Farm Colony. Land, &c. Small Holdings.*

Airdrie (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 567.

Alcester and Feckenham (*Warwick and Worcester*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 365.

Alden, Percy, M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Several capacities in which witness has become conversant with the West Ham district; reference more especially to the prominent part taken by him in the recent census of the borough with reference to the number of unemployed, 1976–1980——Constitution of the local committee by whom the census was carried out, it having been completed about the 20th January, after a house to house visitation over nearly the whole of the borough, 1980–1983. 1922. 1997–1999.

Result of the census that it showed about 10,140 workers out of employment in the borough, including about 1,000 women; very large proportion in the southern part of the borough, 1982–1999——Difficulty in arriving at any fairly accurate estimate of the number of casual labourers, 1993–1996——Enormous increase during the frost in the foregoing numbers, 2000.

Particulars as to the several trades and the different classes of workmen chiefly affected by the severe weather and by depression of business; reference especially to the Thames Shipbuilding Company, the Docks, agriculture, &c., 2001–2022——Inadequacy of the poor law machinery for coping with the destitution and distress, as in Canning Town; over-crowded state of the workhouse and the stone yards, 2023, 2024——Large class of unemployed whom the poor law system does not touch, who are prepared to work but to whom pauperism and disfranchisement are repugnant, 2024–2029.

Suggestion that the poor law restrictions be modified during severe winters, and that relief be afforded on certain conditions but without disfranchisement, 2030, 2031——Exception taken to the present labour tests as too obnoxious, 2031, 2032.

Grounds for the contention that when distress is exceptional the State should assist the local authorities by subsidies, and should exercise supervision over works promoted by the latter for the unemployed, such as farm colonies in Essex, 2033–2045——Suggestions for a labour register of the unemployed, as well as for a system of State subsidies in aid of local relief works, 2034, 2035——Reference to statistics as showing that an enormous proportion of the working population of West Ham have migrated from other districts; large immigration of agricultural labourers, 2045–2056. 2099.

Suggestion that the State might promote afforestation, profitably, as a means of employment, 2057–2063——Proposed employment also upon the reclamation of slob-lands and of waste lands, 2064, 2065——Satisfactory result of the employment of some men of the "casual" class upon a farm colony at Hadleigh; belief that about half of these never returned to West Ham as applicants for relief, 2066–2080——Advantage of work on farms colonies in the case of men who are physically weak, 2077.

Grounds upon which witness differed from the proposal of Mr. Hills to employ men upon relief works at a much lower wage than the trades union rate of wages, 2081–2097——Much better work and value to be obtained by paying at the usual rate, 2087——Check upon abuse by not employing labourers for a full day or for the whole week, when a minimum rate of wages, or about 6*d.* an hour, is paid, 2088–2097.

Large increase of employment in different trades in West Ham when the severe weather comes to an end, this not equally applying to the class of agricultural labourers, 2098–2105——Expediency of the guardians being empowered to give relief in exceptional weather, without disfranchisement, 2106——Difficulties of adequate poor relief in West Ham on exceptional occasions, so that witness submits there should be a State grant available for the district and for other places labouring under similar difficulties, 2107–2112.

[Second Examination.]—Explanation that the whole of the 10,000 persons reported as unemployed were not absolutely destitute; inclusion in this total of many young persons down to sixteen years, 2113–2131——Fairly thrifty character of the working classes in the district, so that many have savings to fall back upon in times of distress, 2132–2135.

Unsatisfactory operation of the poor law system in West Ham, the labour-test in the

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Alden, Percy, M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

the stoneyard being objectionable and demoralising, whilst it could not be efficiently used on account of the great number of applicants, 2136–2143. 2314–2316——Advantage of employment for the more respectable men (who cannot find work) not only on farm colonies, as at Hadleigh Farm, but upon industries in connection therewith, though not in competition with the open market; claim to employment in these cases without pauperism being entailed, 2144–2156. 2235–2240. 2311–2313.

Consideration of, and reply to, objections to the proposal that the men for whom work is to be found by the State should be paid the union rate of wages, 6*d.* or 6½*d.* an hour, 2157–2168. 2192–2199. 2372–2403. 2424–2441——Belief that subsidies from the State in aid of employment on reproductive relief works and on land, with proper classification and supervision, would have a most beneficial effect in enabling the men to keep themselves, and that in time such works might be self-supporting, 2169–2171. 2235–2269. 2297–2313. 2413–2421. 2450–2456——Suggestions in further support of employment in afforestation, as upon the Crown lands, 2172–2175. 2303, 2304. 2332–2334. 2449–2456.

Advantage if guardians had power to give relief without disfranchisement, and if they were empowered to acquire land for employment thereon, in lieu of the stoneyard test, 2178–2181. 2453——Explanations with further reference to the proposed system of farm colonies, with workshops, &c., and in reply to objections on the subject, 2182–2191. 2235–2269. 2287–2295.

Number of men in the West Ham district out of work in winter, irrespectively of severe weather, and also in the summer, relatively to the total population, 2200–2217——Relief at the stoneyard partly in money and partly in kind, 2218–2220——Considerable proportion of the men out of work who have votes, and who have objected to go to the stoneyard, because of losing them, 2221–2228.

Argument as to the responsibility of the State with reference to work for the unemployed, 2229–2234. 2305–2309. 2449–2451——Consideration of experiments in Paris and elsewhere in the finding of work for the unemployed, the results not being satisfactory because the conditions and their administration were wrong; expediency of further experiments on an improved system, 2241–2269. 2287–2313.

Intimate experience of witness with the Canning Town district for more than four years, during the whole of which there has been a surplus population in the labour market of West Ham, 2270–2274——Benefit from the increased employment at the Beckton Gasworks in winter, there being then a slackness at the docks, 2275–2279.

Entire inability of the Corporation or of voluntary agencies to provide works for the unemployed, save for a very small proportion of them, 2280. 2296–2299——Special importance of permanent measures for the employment of casuals, from whom the loafing class are largely recruited, 2281–2286——Conclusion as to the importance of some steps being taken to prevent the influx of men in search of casual employment, this class being very largely in excess as compared with the work to be had at the docks, &c., 2317–2327——Value of employment on land as a means of restoring the health of men who are temporarily weak; desire of many to get back on to the land, 2328–2331.

Difficulty in suggesting any scheme for providing sufficient work in such exceptional winters as the present, 2335, 2336——Further approval of a suspension of the rule as to disfranchisement, 2336–2341. 2410–2412.

Examination in the further reference to the total number out of employment in West Ham, in winter and in summer, and the several classes of which composed, 2344–2371——Value of a register of the unemployed from month to month, 2352——Grounds for concluding that the number of unemployed will gradually increase and that a system of permanent State employment will prove necessary, to be administered under careful restrictions, and the unemployed to be registered and classified, 2352 *et seq.*

Probability that many of the unemployed if put upon the land would not produce such good results as regular labourers, though witness submits that the former should be paid at the ordinary rate, 2362–2378. 2388–2403——Operation of loan societies in the East End, the men being thus helped in winter, 2404–2409.

Expected willingness of local authorities to contribute in co-operation with an Imperial fund for the unemployed, 2442–2445——Opinion that the fund should be administered by the municipal authority, and that they might be called upon to contribute as much as the State, 2457 2464——Approval of a proposal that the fund be used only for the deserving poor, and that disqualification of the recipients should not result, 2464–2467.

Dissent from the view that a State fund would have any demoralising tendency, 2468, 2469——Expediency of half the required amount being found by the State instead of the whole amount being provided by local rate and voluntary agencies, 2470–2476.

Statement to the effect that the distress in West Ham is more amongst the general

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Alden, Percy, M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

labouring class than amongst skilled men, 2477–2488. 2501–2512——Extent to which the unemployed are members of trades unions and receive out-of-work money, 2482–2484. 2501–2509——Beneficial results anticipated if the guardians had power to acquire land and to use it as a test instead of the stone-yard; difficulty, however, in severe frosts, 2489-2495.

Conditions and restrictions to be imposed in connection with applications for employment provided by means of a State fund, 2496–2500——Employment of women at West Ham chiefly in the jam works and india-rubber works, 2510–2512——Decreased employment in the ship-building trade and causes thereof, 2513–2523.

Effect of the rate of wages in London in causing an influx of labour, 2524, 2525——Rate of payment in money and in kind to out-relief at West Ham, 2526, 2527——Partial effect of the dockers' strike upon the charge made by the dock companies in their system of employment, 2529, 2530.

Aldershot. Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 216.

Alfreton (*Derby*). Absence of exceptional distress from want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 460.

Aliens (*Immigration*). Suggestion whether some measures might not be adopted for checking the immigration of aliens, many of them of the pauper class; prejudicial effect of these immigrants in Glasgow, *Hunter* 8293–8298——Explanation as regards foreign immigrants, and, on the other hand, the still large emigration from this country, that witness does not object to the former class if able-bodied and not impoverished on arrival, *ib.* 8459–8473. 8489.——*See* also *Jews* (*East End*).

Alloa (*Clackmannan*). Statements as to the amount of distress in this parish and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 567. 662.

ALLOTMENTS:

Grounds for concluding that an extended application of the Allotments Act would largely meet the distress from non-employment in agricultural districts, and would check migration from such districts into West Ham and into the towns generally in search of work, *Keir-Hardie* 1136-1141. 1159–1168. 1231–1233.

Particulars of an attempt made by witness in a very poor village in Warwickshire to improve the condition of the labourer by means of allotments; success of the experiment, the yield of the land in 1888 being about forty-two bushels of wheat per acre, the average throughout the country being twenty-eight, *Tuckwell* 6959 *et seq.*; 7023 *et seq.*; 7229–7244——Explanation that there are two reasons why allotment land bears so much more than farmers' land, namely: that the former is much better cultivated than the latter, the labourer having no labour bill to pay, and that the labourer grows for consumption whilst the farmer grows for sale, *ib.* 6962–6965.

Statement that when witness left Warwickshire his successor repudiated the allotment scheme; inability of witness to lease any of the land for the purpose of building cottages without the bishop's consent, which was refused, *Tuckwell* 6966–6970. 7138–7140. 7401–7467.

Evidence as to the facility of conversion of allotments into small holdings and as to the extreme importance of the latter, *Tuckwell* 6970 *et seq.*——Great success of Lord Tollemache's pasture allotments at Pockforton, the labourers all having money in the savings banks while the result to Lord Tollemache is that he gets 2½ per cent. on his outlay, and the pick of the finest labourers in the country, *ib.* 6974–6977.

Dissatisfaction with recent legislation in regard to allotments, as the labourer cannot get as much land as he wants at a fair rent, nor have perpetual tenure of it as long as his rent is paid, *Tuckwell* 6978. 7470 *et seq.*——Admission that witness' ideal allottee would have to work on an average eighty-one hours per week, including the work done for the farmer and on the allotment; contention, however, that he would be a gainer morally and physically, *ib.* 7028 *et seq.*; 7134-7137.

View of witness that if the allotment holders, by growing larger quantities of stuff than they consumed, displaced the produce grown by the farmers there would be no serious difficulty, but rather a national gain; probability of the allottee being able to prevent any reduction of his wages, *Tuckwell* 7089–7096. 7163, 7164——Object of witness' proposals in regard to allotments and small holdings to bring the people back from the towns to the country; necessity of some lapse of time for the operation of the legislative changes, *ib.* 7120–7130. 7161, 7162. 7277–7280. 7339 *et seq.*

Conclusion that it would be better for the agricultural labourers' cottages to be separate, with the gardens or allotments adjacent to them, than for the cottages to be crowded together on the allotments, *Tuckwell* 7138–7140——Advisability of providing allotments by private effort wherever possible, as that course is much better and cheaper

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

ALLOTMENTS—continued.

cheaper than resorting to legislative machinery, *ib.* 7244——Desirability of anything like a competitive rent being avoided; idea of witness that the land to be allotted should be valued and then let by the municipality at an economic rent, *ib.* 7281 *et seq.*

Contention that a tenant under witness' system would be much better off than a tenant under an ordinary landlord, the rent payable by the former being somewhat less than that payable by the latter during the first forty years, and considerably less after the landowner is paid out, *Tuckwell* 7332 *et seq.*; 7430-7436——Explanation that under witness' scheme the labourer who had become a farmer by his own exertions would be allowed to have as many allotments as he could work, sub-letting being most rigidly prevented, *ib.* 7449–7455.

Attitude of the Charity Commissioners rather opposed to allotments, the powers given them under the Allotments Act of 1882 to exempt land from that Act being largely exercised, *Dodd* 7519–7523.

Attention drawn to the fact that the guardians by virtue of the early statutes of this century, which are still in force, although regarded as obsolete, can acquire any amount of land and let it out in allotments under the rules of the Local Government Board; copy of a petition from labourers, for the issue of such rules, handed in, *Dodd* 7543 *et seq.*; 7613–7627. 7654, 7655.

See also *Charity Commission.* *Farm and Labour Colonies.*

Letter from the Rev. C. L. E. Parker in reply to certain statements in the evidence of Mr. Tuckwell, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 546——Letter from Mr. Tuckwell dissenting from certain explanations by Mr. Parker as regards the Stockton Allotments, *ib.*

Alnwick (*Northumberland*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 288.

Alton (*Hants*). Letter from the clerk to the town council, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 81——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district of Alton in February, *ib.* 316.

Altrincham (*Chester*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 81.

AMOUNT AND CAUSES OF DISTRESS:

Circular letter from the Local Government Board (issued at the request of the Chairman of the Select Committee) to the mayors of towns and the chairmen of district councils, dated 19th February, requesting information as to the amount and cause of local distress, the steps being taken to meet the distress, the keeping of a register and the results shown thereby, and inviting suggestions on the subject, *1st Rep. p.* 1.

View of the Board previously to the severe weather that the conditions generally as regards the prevalence of distress were more favourable than at the corresponding period of last year; tendency, however, to an increase in some districts towards the end of January, *Sir H. Owen* 2.

Circular issued by the Board on 24th January to the guardians of the several metropolitan unions and of ninety-three provincial unions, requesting information as to the extent and character of the distress during the winter of 1894–95 as compared with recent years, and the arrangements contemplated by the guardians on the subject; details as to the replies received, *Sir H. Owen* 2 *et seq.*——Conclusion that the foregoing information as to the condition of the unemployed and the amount of relief and of distress in the different unions is based upon the reports of the relieving officers, and that there has been no methodical or systematic inquiry by the latter or by the guardians on the subject, *ib.* 142–145.

Circular sent by the Central Board to the thirteen Inspectors of Districts asking for information as regards distress among able-bodied men; varying character of the reports in reply respecting agricultural labourers and others, *Sir H. Owen* 201–209.

Further explanation with reference to the circular of the 24th January and the general tenor of the replies as regards the question of increased pauperism, *Sir H. Owen* 316–320——Reliable character of the information supplied by the guardians as to the number of applications for relief and the amount of pauperism, this not applying to their replies as to the extent of distress among non-applicants for relief, *ib.* 376–382.

Total of 540 replies now received in response to the circular issued at the request of the Committee, *Sir H. Owen* 549–551——Inference from the returns submitted by witness that through the almost entire stoppage of work in certain districts and the depression of industries there is extensive destitution among the classes who have not applied for relief, *ib.* 658, 659.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Amount and Causes of Distress—continued.

Data submitted in detail in support of the conclusion that outside the official view of the situation (as represented by Sir Hugh Owen), there is a very large amount of distress and destitution of which the present Committee should take cognisance, *Keir-Hardie* 700 *et seq.*——Establishment of an unemployed committee in almost every industrial centre throughout the country, comprising, among other representatives, delegates from various trades unions, *ib.* 700–702. 718–723——Circular recently sent by witness to these committees, requesting information as to the extent and character of the distress and the local action taken, and inviting suggestions as to the remedial measures to be adopted by the locality or by the nation, *ib.* 700——Instances of distress at Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, and various other towns, through want of employment, *ib.* 867–875.

Detailed statement respecting six different causes which may give rise to lack of employment and to increase of distress, *C. Booth* 10519. 10532. 10710–10712.

Summary of the replies received to the circular letter addressed to the mayors of towns and the chairmen of district councils as to the nature and extent of the prevailing distress and the steps taken to meet the distress, 1*st Rep.* iii——Replies received from 596 localties, representing a population of 6,797,231, to the effect that there is no exceptional distress, *ib.*——Replies from 454 localities, representing a population of 10,381,607, to the effect that there is no exceptional distress due solely to the severity of the winter, *ib.*

Conclusions of the Committee as to the existence of grave distress among the working classes throughout the country, owing largely to the severity of the winter, there being also in many places a want of employment which will remain in force after milder weather has opened the outdoor trades, 1*st Rep.* iv.

Copy of circular letter from the Local Government Board to the several Inspectors in England and Wales, dated 13th February 1895, requesting information as to the extent of destitution amongst able-bodied men in the several districts, the exceptional measures, if any, taken by the guardians, the relief provided by charitable funds, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 20——Reports in reply to the foregoing from the several inspectors submitting information in detail, *ib.* 21–56.

Circular letter from the Local Government Board to the various vestries and rural and urban district authorities generally, issued at the request of the Select Committee, dated 19th February 1895, requesting information as to the extent and cause of any exceptional distress, the steps adopted by public authorities or voluntary agencies, the average daily relief in the week ended 16th February, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 57——Replies from the various local authorities in England and Wales submitting information in response to the foregoing, *ib.* 57-470——Replies from local authorities throughout Scotland, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Table showing the nature of the distress reported as existing in England and Wales in February 1895, with the number of districts making returns, and the population and percentages of population of such districts, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 803——Summary of returns showing the extent to which distress is reported as due to severe weather, bad trade, &c., *ib.*

Lists of places with trade depression showing in each case the cause of local distress, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 807-819——Summary of the foregoing, showing the number of complaints under different heads, *ib.* 820.

Summary by the Committee of the replies received in answer to the letter addressed to the mayors of towns and chairmen of district councils in England and Wales, 3*rd Rep.* iii—— Absence of exceptional distress in 920 localities, representing a population of 10,291,600 persons, *ib.*——Existence of exceptional distress in 475 localities, with a population of 11,792,527 persons, due solely to the severity of the winter, *ib.*

Exceptional want of employment in 179 localities, with a population of 4,507,267, owing to slackness of trade, depression of agriculture, or to particular local or industrial causes, 3*rd Rep.* iii.

See also *the Headings generally throughout the Index.*

Ampthill Rural District (*Bedford and Hertford*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 410.

Amsterdam. Experiment in Amsterdam in providing employment in workshops; belief that it did not meet with much success, *Smith* 4724, 4725.

Andover (*Hants*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 365.

Apprenticeship. Desirability of expanding or reinstating the practice of apprenticeship or some other method of teaching a definite trade; disapproval of property left for apprenticeship being transferred to middle class or secondary education, *Dodd* 7504, 7505.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Arbitration. Approval of boards of conciliation and arbitration for the settlement of trade disputes, *Cox* 6198, 6199.

Arbroath (*Forfar*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 698.

Ashbourne (*Derby*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 146—— Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district, *ib.* 239.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch (*Leicester*). Very little distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 392.

Ashford (*Kent*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 82—— Amount of distress in East Ashford Rural District in February; remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 356.

Ashton-under-Lyne. Letter received by the Local Government Board on 6th February from the Ashton-under-Lyne Union; prejudicial effect of the severe weather as regards outdoor workers, though the guardians do not anticipate that any exceptional arrangements for dealing with the distress will be necessary, *Sir H. Owen* 9.

Letter from the town clerk, dated 25th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 309.

Ashton-in-Makerfield (*Lancaster*). Very little amount of distress, there not being much want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 360.

Aston Manor (*Warwick*). Exceptional distress in February 1895, due to the severity of the weather; remedial steps taken, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 267, 268.

Atcham (*Salop*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 289.

Atherston (*Lancashire*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 195.

Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in the urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 268.

Atherstone (*Warwick*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 182.

Auckland Union. Reference to the report from Auckland Union as not alluding to any large number of unemployed men who were kept off the rates by receiving 10*s.* a week from their trades union, *Sir H. Owen* 357-359.

Audley Urban District (*Stafford*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 147.

Australia. Institution of many municipal works in Australia for the purpose of relief, resulting in great congestion in the towns, *Mackay* 5803.

Austria. Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain industries in each of the years 1883-91; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 509.

Aves, Ernest. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has made a special study of the building trades in London in connection with some of Mr. Charles Booth's work, the result of which has been published, 10874. 10943 *et seq.*——Information obtained by him respecting the building trades by means of circulars sent round to a very large number of *employés* and representatives of various trade interests, and by interviews with individual *employés*, 10875. 10944–10949.

Composite nature of the building trade group, disturbing influences, such as severe weather, affecting the various sections in a different degree, 10876–10880——Distinction drawn between work on new buildings and work, in the way of repairs and renewals, on existing buildings, employment on the latter being more protected from the weather and more subject to special social and economic influences, 10881–10883. 10950–10954——Work in the special trade of shop-fitting fairly continuous throughout the year, a certain amount of export trade tending to equalise it; slight increase of employment in this branch in the winter when the shops are being fitted up for the summer season, 10881–10883.

Average of 9½*d.* per hour as the union rate of wages for almost every branch of the skilled building trades, the chief exceptions being the masons employed on granite and the plumbers, earning 10½*d.*, the masons employed as fixers, earning 10¼*d.* and the 8½*d.* rate for painters; statement that the same rates are paid on the whole,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Aves, Ernest. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

whole, in most of the main branches, to non-union men, 10884–10888. 10955–10962. 10968–10972——Division of the labourers into three main classes; particulars hereon, 10889–10891.

Evidence to the effect that the labourers in the first and second classes are paid 7*d.* per hour, and those in the third class 6½*d.* per hour; probability that a builder's labourer's wages average about 23*s.* 3*d.* per week for the whole year, 10892. 10962–10967——Statement that the labourers most subject to the influence of the weather are the excavators, who cannot work when the ground is frozen, and those least subject to the effects of the weather are the scaffolders, 10893–10895.

Opinion that on the whole the excavators are the worst off, their earnings being very uncertain, 10896, 10897——No doubt that a very large majority of the labourers in the building trades were born in the country, 10898.

Belief that a very large proportion of the bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, joiners, and masons were not only born, but received their initial training, in the country and came up in the first instance to some good job in London; tendency of the result of the special inquiries made by Mr. Llewellyn Smith to confirm this belief, 10898–10906. 10983–10986——Statement that the exact number of hours per week worked by the labourers varies with the season, being longer in summer than in winter, but that according to the agreement of 1892 it averages out for the whole year at just about forty-eight hours per week, 10907–10910.

Irregularity of employment in the building trade, due to the weather, accentuated by the constant shifting of the men from one employer to another, which is very largely due to the contract system, the men often being taken on for the individual job, 10911 *et seq.*; 10999 *et seq.*——Common practice of employers who send men to do odd jobs in private houses to have a permanent staff, thus ensuring more continuous work to the men; desirability of this practice being more widely adopted, 10917–10920.

Conclusion that the introduction of machinery has not displaced any considerable number of workmen in any branch of the skilled building trades; opinion that the introduction of new processes and new materials has had a more important disturbing influence in the trade than machinery, 10921 *et seq.*——Complaint of the labourers that they are displaced by the hoister in the Scotch steam derrick; view of witness, however, that although a certain number may be displaced, the effect of the introduction of machinery is rather to change the character of the labourer's work than to eliminate him, 10921 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that men who may be out of work do not easily fall back upon alternative employments, the skilled men keeping, as a rule, exclusively to their own trade; doubt as to there being much for them to fall back upon, except in the case of painters, many of whom are not painters proper but do all kinds of work during the year, 10927–10929.

Opinion that a certain amount of the cessation of work during inclement weather is not always due to absolute necessity, but rather to the convenience of the employer, 10930–10932. 10991–10998.

Possibility of the practice of putting work out to be done at a particular time of the year when the trade is normally slack being carried out to a much greater extent than it is at present; admission that this plan would, while giving more continuity of work to the skilled men, tend to make the more necessitous cases still harder, 10932–10936. 10987 *et seq.*; 11000–11004——Certainty that the building trade has been fairly prosperous in London during the last five years; opinion that no very special case has been made out for any change or particular remedy in that trade, 10937–10944. 10973 *et seq.*

Axbridge (*Somerset*). Small amount of distress; sufficiency of voluntary relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 353.

Axminster (*Devon*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 316.

Aylesbury (*Bucks*). Distress due to the severe weather; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 402.

Ayr. Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 570——Information supplied by the Inspector of Poor as to the extent and character of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 637.

B.

Bacup Municipal Borough (*Lancaster*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 133.

Baildon (*York*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 82.

Bakewell (*Derby*). Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 410.

Baking Trade (*Scotland*). Varying hours in the baking trade in Glasgow and the west of Scotland, an eight hours' day being needed in this trade, *Hunter* 8397–8399. 8550–8559.

Bala (*Merioneth*). Letter from Mr. D. Jones, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 83.

Banbury (*Oxford*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Information from the locality respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 64.

Barking (*Essex*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 217.

Barnes (*Surrey*). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 382.

Barnet (*Hertford*). Letter from the clerk of the Barnet Urban District, dated 25th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 312.

Barnsley (*York*). Letter received by the Local Government Board from the Barnsley Union on 5th February, there being no exceptional distress at that period, *Sir H. Owen* 9.

Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 65——Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in the rural district of Barnsley, *ib.* 442.

Barnstaple (*Devon*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 317——Amount of distress in Barnstaple Municipal Borough previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *ib.* 415.

Barony (*Glasgow and Lanark*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 730–732——Letters in January 1895 from several assistant Inspectors of Poor submitting particulars for their respective districts, *ib.* 730–732.

Barrow-in-Furness (*Lancaster*). Letter from the Barrow-in-Furness Union on 7th February; absence of any material increase of relief during the winter months, the distress not being exceptional, *Sir H. Owen* 9–11.

Limited amount of distress in this district; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 394.

Barrow-on-Soar (*Leicester*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 183.

Barry Urban District (*Glamorgan*). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in this urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 268.

Barton (*Lincoln*). Result of the inquiry in the case of the Barton-upon-Irwell Union, that up to the 6th February there was no exceptional distress in consequence of the severity of the weather, *Sir A. Owen* 12.

Letter from Mr. H. R. Dix, dated Barton-upon-Humber, 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 83.

Basford Rural District (*Nottingham and Derby*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 443.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Basingstoke (*Hants*). Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 210——Absence of exceptional distress in Basingstoke Rural District in February, *ib.* 317.

Bath (*Somerset*). Letter from Bath Union on 31st January to the effect that there was no exceptional distress at that date, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Particulars supplied by the town clerk, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of distress in the county borough from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 58, 59.

Absence of exceptional distress in Bath Rural District in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 428.

Bathgate (*Linlithgow*). Statement as to there being no exceptional distress in this parish, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 742.

Batley (*York*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 258, 259.

BATTERSEA:

Report from relieving officers in Battersea as to the number of applications for relief and the distress through want of employment in the building and other trades, though not followed by applications for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 136, 137.

As surveyor to the parish of St. Mary, Battersea, witness submits explanations in detail respecting the distress in the parish from want of employment in different industries, the measures adopted by the vestry, and the expenditure incurred in relieving the distress, *Pilditch* 5020 *et seq.*

Expenditure of between 600*l.* and 700*l.* in the winter of 1890, and again in 1891, in clearing the roads from snow; less severe weather in 1892, when the expenditure was under 300*l.*; *Pilditch* 5022–5024——Various kinds of employment provided in the winter of 1892-93, the total cost having been between 6,000*l.* and 7,000*l.*; large number of men employed, *ib.* 5024, 5025——Very severe weather in 1893-94, a vast amount of work having been provided in the winter months entailing an expenditure of nearly 14,000*l.*; *ib.* 5024–5030.

Practice in the parish to arrange in advance for works to be done late in the year or during the winter, *Pilditch* 5029, 5031, 5032. 5039, 5040——Expenditure of nearly 5,500*l.* up to the present time (26th March) upon works carried on during the past winter; provision of 10,000*l.* or 12,000*l.* for works in the next winter, *ib.* 5029–5033. 5046-5054.

Direct employment given by the vestry, instead of resorting to contract labour, overtime being abolished, so as to employ the greatest possible number of men, *Pilditch* 5041–5045——Large expenditure since 1890 in local improvements and works of various kinds, witness submitting that much benefit is conferred upon genuine unemployed men (apart from "loafers"), that the works are efficiently carried out, and that many men are enabled to tide through the severe weather who would otherwise apply for poor relief, *ib.* 5046 *et seq.*

Better character of men obtainable for the works in winter than in summer; these men not caring to work with the "loafer" class, *Pilditch* 5057–5060. 5066 5071. 5081–5086. 5154——Better work obtained from the men by the vestry than is obtained from those who work under the poor law, *ib.* 5074–5086.

Denial that it is a disadvantage that men should look forward for work known to be provided for them in the winter, though it is necessary to take precautions against abuse and to restrict employment to those residing in Battersea, *Pilditch* 5090 *et seq.* ——Limited extent to which employment can be provided for all who apply for it; less pressure if other parishes made equal provision, *ib.* 5103–5110. 5134-5137. 5138-5154——Low rates in Battersea, the system of work for the unemployed not increasing them, *ib.* 5120–5126.

Large employment of male workers as compared with females, *Pilditch* 5127 5130 ——Minority of the vestry opposed to the system in question, *ib.* 5131–5133—— Difficulty in providing extensive work year by year, whilst the creation of work is studiously avoided, *ib.* 5138. 5150.

Official communication as to the amount of distress in the parish; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 201.

Battle (*Sussex*). Absence of exceptional distress in the Battle Urban District, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 84——Similar statement as regards the rural district in February, *ib.* 289.

Beckenham (*Kent*). Particulars supplied by Mr. F. Stevens, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 149.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Bedford. Statement showing the action taken or proposed to be taken as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Letter respecting the extent of the local distress in the municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 65 ——Limited extent of distress in the rural district in February; voluntary agencies at work, *ib.* 317.

Beet-root. Conclusion that beet-root may be grown in this country, and its saccharine properties developed as successfully as abroad, *Mather* 9125, 9126.

Belgium. Visit of witness to the Belgian labour colonies in 1880, his report having been based upon a short inspection, and upon information supplied by the director, *Willink* 8796, 8797——Total of three of these colonies, which are in the nature of penal institutions for able-bodied vagabonds above the age of fourteen, and for some other vagrants or mendicants, the several communes paying so much per head per day, as fixed yearly by Government, *ib.* 8798–8811.

Admission of some inmates who come voluntarily, whilst the same vagrants are sent there again and again, *Willink* 8806. 8812. 8116——Extremely good discipline enforced, the inmates working much better than in the Dutch beggar colonies, *ib.* 8814–8816.

Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain industries in the several years, 1880–92; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 509.

Details supplied by Mr. Moore respecting the penal and voluntary farm colonies in Belgium, *App.* 529, 530.

Bell, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is Lord Provost of Glasgow, submits a written statement respecting relief works in the City, and the steps taken generally for dealing with distress, 7811–7815.

About seven periods of distress in Glasgow since 1848, there having been no undue distress this year from want of employment till the exceptionally severe weather set in, 7815–7817. 7835–7838——Institution, about the end of January, of relief works under the Corporation, with a labour test; expenditure of 4,854*l.* the men being paid 1*s.* a day, with three meals, the material resulting from their labour representing only 1,894*l.*; 7818–7828. 7833, 7834. 8010–8015——Receipt from the citizens of about 11,000*l.* in money and food; liberal expenditure in the distribution of soup and bread, about 5,000*l.* of this fund being still in hand, 7818, 7819. 7831, 7832. 7845. 7849. 7921. 8022.

Discontinuance of the labour test, with a daily wage, on the 2nd March, piecework having been substituted (with two meals a day), by which a man could earn 7*s.* in three or four days with ordinary diligence; great reduction thereupon in the number of applicants for work, 7822. 7828. 7839–7844——Very little distress among skilled artisans or in the building and other trades, apart from the actual labourers, 7835–7838. 7874–7876. 7973–7976——Agitation among the men against piecework, followed by a strike of very short duration, 7840.

Various kinds of work stopped by the severe frost; great increase also in the death-rate, 7845. 8023–8025——Very successful utilisation of the police in connection with the distribution of the excessively liberal benefactions of the citizens; several other checks before distribution, 7845–7849. 7922. 7927–7934. 8016–8022——Belief as to the very limited extent to which the distribution of relief had any injurious or degrading effect upon the recipients, 7850, 7851.

Statement as to there having been no room for the employment of those in distress in street-cleaning or other municipal work, 7852, 7853——Information respecting two farms held by the Corporation, the city refuse being disposed of thereon, and the larger farm being made productive and greatly increased in value; permanent employment of only thirty-two men on the two farms, 7854–7864. 7871. 7991–8009. 8072——Explanation as to the Clyde Trustees depositing the river dredging in the sea instead of reclaiming riverside land with it; undue cost in the latter case, 7865–7871.

Grounds for strongly objecting to a system of farm colonies as a means of employment in times of distress; main objection that very little employment could be usefully provided thereby, 7872–7876. 7882. 7958–7962—— Frequent instances of bricklayers going to America where they earn very high wages, and returning to Glasgow in the winter time, 7875. 7935–7937——Contention that neither the Government nor the local authorities should be responsible for the provision of work for the maintenance of persons out of employment, 7877–7891.

Several very acute periods of distress in Glasgow, the action of the municipal authorities combined with the liberality of the citizens having sufficed to meet the pressure; difficulty probably in small towns, 7877–7879. 7882. 7952, 7953. 7973–7990 ——Doubt as to any better return from other modes of employment than from stone-breaking, 7885–7887.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Bell, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Great facility given, on the score of humanity, to applications for relief during the exceptional frost, though, as a rule, certain tests are doubtless necessary, such as piecework, 7896–7906——Savings in the masons' trade and other trades in Glasgow against times of distress, the applicants for work being mainly from the class of labourers, 7907–7920.

Reference to the Citizens' Relief Fund as not having entailed any charge upon the rates, 7921, 7922. 7966, 7967——Objection to payment at the trades union rate of wages, save by piecework, 7923–7926——Very few agricultural labourers who availed themselves of the relief works, 7938–7940.

Large expenditure of the Corporation in buildings and public works; decided objection to employment upon these being postponed till the winter in the interests of the unemployed, 7940–7947——Reiteration of the view that in no instance should State aid be given to the unemployed, either directly or by means of works; unanimous opinion of the members of the Glasgow Corporation to the same effect, 7948–7958. 7977–7982. 8028.

Information respecting the Common Good Fund of Glasgow, which is administered by the Corporation, the income being 40,000*l.* a year, and the capital being zealously preserved, 7964–7972. 8026, 8027——Explanation that in contending that local or municipal authorities, as at Glasgow, should not be responsible for finding work for the unemployed witness does not refer to the Poor Law authorities and is not well conversant with their powers in the matter, 7977–7990. 8052, 8053. 8065, 8066.

Examination as to the responsibility assumed by the Corporation in authorising expenditure on relief works or stoneyards, irrespectively of any claim upon the rates for recouping the cost, 8029–8053——Non-objection to a small rate being levied in small towns for the relief of exceptional distress, where no other funds are available, 8053–8057.

Important effect of the exceptionally severe weather upon the death rate, irrespectively of insufficiency of food through dearth of employment, 8058–8064——Limited disadvantage of the men less capable physically, under the piecework system, inasmuch as they received meals so long as they were employed, 8067–8071.

Bell, James (*Lord Provost of Glasgow*). Information in detail in Paper submitted by Mr. Bell respecting distress in Glasgow and its relief; full elucidation of the views of Mr. Bell upon the general question of relief works, or public works, for the unemployed, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 514–521.

Benn, John Williams (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Proposition that practical effect be given to certain clauses in Circulars of the Local Government Board since 1886 as the best mode of dealing with exceptional distress in the Metropolis through want of employment; reference especially to the Circular of 1892 and to the suggestions therein as regards special works for the unemployed, 3081, 3082.

Inability of many parishes to adopt the recommendations in the Circular of 1892 by reason of their poverty and high rates, some districts, as in the East-end, becoming gradually poorer whilst others seem to be getting richer, 3082–3106——Illustrations purporting to show that in spite of the Equalisation of Rates Act the poorer parishes are still unfairly burdened, 3083–3105. 3196–3209.

Contrast between the total rates in the parishes of Bow and St. James's, Westminster, before and since the Equalisation of Rates Act, the rating in the former still being the highest in London, and in the latter the lowest, 3089–3093——Explanation in connection with the rates in St. Olave's, these having advanced from 5*s.* 10*d.* to 6*s.* 4*d.* since the equalisation, 3094–3099. 3105——Reduced rates in Islington since the equalisation, this parish being very very efficiently managed, 3100–3104.

Evidence in explanation and support of the conclusion that the unemployed difficulty in London might be largely met if the Common Poor Fund were available, through the guardians, in aid of works to be instituted by the local authorities in times of exceptional distress, 3106 *et seq.*

Very unsatisfactory attitude of the local authorities towards the Circular of 1892; 3106——Importance of co-operation between the guardians and local authorities and between different parishes in the provision of works, 3106. 3239. 3266–3269——Suggestion as to districts going in some instances outside their own area in order to provide the required works, 3106. 3266-3269.

Summary of conditions which might be enforced, to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board, before any district obtains special aid; contemplated aid per head when there is a certain per-centage of unemployed, 3106. 3157–3179. 3265——Information as to the constitution and working of the Common Poor Fund, the several services thrown upon the fund, and the expenditure under different heads of service, 3108–3110. 3130-3138. 3143–3146——Belief that in most cases the parishes could provide sufficient work

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Benn, John Williams (Member of the Committee.) (Analysis of his Evidence)—*contd.*

work in street-cleaning, &c., without going outside their own area, 3110——Concurrence in the suggestion of Mr. John Burns that the stoneyard should be placed under the local authority, 3110.

Statement showing that outside the Metropolis, but within the County of London, there are large areas of land, as at Plumstead, Hackney, Wandsworth, Poplar, and elsewhere, suitable for cultivation or reclamation, upon which men out of work could be usefully, if not profitably, employed in time of distress, 3110-3125. 3266–3277—— Extensive employment to be provided under some well-considered scheme for the reclamation of Thames foreshore, 3110. 3275–3277.

Explanations respecting the experiment carried on by Mr. McDougall upon some land in the Isle of Dogs, the street sweepings of London having been utilised with excellent results, 3110. 3117–3120. 3126–3129. 3147–3153——Special reference to the Abbey Mills scheme as a precedent to be considered in connection with work for the unemployed, 3110-3112. 3165.

Large expenditure charged upon the Common Poor Fund in respect of indoor relief; belief that much of this would be saved if there were an appropriation from the fund for relief works when there is exceptional depression, and that a very small increase in the amount per head levied for the fund would suffice, 3132–3138. 3252-3263—— Great credit due to the Poplar district for the practical steps taken in order to deal with the unemployed difficulty; liberal action of Mr. Hills in the matter, 3138.

Difficulties in the poorer parishes undertaking the necessary street cleaning and other required works unless they be aided from the Common Fund, 3139, 3140. 3155—— Suggestion that there be some official supervision in order to secure that the action in the various districts as regards expenditure from the Common Poor Fund is uniform, 3141, 3142——Conclusion as to the necessity of certain tests or conditions, and of inquiries being applied to all applicants for work provided by the local authorities with aid from the Common Poor Fund; opinion that men on strike should not be entitled to such work, 3142. 3157–3164. 3168–3172. 3179. 3239. 3246, 3247.

Expediency of the money required being taken from the Common Poor Fund rather than from Imperial sources, 3154–3156. 3220——Opinion that the current rate of wages for the work should be paid, rather than a reduced rate; limitations to be applied, however, as to the number of days' work to be given weekly, and the number of hours per day, 3165–3176. 3210, 3211. 3264——Great improbability of any such failure of the scheme of work advocated by witness as in the case of the Paris scheme, 3179–3187.

Insufficiency of the funds received by localities under the Equalisation of Rates Acts as a means of providing the required works in the poorer districts, 3192–3195 ——Sufficiency of the present Poor Law machinery for dealing with "loafers" and others who refuse to go upon relief works, 3209*. 3248–3251——Objection to some voluntary contribution from the locality being a condition of aid from the Common Poor Fund, 3212–3214.

Opinion that the scheme advocated by witness should rest upon the assumption that London, as a county, is responsible for dealing with the difficulty in question, and should be fully empowered to do so, without resort to State aid; facility in putting the scheme in operation, 3214–3227. 3239–3245——Explanation that witness is not prepared to offer suggestions as to any scheme for the entire country, though he would favour the principle of a county contribution, 3216–3220. 3240–3245.

Grounds for justifying resort to a Poor Law fund for the money required in poor districts for relief works which cannot be regarded as ordinary improvement works; expediency of the Common Poor Fund being availed of rather than the fund provided by the Equalisation of Rates Act, 3228–3238. 3252–3263.

Benwell and Fenham (Northumberland). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in this urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 269.

Bequests (Unemployed). Opinion that property left for the employment of the unemployed should not be transferred to education; two instances in which property has been so transferred, the probability being that there are several others, *Dodd* 7489–7503. 7742-7749.——*See* also *Charity Commission.*

Berkshire. Information supplied in Report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 30, 31.

Bermondsey. Particulars supplied by the vestry clerk, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 120.——*See* also *Saint Olave's Union.*

Reports, 1895 – *continued.*

Bethnal Green. Explanation of the delay on the part of the Bethnal Green Board in supplying information in response to the circular of 24th January, *Sir H. Owen* 72–74.

Letter respecting the amount of distress in this parish; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 201–203.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884-85 to 1893–94 the number of indoor and outdoor paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and outdoor relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Beverley (*York*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 112.

Bexley (*Kent*). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in this urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 269.

Bicester (*Oxford*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 372.

Bideford (*Devon*). Statement explaining that there is no exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 353.

Biggleswade Rural District (*Bedford*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 429.

Billericay Rural District (*Essex*). Special measures of relief not necessary in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 467.

Billesdon (*Leicester*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 289.

Bilston (*Stafford*). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in this urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 269.

Bingley (*York*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district in February; measures of relief adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 269.

Birkenhead. Official explanations in February as to the extent of the distress in the county borough, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 205.

Birmingham. Letter received from Birmingham on 29th January to the effect that the applications for relief up to that date were about the same as usual, *Sir H. Owen*, 12.

Letter from the mayor, dated 25th February 1895, submitting particulars as supplied by the various relief organizations in the city respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the different measures taken for relieving the same, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 306–309.

Bishops Auckland (*Durham*). Distress in this district through the severe weather; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 360.

Blaby Rural District (*Leicester*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 353, 354.

Blackburn. Letter from Blackburn, on 11th February, to the effect that there was a great increase of poverty and destitution as compared with several recent years, and that, should the severe weather continue, exceptional measures would probably be necessary, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Information supplied in Report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 37.

Particulars supplied by the town clerk, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress in the county borough from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 59.

Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 289.

Blackpool (*Lancaster*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 259.

Blackwell (*Derby*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 429.

Blaenavon. Amount of distress in this district previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 439.

Blandford (*Dorset*). Exceptionally great distress in the town of Blandford in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 241.

Blantyre,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Blantyre (*Lanark*). Absence of exceptional distress in this parish, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 732.

Blast Furnaces. Statement showing in the case of the blast furnace men the injurious effect upon employment through the strike in the coal trade from July to November 1893; *Smith* 4621–4630.

Blean (*Kent*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 372.

Boards of Guardians:

Belief that boards of guardians already have sufficient powers for giving adequate relief in times of distress, *Sir H. Owen* 298, 299——Duty of the guardians to give relief to any destitute person in the parish, *ib.* 340-343.

Further statement as to the ample powers of boards of guardians, and as to their responsibility, for the relief of destitution when application is made, *Sir H. Owen* 373-375. 384, 385. 388. 397. 421——Grounds for objecting to the guardians taking the initiative and seeking out destitution (as by means of a house-to-house visitation) in order to relieve it without application being made; expected denial by many destitute persons that they needed relief, *ib.* 385–387——Expediency of its still resting with the guardians to decide as to the mode of relief of destitution, *ib.* 548.

Conclusion further expressed that the present powers of the guardians and the regulations in force if exercised promptly and efficiently, are sufficient to meet any exceptional distress now existing, *Sir H. Owen* 656, 657.

Experience of witness that the various boards of guardians do voluntarily co-operate with the charitable organisations of their districts in regard to administering relief to the unemployed, *Mackay* 5498–5515.

Absence of necessity for giving boards of guardians any extension of power for dealing with distress, their present powers being sufficient to deal with positive destitution, *Martineau* 6857–6859. 6928.

Submission by witness of a copy of a Circular which he printed and issued to boards of guardians in rural districts, calling attention to the many ways in which they could provide for the unemployed, *Dodd* 7571–7573——Recommendation that boards of guardians should be allowed to provide useful employment for the unemployed where they think fit and to take land for that purpose, if necessary; power of the guardians to take land under the existing law, subject to the rules of the Local Government Board, *ib.* 7678 *et seq.*; 7728–7741. 7750 *et seq.*

Copy of petition (handed in by Mr. Dodd) to the President of the Local Government Board requesting the Board to issue rules and regulations enabling boards of guardians to hire land for the employment of the unemployed, and to let land for allotments to labourers, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 534.

Paper submitted by Sir Hugh Owen explanatory in detail of the powers and duties of guardians and of their officers as to relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 557-562——Explanations in connection with the several provisions under different Acts as regards the employment of the poor by boards of guardians for wages, *ib.* 561.

Reference by the Committee to the apparent uncertainty among some guardians as to the exact nature of their powers in relation to the relief of distress, *3rd Rep.* iv——Attention called to the statement received from the Local Government Board setting forth in full the powers of boards of guardians for different purposes, *ib.*——Existence of statutory powers under which boards of guardians might set poor persons to work at wages, though such powers cannot be used until rules are made by the Local Government Board, *ib.*

Recommendation by the Committee that the Local Government Board should consider the application of such powers and make rules for the use of boards of guardians in relation thereto, *3rd Rep.* iv.

See also *Farm and Labour Colonies. Labour Test. Land, &c. Local Government Board. Out-door Relief. Pauperism. Poor Law System. Tramps and Vagrants. Workhouses.*

Board of Trade. See *Labour Department.*

Bolton (*Lancaster*). Particulars supplied by Mr. W. Nicholson, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of distress in Bolton County Borough from want of employment; the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 126——Exceptional distress in the rural district in February through the severity of the weather; relief given by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 241.

Bonhill (*Dumbarton*). Statement as to the amount of distress in this parish and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 663.

Bonsall (*Derby*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 150.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Boot and Shoe Trade. Reference to the boot and shoe trade as affording good employment in January and February, though in some districts short time is still worked, as the bespoke trade is slack, *Smith* 4676——Increased fluctuation since the introduction of machinery in the number of people employed in the trade, *ib.* 4732.

Booth, Bramwell. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness attends on behalf of the Salvation Army, in which he holds the position of chief of the staff, 9819, 9820.

Evidence to the effect that until 1890 the Salvation Army had been conducting a strictly religious work amongst the poor of this and other countries, but that in that year General Booth published a book explaining his special plan for the relief of the unemployed, 9821, 9822. 9829 *et seq.*——Division of the unemployed, roughly, into three classes, the first comprising the efficient workers of good character who were occasionally thrown out of employment from various causes; the second consisting of those who were sinking down and were getting into a state bordering on destitution; and the third, made up chiefly of the homeless, the idle, the vicious, and the criminal, 9823, 9824. 9935 *et seq.*; 10020 *et seq.*

Conclusion of General Booth that there are only three methods of remedying the evils arising from want of employment, namely, to make more work, to more equally distribute existing work, or to reduce the number of workers by removing some of them to some other part of the world, the last being the most promising plan, 9824 *et seq.*; 10022–10043.

Plan of the General to establish large numbers of the unemployed upon suitable land in the colonies in a manner which would ensure their being happy and thriving colonists; this plan has not yet been carried out owing, principally, to want of money, 9828 *et seq.*; 9967–9971. 10128–10142.

Information respecting the city colony operations of the Salvation Army, which were instituted in order to give immediate help to the workless man; schedule of the various shelters for homeless men and women, handed in, 9832 *et seq.*——Advantage of the shelters in affording an opportunity of coming into contact with and advising the individual sufferers, and of classifying them, 9836——Employment of between 1,300 and 1,400 men and women in the city colony, the majority of them being engaged in dealing with the waste material that is collected from house to house, 9836, 9837.

Particulars as to the time the men stay in the labour factories; 20 per cent. remaining for less than a month, half of whom are thoroughly idle, worthless fellows, who will not work, and 11 per cent. working their way up until they become gangers over the other men, 9839.

Payment of the men in the labour factories by means of tickets, having a money value according to the amount of work done; signature by the men entering the labour colony of a copy of the regulations, which are similar to those for the farm colony, 9840, 9841——Success of the homes for fallen women instituted in connection with the city colony, about 1,500 women being received annually, 75 per cent. of whom are permanently and satisfactorily reclaimed, 9841.

Encouraging results of the special methods of dealing with purely criminal men, who are treated separately, but on much the same principles as ordinary workless men; belief that 86 per cent. of them are earning an honest living two years after leaving the home for criminals, 9841 *et seq.*——Statement that money grants, instead of food, are made to married men who come to the city colony, and that the amount given them is just sufficient to keep them from the workhouse and despair, 9842, 9843.

Estimate that about 8 per cent. of the men received into the criminal home last year belonged to the professional classes, 30 per cent. to the commercial classes, 30 per cent. were skilled mechanics, and 32 per cent. unskilled workers, 9844——Average stay of the criminals in the home about six months or a little more; practice of the Salvation Army to find these men situations, telling their history to the employers, and to keep touch with them, 9845, 9846.

Evidence to the effect that after a man has been trained and disciplined a little in the city colony he is transferred to the farm colony, to be fitted for transplantation across the sea, 9847 *et seq.*——Information respecting the Salvation Army farm colony at Hadleigh, which is, first, a farm colony, and, secondly, an industrial colony; consisting of about 1,800 acres of land with about 1,000 acres of water; statement that about 1,270 acres are actually in occupation, and that the "saltings" are reclaimable, 9847 *et seq.*; 9944 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that, in addition to the ordinary farming operations, dairying, and market gardening, several industries are carried on in the colony, the men being taught to make boots and shoes, &c.; erection of buildings by the army both inside and outside the colony, 9853, 9854. 10011–10019——Number of men in the Hadleigh colony, 298, of whom 242 are colonists, the remainder being paid employés, officials, &c.;

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Booth, Bramwell. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

&c.; estimate that about 60 per cent. of the men were unskilled workers, 30 per cent. mechanics, and 10 per cent. from the educated professional and commercial classes, 9854–9858. 9957 *et seq.*; 9981–9990. 10061–10066.

Present distribution of the men in the colony as follows: 235 engaged in agriculture, fifty-two in industries, including making bricks and building, and eleven in managing the colony, a few of the colonists and officers being married, 9858——Arrangement made by the army with two London boards of guardians to receive 110 paupers at 5*s.* per week per man, the workhouses being too full; total incapacity for work of 22 per cent. of these paupers, 74 per cent. of the remainder working satisfactorily on the farm, 9858–9862. 9959–9961. 9991 *et seq.*

Statement that 41 per cent. of the paupers are still with the army, and give reasonable promise of becoming decent working men again, and that 16 per cent. have obtained situations outside; refusal of 21 per cent. to work, never having done any work and never intending to do any, 9862. 10001–10004——Recommendation that incorrigible idlers and loafers should be legislated for immediately, and that they should be transferred to a settlement where they would either have to work or starve; no serious difficulty in deciding whether a man is a worthless loafer or not, 9862. 9927, 9928. 10044–10060.

General conduct of the men received into the Hadleigh colony satisfactory, 80 per cent. of them being willing to work; explanation that the colony is open to all three classes of the unemployed as described by witness, and that the men are rapidly improving, 9862–9866. 10005, 10006——Conclusion, after careful investigation, that only 34 per cent. of the men in the colony were brought to poverty through drunkenness, the cause more often being misfortune, bad health, accidents, &c., 9866. 10020 *et seq.*

Probability that operations over the sea will be commenced before the end of the year, negotiations being now in progress with one of the Colonial Governments in regard to the acquisition of a site for the oversea colony, 9866——Claim that General Booth's scheme has already done a great deal of good, but that when the oversea colony is in working order the supreme object of the whole enterprise will be attained, and the workless man will have been removed from where there is no work to a place where he can support himself; advantages of the scheme, 9866.

Explanation that the scheme deals with families as well as individuals, no solution of the unemployed question being thought worth considering unless it ultimately proposes to transfer the man who has a family, 9866, 9867——Opinion that there is a reasonable chance of recouping the money spent on the men beyond the sea under the scheme, and a great part of what is spent on them this side, but not the money spent in transferring them, 9868.

Suggestion that municipal authorities, boards of guardians, and other local authorities, should be empowered to pay the cost of shipping prospective paupers across the sea; non-objection to reasonable conditions being imposed, nor to the amount being limited to 10*l.* for a family, 9868–9874. 9922–9926. 9972–9980. 10007–10010. 10024 *et seq.*——No doubt that some attempts at colonisation have been failures, while some, on a comprehensive scale, have been conspicuous successes, 9873–9877.

Principle on which the city colony was founded, that the main cost of the undertaking must be provided by the persons benefited, and any margin supplied by the public must be such as can be regarded as a reasonable economic investment, this being the very opposite of the poor law system, 9877. 9939–9941——Financial statement in regard to the city colony, the expenditure last year amounting to 73,000*l.*, and the receipts, either in labour or money, to 70,000*l.*, so that all that was required from a benevolent public for sheltering and receiving thousands of persons in the labour factories, &c., was only 3,000*l.*, 9877–9811. 10083 *et seq.*

Experience of witness that the sheltering and feeding of the unemployed pays for itself virtually, but that the temporary employment of men and women results in a loss; attention drawn to the fact, however, that a large proportion of the persons temporarily employed are thereby restored to work and livelihood, 9810. 10083 *et seq.*——Details of the expenditure upon the farm colony, the total in the last balance sheet amounting to about 94,000*l.*, of which 39,000*l.* was for the land; property to the value of about 13,000*l.* now in possession of tenants will ultimately come into use for the farm colony, 9880–9882.

Payment of the men on the farm colony by ticket, as in the case of the city colony, the total average cost of a colonist all round being about 11*s.* per week, and the average time the men stay on the colony about one year and two weeks, 9882, 9883. 10067 *et seq.*——Dismissal of about 10 per cent. of the men received on the farm for incorrigible idleness and drunkenness, the practice being to discharge a man on his getting drunk the third time, 9883–9891.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Booth, Bramwell. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Assertion, with reference to the statement that the Hadleigh colony was a financial success so long as the work on it was confined to land cultivation and reclamation, that the loss in the industrial section was almost entirely on the brickfields, which no doubt will pay also when proper kilns are provided, 9892–9895——Belief that the total loss on the farm colony since its commencement is about 10,000*l.*, or a little more ; explanation that as credit was not taken for improvements the charge for rent was not included, one being set against the other, 9896, 9897. 10072–10082.

Great improvement of the Hadleigh estate since it was taken over by General Booth, the land planted with fruit being fully worth 100*l.* per acre ; original cost of the whole estate, taking land and water together, about 13*l.* 5*s.* per acre on the average, 9897–9910. 9942 *et seq.*——Grounds for the opinion that the Hadleigh scheme is based upon sound principles, the chief being that it enables the men on it to earn sufficient to support themselves, and also benefits the working classes by relieving the overcrowded market, 9911.

Denial of the accusation that there has been any underselling in the wood-chopping and match-making business of the city colony ; explanation that the match-making business was simply taken up to benefit the match-box makers, who are generally women and children, and has not been very successful, financially, 9911–9913. 10110–10127——Assertion generally that there has been no underselling on the farm colony, but only ordinary competition ; contention that the colony has not displaced any growers around Southend, 9913–9922.

Booth, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is editor of a work called "Life and Labour of the People;" has devoted much time and labour to the question of the condition of the working classes, 10518. 10624, 10625. 10639–10642.

Detailed statement respecting six different causes which may give rise to lack of employment, 10519. 10532, 10710–10712 ——Belief that by very careful use of statistics it may be possible to ascertain the times at which the necessitous unemployed are more than usually numerous ; suggestion that the best test would be the total volume of trade, 10520. 10555–10561. 10643–10649. 10717–10719——Reference to the excellent work in connection with the above done by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, 10520, 10521.

Opinion that improved organisation of the management of industries will produce greater regularity of employment, although it will tend immediately against the employed ; instances quoted in the building trade and in the dockyards, 10522–10531. 10606-10611——Explanation as to the effect of strikes on the community, 10532. 10612–10614. 10695——Tendency of changes in industrial processes to throw men out of employment, 10532. 10615, 10616. 10650, 10651.

Belief that the continuance of depression is mainly due to lack of enterprise ; possibility that a large public undertaking, such as light railways, might encourage private enterprise, 10533–10539. 10687–10691——Opinion that enterprise depends greatly upon Governmental action, 10534. 107103-10716——Suggestion that a general extension of municipal enterprise might relieve future distress, 10539. 10582–10589. 10724——Three additional suggestions made by witness for the relief of future distress, 10542. 10782-10785.

Objection of witness to attempt to manufacture work for the present temporarily unemployed ; belief that the only sure cure is prudence, 10542. 10602–10605. 10619, 10620. 10631–10638. 10720–10723. 10777–10781——Detailed explanation of a suggestion made by witness in regard to the relief of future distress, viz., the public organisation of incompetent labour by means of the establishment of industrial homes for the inefficient unemployed, 10543–10554. 10590–10601. 10658, 10659. 10663-10674.

Attention called to the employment of prisoners on certain industries ; opinion that there is no objection provided they do the work for Government use only, 10549–10554 ——Probability that the larger number of the unemployed have only themselves to thank for their irregular employment, 10562–10573——Information as to the average age at which a good worker fails to get his highest value, 10574–10581.

Desirability of leaving loafers to be dealt with by the Poor Law ; witness has no means of telling the number of people of this class, 10621-10623. 10742–10769—— Information respecting the analysis, covering over 900,000 people, made by witness when preparing "Life and Labour of the People," 10624–10642.

Examination as to the decrease in the rural population owing to the men going to the towns ; grounds for believing that men leave the country to take places in towns generally by direct invitation, 10652–10657. 10698-10709——Question respecting the advisability of establishing industrial homes in the country for the cultivation of land ; belief that the experiment would prove costly, 10660–10662.

Attention of witness called to the great lack of industry in the East End caused by the importation of various goods from foreign countries, 10675–10686——Belief that early

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Booth, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

early marriages in the East End are not the cause of much destitution and poverty, 10692-10694——Discussion as to whether an expenditure of taxation for municipal enterprise will not, by increasing the value of the land, tend to keep the people down, 10724-10741.

Objection of witness to indiscriminate charity for the relief of loafers, 10764–10766——Examination as to the advantages of employments for home wants as compared with those in connection with goods for export, 10770-10776.

Bootle (*County Borough*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 60.

Boston Municipal Borough. Letter from this borough in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 133.

Bothwell (*Lanark*). Absence of exceptional distress in this parish, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 733.

Bourne (*Kesteven*). Exceptional distress in this rural district in February through the severity of the weather; relief given by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 241.

Bournemouth (*Hants*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 259, 260.

Bradfield Union (*Berks*):

Total of thirty parishes in Bradfield Union, the population, about 18,000, being chiefly engaged in agriculture and scattered throughout the union in small villages, *Willink* 8586–8593——Several resident landowners, some of them being large proprietors, *ib.* 8594.

Information respecting the rate of wages, these varying from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week; advantage in labourers (as on Mr. Benyon's property) being provided with cottages at 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, *Willink* 8595-8601. 8605, 8606——Wages of stonemasons and plasterers at the rate of about 36*s.* 8*d.* a week, bricklayers' labourers getting about 18*s.* 6*d.*, *ib.* 8602–8604.

Statistics as to the great decrease of both out-door and in-door relief in Bradfield Union and of the expenditure thereon since 1871, though the population has increased; explanation more especially as to the very limited extent to which, and the conditions under which out-door relief is now given, *Willink* 8607–8664.

Particulars respecting the system of giving relief on loan whether out-door or in-door, this being done with the cognisance of the Local Government Board, and there being legal power to recover the amount from the parties liable if they come into possession of funds, *Willink* 8626–8664.

Information respecting the workhouse infirmary, staff employed, employment on the land, treatment of children, &c., *Willink* 8665-8673——Explanation as to the treatment of tramps and their employment in pounding stones; large diminution in their number since 1890, *ib.* 8674–8691——Absence of exceptional distress in the union during the past winter, whilst the landlords gave as much extra employment as possible, *ib.* 8692–8699.

Further information respecting the system of out-door relief in Bradfield Union, the class of persons relieved, and the varying amount given under different conditions, *Willink* 8888–8895——Constitution of the board adverted to in connection with the policy pursued as regards out-door relief; large majority in favour of the present practice, *ib.* 8896–8899.

Further explanation that in Bradfield Union relief is granted by way of loan, the loans, however, being for the most part unrecovered, *Willink* 8963-8971——Question considered whether the Bradfield guardians are acting in accordance with certain instructions issued by the Central Board to the effect that when relief is lent the loans should in due time be duly recovered, *ib.* 8967–8973.

Table showing the number of tramps (men, women, and children) admitted to the tramp wards during the first week of each month in the years 1883–95; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 522.

Paper (handed in by Mr. Willink) explanatory of the wages paid in agricultural, building, and other branches, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 523.

Bradford (*York*). Letter from Bradford, received on 6th February, to the effect that distress of an acute and exceptional character was prevalent, the amount of relief and of pauperism having largely increased as compared with corresponding periods in previous years; special measures adopted for providing employment, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 37 41-45——Letter from the town clerk in February explanatory of the extent and causes of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *ib.* 341.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Braintree (*Essex*). Exceptional distress in this rural district in February through the severity of the weather; relief given by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 242.

Brampton (*Cumberland*). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 365.

Brechin (*Forfar*). Extent of the distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 699.

Brecknock (*Rural District*). Amount and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd App.*) 290.

Brecon. Extent and nature of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 260.

Brentford (*Middlesex*). Cessation of exceptional distress by 14th March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 401.

Bridge Rural District (*Kent*). Absence of exceptional distress from want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 454.

Bridgnorth (*Salop*). Official explanation in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 211——Very little want of employment in the rural district during the severe weather. *ib.* 429.

Bridgwater (*Somerset*). Exceptional distress in the municipal borough in February; employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 211——Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in the rural district of Bridgwater, *ib.* 429.

Brierley Hill (*Stafford*). Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 151.

Brighouse (*York*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 260.

Brighton. Letter from Brighton on 31st January showing that there was no exceptional amount of distress at that date, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Considerable distress at the end of February; several modes of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 368.

Bristol. Result of the reply to the Local Government Board from Bristol on 28th January, that there has been a considerable increase of non-employment and of relief, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Letter from the Mayor of Bristol in February as to the extent and cause of the exceptional distress in the county borough, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 256.

Brixham, Lower (*Devon*). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in this urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep*) 277.

Brixworth (*Northampton*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd. Rep.*) 290.

Bromley (*Kent*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 335——Normal distress in the district through insufficient employment for unskilled labourers; suggestions by Mr. W. H. Bosanquet on the score of relief and of work, and in favour of an extensive scheme of State-aided emigration, *ib.* 361——Suggestion also by Mr. Bosanquet that the stigma of pauperism be removed in cases of unavoidable unemployment and of resort to relief works, *ib.*

Bromsgrove (*Worcester*). Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 152——Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *ib.* 410——Absence of exceptional distress in North Bromsgrove district in March, *ib.* 446.

Bromyard Rural District (*Hereford*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 430.

Broughton (*Lincoln*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 152.

Brownhills (*Stafford*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 219.

Brussels. Belief as to the labour register at Brussels not having been a success, *Smith* 4700, 4701.

Buckfastleigh (*Devon*). Limited exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 219.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Buckinghamshire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 30, 31.

Building Trade:

Small cyclical fluctuation in the building trade, it being less than the seasonal fluctuation, *Smith* 4587. 4595; *3rd Rep., p.* 52.

Information obtained by witness respecting the building trades by means of circulars sent round to a very large number of employés and representatives of various trade interests, and by interviews with individual employés, *Aves* 10875. 10944–10949.

Composite nature of the building trade group, disturbing influences, such as severe weather, affecting the various sections in a different degree, *Aves* 10876–10880—— Distinction drawn between work on new buildings and work, in the way of repairs and renewals, on existing buildings, employment on the latter being more protected from the weather, and more subject to special social and economic influences, *ib.* 10881–10883. 10950–10954.

Average of 9½*d.* per hour as the union rate of wages for almost every branch of the skilled building trades, the chief exceptions being the masons employed on granite and the plumbers, earning 10½*d.*, the masons employed as fixers, earning 10¼*d.*, and the 8½*d.* rate for painters; the same rates are paid on the whole, in most of the main branches, to non-union men, *Aves* 10884–10888. 10955–10902. 10968. 10972.

Division of the labourers into three main classes, the first including the scaffolders, the hoisters, and the timber men; the second, the house-breakers, who are, to a considerable extent, interchangeable with those in the first class; and the third, consisting of the various labourers attached to the skilled sections, together with the excavators, *Aves* 10889–10891——Evidence to the effect that the labourers in the first and second classes are paid 7*d.* per hour, and those in the third class 6½*d.* per hour; probability that a builder's labourer's wages average about 23*s.* 3*d.* per week for the whole year, *ib.* 10892. 10962–10967.

Statement that the labourers most subject to the influence of the weather are the excavators, who cannot work where the ground is frozen, and those least subject to the effects of the weather are the scaffolders, *Aves* 10893–10895——Opinion that on the whole the excavators are the worst off, their earnings being very uncertain; probability that a man working the greater part of his time as an excavator will be a less valuable man than one working in any other branch, *ib.* 10896, 10897.

No doubt that a very large majority of the labourers in the building trades were born in the country, *Aves* 10898——Belief that a very large proportion of the bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, joiners, and masons were not only born but received their initial training in the country, and came up to a good job in London; tendency of the result of the special inquiries made by Mr. Llewellyn Smith to confirm this belief, *ib.* 10898–10900. 10983–10986.

Statement that the exact number of hours per week worked by the labourers varies with the season, being longer in summer than in winter, but that, according to the agreement of 1892, it averages out for the whole year about forty-eight hours per week, *Aves* 10907–10910—— Irregularity of employment in the building trade, due to the weather, accentuated by the constant shifting of the men from one employer to another, which is very largely due to the contract system, the men often being taken on for the individual job, *ib.* 10911 *et seq.*; 10999 *et seq.*

Common practice of employers who send men to do odd jobs in private houses to have a permanent staff, thus ensuring more continuous work to the men; desirability of this practice being more widely adopted, *Aves* 10917–10920——Conclusion that the introduction of machinery has not displaced any considerable number of workmen in any branch of the skilled building trades; opinion that the introduction of new processes and new materials has had a more important disturbing influence than machinery, *ib.* 10921 *et seq.*——Complaint of the labourers that they are displaced by the hoister in the Scotch steam derrick; view of witness, however, that although a certain number may be displaced the effect of the introduction of machinery is rather to change the character of the labourer's work than to eliminate him, *ib.* 10921 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that men who may be out of work do not easily fall back upon alternative employments, the skilled men keeping, as a rule, exclusively to their own trade; doubt as to there being much for them to fall back upon, except in the case of painters, many of whom are not painters proper, but do all kinds of work during the year, *Aves* 10927–10929——Probability that a certain amount of the cessation of work during inclement weather is not always due to absolute necessity, but rather to the convenience of the employer, *ib.* 10930–10932. 10991–10998.

Possibility of the practice of putting work out to be done at a particular time of year, when the trade is normally slack, being carried out to a much greater extent than it is at present; admission that this plan would, while giving more continuity of

Reports, 1895 – *continued.*

BUILDING TRADE—continued.

work to the skilled men, tend to make the more necessitous cases still harder, *Aves* 10932–10936. 10987 *et seq.*; 11000–11004——Certainly that the building trade has been fairly prosperous in London during the last five years; opinion that no very special case has been made out for any change or particular remedy in that trade, *ib.* 10937–10944. 10973 *et seq.*

Information supplied by local authorities in England and Wales as to the extent and character of the distress in the building and other out-door trades, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*

Chart showing the monthly variations in the percentage of unemployment in the building trade, on the average of the years 1888–94, *3rd Rep., p.* 52.

Lists of places making complaint with special reference to distress in the building and other out-door trades, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 807-815——Complaints from 110 districts as regards distress in the building and out-door trades, *ib.* 820.

Reference to the building trade as the most conspicuous example of distress caused directly by the severity of the weather, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 820.

See also *Battersea. Camberwell. Wandsworth and Clapham Union.*

Builth (*Brecknock*). Exceptional distress in this district in February 1895, due to the severity of the weather; means of relief adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 270.

Burnley. Letter from Burnley, received on 5th February, to the effect that the distress was not of an exceptional character, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Official explanations in February as to the extent of the distress in the county borough, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 205, 206.

Burslem (*Stafford*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February; relief measures applied, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 260.

Burton-upon-Trent. Result of the reply from Burton-upon-Trent, received by the Local Government Board on 15th February, that there had not been any material increase of applications for relief, and that temporary help was being given through voluntary agency, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Explanation in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the relief provided; sufficiency of voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 134.

Bury (*Lancashire*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district; employment provided and relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 126, 127. 354.

Bury St. Edmunds (*Suffolk*). Letter from the Bury Union, on 16th February, to the effect that the distress was not exceptional, and that special arrangements were not likely to be required, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Official communication respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 66.

C.

CAMBERWELL:

Reply received by the Local Government Board from the Camberwell Guardians on 9th February, showing that there has recently been an enormous increase of relief to the able-bodied class, chiefly to those in the building trades, and explaining the action taken in respect of out-door relief and the provision of employment, *Sir H. Owen* 75–89——Excessive increase of relief in Camberwell through the severe weather, *ib.* 226, 227. 235, 236.

Total of 4,342 acres as the area of the parish, the estimated population being 254,503, and the rateable value 1,063,234*l.*; comparatively few large houses, *Tagg* 3280–3286——Total rate of 4*s.* 1*d.* levied by the guardians, the actual poor-rate for 1894–95 being 2*s.* 3*d.*, and the vestry rates 1*s.* 8*d.*, *ib.* 3287–3290. 3543–3545——Absence of any exceptional distress in Camberwell save through the frost, *ib.* 3291, 3292. 3535, 3536.

Expenditure by the vestry of 1,546*l* on relief works between the 31st January, and the 27th February, each man getting about two days' work in the week, and being paid at the rate of 5*d.* per hour for eight hours a day, *Tagg* 3294–3311. 3333–3340——Employment mainly on road sweeping and snow sweeping, *ib.* 3297, 3298——Total of nearly 2,000 men on the register for work, from 200 to 250 having been employed daily; way in which the register was kept and work apportioned, *ib.* 3300–3311. 3325–3327. 3361–3365. 3372, 3373. 3587-3591.

Information respecting the labour exchange started in Camberwell by the vestry in 1892; discontinuance thereof as it was decided to be illegal to expend money upon it out

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

CAMBERWELL—continued.

out of the rates, *Tagg* 3312–3324. 3551–3553. 3585, 3586——Full employment in the gas works and factories in the parish during the winter, the men out of work through the frost being engaged chiefly in the building and sanitary trades ; large proportion of "general labourers," *ib.* 3328–3332. 3387, 3388. 3400–3407. 3430–3438——Communications between the vestry of Camberwell and the guardians during the recent distress, the latter supplying the names of persons specially in need of work, *ib.* 3343. 3345. 3347–3350.

Reference to the suggestions in the circular letter of the Local Government Board as impracticable, so far as Camberwell is concerned, *Tagg* 3350. 3395–3399. 3581–3584 ——Several resolutions passed by Camberwell Vestry asking for increased powers from Government, but without specifying what they should be ; subsequent disapproval of a resolution passed by the conference of the vestry and guardians, *ib.* 3351–3360. 3531–3534.

Probable employment of many outsiders, attracted by the two days' pay weekly ; difficulty in preventing this influx, though certain inquiries were made, *Tagg* 3361–3366. 3522–3530. 3546–3550——Varying amount of work given by the men in return for the pay ; very deserving character of large numbers of those employed, whilst many had undergone much privation and could not do heavy work, *ib.* 3367–3373. 3400–3423——Difficulty in the distribution of charitable relief in Camberwell ; expediency of some test in the matter, *ib.* 3369, 3370. 3601–3605.

Increased out-relief in the parish (mainly in food) during the distress ; probable employment on the relief works of some of those whose families were receiving out-relief, *Tagg* 3374–3386. 3416–3420. 3517–3521——Great difficulty in Camberwell in providing the kinds of work best suited for those out of employment, sweeping the streets and clearing away the snow being the only available work in severe winters, *ib.* 3395–3400. 3430–3438. 3537–3542. 3592–3595——Large numbers out of employment who did not apply for out-relief or for work so long as they had any savings to fall back upon, *ib.* 3401–3407. 3430, 3431——Rate of payment by the vestry on relief work as compared with the ordinary wages of the men when not out of employment, *ib.* 3432–3438. 3452–3457.

Explanation of the grounds upon which Camberwell (as a poor and populous parish) receives a grant of about 5½*d.* in the £. 1 under the Equalisation of Rates Act, whilst Saint Olave's parish has to contribute to the fund under the Act ; population and rateable value taken into consideration in each case, *Tagg* 3458–3477. 3492–3500. 3556–3568——Receipt by Camberwell of about 23,000*l.* under the Equalisation of Rates Act, *ib.* 3493.

Further explanations as to the mode of selection of the men employed on the relief works, those who proved undeserving having been excluded, *Tagg* 3501–3511—— Increase of pauperism and of distress in Camberwell, many of the poorer working classes being attracted by the low rents though not employed in the parish, *ib.* 3512–3516.

Information with further reference to the action of Camberwell Vestry in the distribution of work of different kinds, with special reference to the provision of labour for the unemployed in severe winters, *Tagg* 3606–3613. 3650–3661——Explanation as to the vestry not having taken action in the promotion of a labour colony as a means of providing work for the unemployed, *ib.* 3619–3649.

Particulars supplied by Mr. W. Wallace, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies respectively, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 57.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Camborne (*Cornwall*). Extent of distress in this urban district in February 1895, and means of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 313.

Cambridge. Absence of any material increase in the applications for relief at Cambridge up to 14th February ; employment given by the town council at fair wages by opening a stone-yard, *Sir H. Owen* 12.

Letter from the mayor as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 310.

Cambuslang (*Lanark*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather ; relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 733.

Cambusnethan (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures applied, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 733.

Campbeltown (*Argyll*). Information supplied by the Inspector of Poor as to the extent and character of the local distress, and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 630.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Canning Town. Inadequacy of the Poor Law machinery for coping with the destitution and distress, as in Canning Town; over-crowded state of the workhouse and the stone-yards, *Alden* 2023, 2024——Intimate experience of witness with the Canning Town district for more than four years, during which there has been a surplus population in the labour market of West Ham, *ib.* 2270–2274——Benefit from the increased employment at the Beckton Gas Works in winter, there being then a slackness at the docks, *ib.* 2275–2279.——*See* also *West Ham.*

Cannock (*Stafford*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 291.

Cardiff. Information supplied by the Cardiff Board as to the out-door and in-door relief at different periods; steps taken for opening a labour yard for able-bodied applicants, *Sir H. Owen* 12——Amount and cause of the distress in the district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 460.

Cardross (*Dumbarton*). Statement as to the amount of distress in this parish, and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 663.

Carlisle. Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 211——Temporary character of the exceptional distress in the Carlisle rural district in February, *ib.* 335.

Carmarthen. Absence of exceptional distress in Carmarthen rural district at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 365——Amount of distress in Carmarthen municipal borough previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *ib.* 405.

Carnarvon (*Municipal Borough*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 66.

Carshalton (*Surrey*). Exceptional distress in this urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 271.

Carters (*Scotland*). Illustration in the case of carters throughout Scotland of the great advantage of a reduction in the hours of labour, *Hunter* 8573–8577.

Castleford (*York*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 193.

Information from the locality respecting the extent of the distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 85.

Castle Ward (*Northumberland*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 317.

Casual Paupers. Special importance of permanent measures for the employment of "casuals," from whom the loafing class are largely recruited, *Alden* 2281–2286——Attention drawn to the unsatisfactory and sometimes illegal manner in which casual paupers are relieved, *Dodd* 7594 *et seq.*; 7702–7704——Suggestions as regards casual labourers, who work only a day now and then, being taken in charge by the Poor Law authorities, *Motion* 8207–8210.——*See* also *Tramps and Vagrants.*

Cathcart (*Renfrew*). Absence of exceptional distress in this parish, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 767.

Causes of Distress. See *Amount and Causes of Distress.*

Caxton and Arrington Rural District (*Cambridge and Huntingdon*). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 366.

Census of Unemployed. Suggestion on the part of Wandsworth and Clapham that a census be taken of the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 135——Desire expressed by the Guardians of Lincoln and of several other places that a census of the unemployed throughout the country should speedily be obtained, *ib.* 152. 157.

Reference to the census taken in West Ham as not having led to any action on the part of the District Council; way in which the census was compiled, *Hilleary* 1523–1529. 1576–1581.

See also *Number and Classification of Unemployed.*

Central Relief Fund. Unsatisfactory operation of a central relief fund if only availed of in some localities, *Hilleary* 1948, 1949.

Chadderton (*Lancaster*). Absence of exceptional distress, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 331.

Chapel-en-le-Frith (*Derby*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 184.

Reports, 1895—*continued*.

Chard (*Somerset*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 66. 185.

Charitable Relief (*Charity Organisation Society*):

Very general operation of special relief committees in the centres of industry; large sums subscribed, *Keir-Hardie* 737——More harm than good through a system of indiscriminate alms-giving, whether by doles of money or of food; illustration in West Ham, *Hills* 2568–2570——Great advantage on the other hand of charitable aid properly administered, and with careful safeguards against abuse; reference hereon to the very valuable operation of the Charity Organisation Society, *ib.* 2570–2572.

Efficient means of investigation, on the system of the Charity Organisation Society, as regards the charitable part of the scheme proposed by witness, *Hills* 2573——Importance of a clear distinction between charitable relief (for which nothing is given back) and employment for wages paid, *ib.* 2592. 2615——Concurrence in the view that indiscriminate charity in the East-end of London and in West Ham is very injurious and demoralising, *ib.* 2681–2689.

Main object of the Charity Organisation Society in St. George's-in-the-East to make the people more self-reliant; opinion that although the system may appear to be harsh it ultimately, and perhaps rapidly, lessens the sufferings of the poor, *Mackay* 5436 *et seq.*; 5640 *et seq.*; 5680 *et seq.*; 5727 *et seq.*——Absence of necessity for organising an efficient charity committee in every local area throughout England; decided objection to the proposal to establish an almoner of charitable relief in each district as being unnecessary, and an incentive to pauperising, *ib.* 5466 *et seq.*

Explanation that the Charity Organisation Society helps any person when out of work who can show that he has seriously tried to make some provision for himself in time of sickness, *Mackay* 5560–5573. 5586 *et seq.*; 5766-5768——Success of the society in St. George's due to the fact that every case is personally investigated, *ib.* 5582–5584——Denial of the suggestion that the effect of the system in St. George's is to retain the self-supporting people, and to drive the residuum from the district, *ib.* 5621-5631.

View of witness that the Charity Organisation Society would not be doing its duty if it were not, to a certain extent, unpopular with the working classes of the East-end of London, *Mackay* 5675 *et seq.*——Contention that those applicants who refuse the Society's conditions do not go into the workhouse, but get along somehow on their own resources; statement hereon, that although some of the London workhouses were extremely overcrowded this winter, St. George's Workhouse was not among the number, *ib.* 5681–5698. 5762–5765——Conclusion that the principle and practice of inquiry before relief is the main cause of the lack of appreciation of the Society; kinder feeling towards the Society on the part of the better class of working people, *ib.* 5786-5788.

Strong objections of men in Glasgow to being subjected to the investigations of the Charity Organisation Society, *Hunter* 8316——Objection to indiscriminate charity for the relief of loafers, *C. Booth* 10764-10766.

Information from each locality in England and Wales, in response to inquiry by the Local Government Board, as to the steps taken by charitable or voluntary agencies for relieving the distress, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 20 *et seq.*——Similar information from localities throughout Scotland, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

See also *Church Army. Glasgow. Liverpool. Mansion House Committee. Pontypool. Salvation Army. St. George's-in-the-East. Scotland. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Charity Commission. Inability of the Charity Commissioners, as a general rule, to re-transfer to charitable purposes money that has once been taken for educational purposes, the only case in which a re-transfer can be made being one in which the *cy-près* doctrine is applicable, *Dodd* 7501–7503——Statement that since powers of diversion were given to the Charity Commissioners, property, giving an income of about 20,000*l.* a-year has been diverted from charity to education; contention that money so diverted and not actually used should be restored, *ib.* 7505–7510.

View of witness that no charity lands should be sold, as the provision of allotments would be a relief to the unemployed; large amount of money in the hands of the Charity Commissioners that might be usefully invested in land for allotments, *Dodd* 7511. 7527. 7645–7648——Sanction by the Charity Commissioners of the sale of charity lands to the value of eight millions sterling since 1853 on the grounds of bad management by the trustees and the supposed policy of the law of mortmain; opinion that neither of these grounds is solid, and that further sales should be prevented, *ib.* 7511 *et seq.*; 7628-7633. 7639-7648. 7660–7662.

Partial remedy for mismanagement of land by trustees provided by the Parish Councils Act; fear, however, that the Charity Commissioners may rather minimise this remedy, as they encourage co-optative rather than representative trustees, *Dodd* 7513–7517——Recommendation that the Commissioners should be brought under Parliamentary control, and that more publicity should be given to their proposed schemes; suggestion that all draft schemes should contain on the face of them a short *précis* of the original trusts of the charity, *ib.* 7524-7531.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Charts (*Fluctuation of Employment*). Several charts, submitted by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, explanatory of the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in employment in the several years 1887-94; 3*rd Rep. p.* 52.

Chatham. Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 380, 381.

Chelmsford (*Essex*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 67.

Chelsea. Letter from Chelsea, on 4th February, to the effect that the distress in the district is not of an exceptional character, and that no special arrangements are contemplated by the guardians, *Sir H. Owen* 90.

Information dated 27th February respecting the amount of distress in the parish and the action of the vestry in the matter, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 340——Closing of the Labour Bureau from the 25th March, *ib.* 391.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884-85 to 1893-94 the number of indoor and outdoor paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Cheltenham. Letter from the mayor in February explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 345.

Chertsey (*Surrey*). Local information as to the amount of distress in Chertsey rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 243—— Amount of distress in the urban district in February; relief provided, *ib.* 347.

Chesham (*Bucks*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 86.

Cheshunt (*Hertford*). Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 154.

Chester. Letter from the Town Clerk in February explanatory of the extent and causes of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 341——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 318.

Chesterfield (*Derby*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 134.

Chesterfield (*York*). Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 51, 52.

Chester-le-Street (*Durham*). Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 243.

Chesterton (*Cambridge*). Exceptional distress in this urban district in February due to the severity of the weather; measure of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 271.

Chichester. Letter from the mayor of Chichester, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 67.

Chipping Norton (*Oxford*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 411.

Chipping Sodbury (*Gloucester*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 336.

Chipping Wycombe (*Bucks*). Absence of exceptional distress in March, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 456, 457.

Chorley (*Lancaster*). Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 212.

Chorlton Union (*Lancaster*). Letter from Chorlton Union, on 28th January, to the effect that there had been no material increase of distress, *Sir H. Owen* 19.

Christchurch (*Hants*). Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 243.

Church Army:

Description of the small labour homes established by the Church Army in various necessitous centres, with the object of creating the idea of home-life and domestic happiness; explanation that in these homes charity is reduced to a minimum, *Hunt* 10147, 10148. 10154–10156. 10165. 10174, 10175, 10191, 10192. 10301——Practice

to

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Church Army—continued.

to place before each applicant a real work test, usually the making and bundling of firewood, in order to discover his ability and inclination, *Hunt* 10149–10152——Information as to the regulations enforced in the homes; the men are at work for eight or nine hours daily, *ib.* 10157–10159. 10205, 10206. 10297–10299.

Examination regarding the wages paid; rule to give the men as far as possible the unionist rate of wages, out of which they have to pay 6*s.* per week for board and lodging, *Hunt* 10161, 10162. 10236–10296. 10363, 10364——Practice to provide help for sixteen weeks, after which period twelve months must elapse before another application from the same person can be entertained, *ib.* 10162. 10200–10202. 10309–10311——Means taken to assist men in getting employment, *ib.* 10163–10165.

Explanation as to the evangelistic branch of the work; there is no interference with the particular form of any man's religion, *Hunt* 10166–10168——Statistics respecting the working expenses of the homes; usual practice for the vicar of a parish to pay the rent, rates, and taxes, and the superintending officer's salary, *ib.* 10169, 10170. 10281–10285——Statement that the money received from the Poor Law guardians for the support of the first 1,250 people sent by them worked out at about six-sevenths of a penny per day, *ib.* 10170. 10304–10308. 10391–10394.

Evidence respecting the small lodging homes where a man by a certain payment can obtain a night's lodging, *Hunt* 10171, 10172——Opinion that the very cheap lodgings and free shelters have helped to solidify and settle the army of loafers, *ib,* 10172–10174.

Details as to the success attending the co-operation of the Church Army and the guardians of the poor; letter hereon dated January 1892 from the chairman of the Paddington Board of Guardians, *Hunt* 10176–10180. 10301–10303. 10320–10328——Explanation that all the homes of the Church Army will accommodate 500 men and that 2,000 pass through annually, *ib.* 10193–10198.

Belief that 50 per cent. of the men who have been in the homes obtain a fresh start in life, *Hunt* 10199. 10203, 10204. 10312–10319. 10356–10362. 10383–10386——Examination as to the manner in which the homes assist the employment of the truly necessitous; belief that the homes by receiving the delinquent unemployed increase the value of the labour of the real unemployed, *ib.* 10217–10234. 10340–10345.

Question as to whether the inquiries made respecting applicants by the Church Army resemble in any way those made by the Charity Organisation Society; statement hereon that careful inquiry is made, but that inconsistencies and falsifications do not prove deterrent to applicants receiving assistance, *Hunt* 10377–10382. 10387–10390.

See also *Farm and Labour Colonies, IV.*

Circulars (*Local Government Board* (*England and Wales*) *and Local Government Board for Scotland*). Copies of Circular Letters to local authorities as to the amount and cause of distress in each locality or district, together with the replies thereto, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

City of London. Explanation on the part of the City Commissioners of Sewers respecting the increased employment given during the severe weather up to the 2nd March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 380.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

See also *Metropolis.*

Clapham. See *Wandsworth and Clapham Union.*

Cleator Moor (*Cumberland*). Exceptional distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities for its relief, as well as by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 362.

Clerkenwell. Letter from the chairman of the vestry, dated 25th March 1895, submitting information as to the employment given by the vestry during January, February and March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 436.

Clevedon (*Somerset*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 155.

Clitheroe (*Lancaster*). Extent and character of the distress in the Municipal Borough and in the rural district in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 260, 261. 291.

Clutton (*Somerset*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 354.

Clydebank (*Dumbarton*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 574.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Coal Strikes. Information as to the extremely disastrous effect of the Scotch coal strike of 1894, and of coal strikes generally, not only as regards the colliers themselves, but in throwing out of employment great numbers of workers in the steel and iron trades, *Hunter* 8298–8302. 8400–8404. 8540–8542.

Cockermouth (*Cumberland*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress in the urban district, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 86——Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather in the rural district, *ib.* 411.

Colchester (*Essex*). Amount of distress in Colchester municipal borough previously to 1st March; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 369.

Collieries and Quarries. Explanation as regards coal mines being open for so many days in the week that it is difficult to supply information as to the number of days for which the miners individually were at work, *Smith* 4762–4768. 4907–4916——Great variation in the provision made in different colliery districts as regards unemployed benefit, *ib.* 4810–4813——Statistics and explanations respecting the range of unemployed benefit given by mining unions in Northumberland and Durham in different years, *ib.* 4731.

Effect of mining royalties in interfering with competition with foreign manufacturers of steel and iron and in thus augmenting the unemployed, *Hunter* 8284, 8285. 8474–8481.

Lists of places making complaint with reference to distress through stoppage of collieries, quarries, &c., *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 807–812. 815. 818——Complaints from seven districts in the case of stone quarries and from sixteen districts in the case of collieries, *ib.* 820.

See also *Pontypool.*

Colne Urban District (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 87.

Colonisation (*Scheme of General Booth*). Conclusion of General Booth that there are only three methods for remedying the evils arising from want of employment, namely, to make more work, to more equally distribute existing work, or to reduce the number of workers by removing some of them to some other part of the world, the last being the most promising plan, *B. Booth* 9824 *et seq.*; 10022–10043.

Plan of the General to establish large numbers of the unemployed upon suitable land in the Colonies in a manner which would ensure their being happy and thriving colonists; this plan has not yet been carried out, owing principally to want of money, *B. Booth* 9828 *et seq.*; 9967–9971. 10128–10142——Probability that operations over the sea will be commenced before the end of the year, negotiations being now in progress with one of the Colonial Governments in regard to the acquisition of a site for the over-sea colony, *ib.* 9866.

Claim that General Booth's scheme has already done a great deal of good, but that when the over-sea colony is in working order the supreme object of the whole enterprise will be obtained, and the workless man will have been removed from where there is no work to a place where he can support himself; important advantages of the scheme, *B. Booth* 9866.

Explanation that the scheme deals with families as well as individuals, no solution of the unemployed question being thought worth considering unless it ultimately proposes to transfer the man who has a family, *B. Booth* 9866, 9867——Opinion that there is a reasonable chance of recouping the money spent on the men beyond the sea, under the scheme, and a great part of what is spent on them this side, but not the money spent in transferring them, *ib.* 9868.

Suggestion that municipal authorities, boards of guardians, and other local authorities should be empowered to pay the costs of shipping prospective paupers across the sea; reasonable conditions contemplated, *B. Booth* 9868–9874. 9922–9926. 9972–9980. 10007–10010. 10024 *et seq.*——Admitted failure of some attempts at colonisation, while some on a comprehensive scale have been conspicuous successes, *ib.* 9873–9877.

See also *Mansion House Committee.*

Common Poor Fund (*London*). See *Metropolis.*

Congleton (*Chester*). Amount of distress in the Congleton rural district; steps taken by the local authorities, and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 366——Similar information as regards the municipal borough, *ib.* 457.

Co-operative Farming. Statement to the effect that as co-operative farming in England has not been very successful it has not extended much, *Mackay* 5774–5779——Explanation that the only instance of co-operative farming that witness is aware of was

Co-operative Farming—continued.

was undertaken under very favourable circumstances and was an absolute failure, *Tuckwell* 7049–7057. 7160.

Cornwall. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 28–30.

Coseley Urban District (*Stafford*). Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 155.

Cost of Living. Decrease in the cost of the various necessaries of life in 1894 as compared with 1874, *Cox* 6520, 6521.

Cottages (*Farm Labourers*). Calculation that it is perfectly possible to build a cottage suitable for eight acres for 140*l.*, and the out-buildings for 30*l.*, *Moore* 9705–9713.

Country Districts. See *Agriculture.* *Bradfield Union.* *Farm and Labour Colonies.* *Migration of Labour.* *Provincial Districts.* *Rural Districts.*

County Councils. Summary of the powers of county councils as regards employment on constructive and other works, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 563.——*See* also *Local Authorities.*

Coventry. Instance at Coventry of the transfer of workpeople from one trade to another of an entirely different character, *Smith* 4931–4934.

Letter from the Mayor of Coventry in February 1895 as to the extent and cause of the exceptional distress in the county borough, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 256, 257.

Cowpen Urban District (*Northumberland*). Amount of distress in this district previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 420.

Cox, George H. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is a citizen of Liverpool, taking an interest in philanthropic enterprises; was honorary secretary to a Commission of Inquiry into the causes of want of employment in Liverpool, 6176–6179. 6485, 6486.

Division of the unemployed into two classes by the Commission of Inquiry in Liverpool, namely: Class A., consisting of those steady and capable men and women who would do work if they could get it, and Class B., consisting of those who from one cause or another cannot or will not do work of an average standard in quality and quantity, 6177 *et seq.*; 6277-6279 ——Enumeration of the causes of want of work on the part of Class A., the principal being the general depression in trade and the attraction to Liverpool, from various motives, of a large number of strangers, who often permanently displace the residential workers, 6183–6185. 6254–6258. 6348 *et seq.*; 6448–6451. 6601–6604.

Statement that the most important remedy suggested to the Commission to improve the condition of Class A. was a better organisation of labour in seasonal trades with a view to making it more permanent, 6186 *et seq.*; 6441–6443——Explanation as to the labour clearing-house scheme, recommended in the report of the Commission, under which an association would guarantee continuous employment to a certain number of men at something less than the standard rate of wage, and supply them as required to employers at the standard rate, 6189 *et seq.*; 6247–6253. 6302–6315. 6373 *et seq.*; 6463–6470. 6543 *et seq.*

Preference of some of the employers and men for the existing system, the former because they get the pick of the best men, and the latter, especially the young and active, because it enables them to earn large amounts of money which they can enjoy during slack periods, 6194. 6226 *et seq.*——Sufferings of the elderly and weaker men, many steady and fairly capable porters not earning on an average more than 13 *s.* per week, 6194, 6195. 6427–6436.

Opinion that the actual distress arising from want of employment in the skilled trades is minimised by the out-of-work allowances provided by the trade unions, 6196. 6259, 6260——View of witness that, while trade unions are entitled to demand a fair share of the profits of industry for their members, it is desirable that they should adopt more elastic ways of dealing with capitalists; tendency of their action at present to swell the ranks of the unemployed, 6196 *et seq.*; 6261 *et seq.*

Suggestion that trade unions should enter into contracts with capitalists, selling the labour of their members at so much per week, or allow their individual members to so contract, the agreement to be subject to compulsory arbitration, 6197–6199. 6391–6398. 6518——Approval of boards of conciliation and arbitration for the settlement of trade disputes, 6198, 6199.

Chief causes of want of employment among Class B. are ill-health, intemperance, restlessness, hereditary incapacity, overwhelming misfortune, &c., one of the most powerful factors in the problem being injudicious and indiscriminate charity, 6200,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Cox, George H. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

6201. 6487 *et seq.*; 6522–6525——Recommendation that the vast amount of child-life which is running to waste in Class B. should be dealt with and turned to some useful purpose, the boys being trained as seamen and the girls as domestic servants, 6201–6205. 6280–6283. 6335–6340. 6480–6484. 6627–6634.

Grounds for the opinion that for respectable men and women, who, through natural weakness, are unable to do work of an average quality, but who could do a limited quantity if superintended, a labour farm or colony would give better physical, moral, and financial results than the present Poor Law system, 6206 *et seq.*; 6288–6295. 6399–6426. 6508–6514. 6595 *et seq.*——Desirability of a modification of the trades unions' rules so as to permit the elderly or more weakly members to earn what they could at a lower rate than that for those in full vigour; belief that such a modification would largely mitigate the suffering entailed by want of employment, 6208, 6209. 6307–6315. 6465, 6466. 6526–6532.

Recommendation that the idle, dissolute, and criminal members of Class B. should be left to the sharp remedies of the Poor Law and the criminal law; statement hereon that the Statutes against vagabondage do not appear to be regularly enforced, 6212–6214. 6607–6610. 6616——Advisability of the Government encouraging and directing the better organisation of capital and labour, the settlement of disputes, and the institution of remedies for existing evils; decided objection, however, to the Government granting pecuniary aid in connection with these objects to local authorities, 6215, 6216. 6326–6334. 6444–6447. 6505. 6588–6594.

Approval of the German plan for ascertaining the actual state of the deserving poor, whereby each member of a committee takes charge of a small section of a town, and is made responsible for a thorough knowledge of every person or family in it, 6217, 6218——Enlistment of the services of the police by the public authorities in Liverpool when dealing with the distress during the past winter; sympathy of the Corporation for the unemployed, 6219, 6220. 6584–6587.

Evidence to the effect that a proposal to form a strong permanent committee to deal with distress due to want of employment was debated by the Liverpool Town Council, but that, unfortunately, nothing was done in the matter, 6221–6225. 6284–6287. 6316–6325. 6341, 6342. 6495–6507——High rate of wages paid to unskilled workmen in Liverpool, the result being that the men have to work at high pressure to enable their employers to recoup themselves; displacement of industries due, to a certain extent, to the trades unions requiring such high wages, 6261 *et seq.*; 6296–6301. 6343–6372. 6377 *et seq.*; 6437–6440. 6452–6462. 6571–6583.

Opinion that it is the overtime coming immediately on top of the daytime that uses the dock labourers up so quickly in Liverpool; absence of necessity for the men to work such long hours, 6452–6462. 6515. 6532–6556——Possibility of some scheme being devised by which the agricultural labourer could be prevented from coming into the towns, 6471–6476.

Belief that the Charity Organisation Society or the Central Relief Society has done a great deal of very excellent work in Liverpool, 6477–6479——Considerable success of the Liverpool guardians in their endeavours to move girls to mill districts; great difficulty, however, in inducing the people to go, 6516, 6517.

Decrease in the cost of the various necessaries of life in 1894, as compared with 1874; 6520, 6521——Statement that there is a great deal of favouritism in engaging the men in the docks at Liverpool; general impression among the men that they must give a certain proportion of their wages to the ganger or master-porter who employs them, 6564–6570.

Concurrence in the suggestion that the unemployed exist because wealth is badly distributed and labour is intermittently employed; doubt, however, as to the disappearance of the unemployed problem in Liverpool if the total work were averaged out and regulated, 6615–6623.

Cranbrook Rural District (*Kent*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 114.

Crediton (*Devon*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 366.

Crewe. Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 184–186. 190.

Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 261.

Cricklade and Wootton Bassett (*Wilts*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 291, 292.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Crompton (*Lancaster*). Very little distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 402.

Crown Lands. Desirability of all Crown lands being retained, it being especially objectionable to sell foreshores, *Dodd* 7611, 7612, 7649–7654.

Croydon. Detailed information supplied by Croydon Union as to the applications for relief in the several districts; temporary employment given to able-bodied men in the stone-yard, *Sir H. Owen* 20.

Particulars supplied by the town clerk, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 127.

Explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the rural district and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 318.

Cuckfield (*Sussex*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 458.

Cumberland. Information supplied in reports by inspectors as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 21. 54, 55.

D.

Dairy Farms. Illustration in Essex of the profit derivable from dairy farming, *Mather* 9143. 9294–9301.——*See* also *Agriculture. Farm and Labour Colonies.*

Dalserf (*Lanark*). Absence of exceptional distress in this parish, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 735.

Dalton-in-Furness (*Lancaster*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 220.

Dalziel (*Lanark*). Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 736.

Darlaston (*Stafford*). Exceptional distress in this urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measure of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 272.

Darlington (*Durham*). Letter from Darlington on 16th February, respecting the distress in the union and the employment given in the stone-yards, *Sir H. Owen* 21.

Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; action taken by the authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 406.

Dartford (*Kent*). Extent of the distress in Dartford Urban District in February 1895; steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 313——Explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the rural district and the relief provided, *ib.* 318.

Dartmouth. Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 68.

Darwen (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 68.

Daventry (*Northampton*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 355.

Dawley (*Salop*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 221.

Deal (*Kent*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the steps taken in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 68.

Death Rate. Grounds for the conclusion that there is no connection between the death rate and the administration of out-door relief; absolute worthlessness of starvation cases for statistical purposes, *Mackay* 5791–5794. 5862–5864.

Denbigh (*Municipal Borough*). Extent of the local distress; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 69.

Depwade Rural District (*Norfolk*). Distress due entirely to agricultural depression, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 430.

Derby. Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 183.

Letter from the town clerk, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 60.

Derbyshire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 55, 56.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Devizes (*Wilts*). Exceptional distress in Devizes Municipal Borough; relief through an emergency fund, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 310.

Devonport. Official explanations in February as to the extent of the distress in the county borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 206.

Devonshire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 28–30.

Dewey, William Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is Vestry Clerk of Islington, explains that the parish is the most populous in the United Kingdom, the present population being estimated at 323,853, whilst the rateable value is 1,717,571*l.*; very little vacant space for increase of houses, 3662–3672. 3677, 3678. 3833, 3834. 3847–3849——Total rates of 5*s.* 8½*d.* in the pound, including poor and county rates, and vestry and school board rates, &c., 3673, 3674——Receipt of about 10,000*l.* half-yearly under the Equalisation of Rates Acts on the score of population, 3675, 3676. 3831–3834.

Large proportion of the residents in the parish who are engaged in the building trades and in connection with the tramways; small rateable value of the great bulk of the houses, 3679-3683. 3841-3843. 3850–3857——Particulars respecting the operation of the labour bureau established at the beginning of last year; fair success thereof as regards the employment thereby, whilst there has been no surcharge as regards the expenses, 3684–3693. 3709. 3864–3866.

Belief that during the late winter there has been no abnormal distress or want of employment in Islington, save during the four weeks of frost, 3694. 3717. 3727–3732. 3753–3758. 3792–3798——Employment given to an average number of 904 additional street sweepers daily during ten days in February, the expenditure being about 1,500*l.*, and the rate of pay 4*d.* an hour; discontinuance of employment when there was no longer any snow to sweep, 3695–3721. 3772. 3858–3869——Very moderate increase of out-door relief given during the severe weather, there having been no unusual pressure, 3722–3732. 3753–3758. 3829–3846.

Grounds for the conclusion that the circular of the Local Government Board as to the several modes of employment to be resorted to during severe winters is not only useless but misleading, 3733–3748——Mischievous effect of the circular in inducing persons to believe that the local authorities are almost bound to provide relief works, 3733. 3762, 3763. 3806–3813——Proposition that it is undesirable to create useless work for the sake of employing the unemployed (out of the rates), inasmuch as this would interfere with regular employment; exception as regards street sweeping, 3746–3752. 3762, 3763.

Result of witness' extensive experience that he considers the question of disfranchisement has practically no effect in preventing applications for out-relief, 3759–3761. 3799–3805——Denial that pressure on the part of the Local Government Board was needed in order to stimulate vestries and district boards to do what was feasible in the matter of the unemployed, 3762–3771——Limited extent to which the Vestry of Islington would be likely to postpone till the winter months, when employment is slack, any work which could more profitably and effectually be done in the summer, 3772–3791. 3814–3818. 3826–3828.

Payment of the extra men employed during the frost at a reduced rate, so as not to interfere with employment at the ordinary rate, 3819–3825——Strong deprecation of the vestry being a large employer of casual labour on unnecessary work for the sake of giving relief; injury thereby to the smaller and poorer ratepayers, 3814–3818. 3827–3843.

Dewsbury (*York*). Particulars supplied by the town clerk, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 69.

Disfranchisement (*Poor Relief*). See *Franchise.*

Dissolution of Parliament. Inability of the Committee, owing to the sudden Dissolution of Parliament, to do more than present an incomplete Report on the evidence they have had before them, *3rd Rep.* iii-v.

Distribution of Work. Question well worth investigation whether there might not be more equable distribution of work throughout the year so as to lessen the fluctuation of employment, *Smith* 4755–4759——Conclusion that parishes generally might arrange in advance the work to be executed when there is a pressure for employment, *Pilditch* 5039, 5040.

Concurrence in the suggestion that work done by public bodies should be so distributed that the greatest possible number of men should be employed without overtime, *Martineau* 6941–6946——Feeling of witness that it would be an advantage if public

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Distribution of Work—continued.

public bodies so organised and distributed their actual public work over the whole year as to meet the exigencies of the unemployed, *Dodd* 7786-7788.

See also *Local Authorities.*

Dock Labour (*London*). Particulars respecting the monthly oscillations of dock labour in London due to various causes in 1893 and 1894, and in January and February 1895; increased percentage of employment in November and December of each year through the great wool sales in those months, *Smith* 4608–4621——Chart showing fluctuations in daily number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee in 1893, 1894, and part of 1895, *ib.* 4618, 4619; *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 534.

Illustration in the case of dock labour of the tendency to a reduced employment of the less efficient men, *Smith* 4648–4653——Instance of the more permanent employment of a certain number, whilst the casual men find it very difficult to get any work, *ib.* 4735–4739.

Statement as to the large number of dock labourers in Poplar out of employment, *Lansbury* 10408——Belief that the ordinary wages of a casual docker average about 13*s.* per week taking the year round, while the amount paid by the Mansion House Committee was 22*s.* per week, *Smith* 11282–11289.

See also *Mansion House Committee.* *St. Olave's Union.* *West Ham.*

Dock Strike (*London*). Partial effect of the dockers' strike upon the change made by the dock companies in their system of employment, *Alden* 2529, 2530.

Docking (*Norfolk*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 372.

Dodd, John Theodore. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has been for many years standing counsel to the Allotment Association of Birmingham, and is at present councillor for the West Ward in the city of Oxford; has written several works connected with local government and parish law, 7484-7486.

View of witness that the difficulty arising from want of employment can be met either by drastic changes in the social organisation, or by means of a large number of small reforms and improvements; preference for the latter course, 7487, 7488——Possibility of obtaining many of the reforms recommended without recourse to an Act of Parliament, while others are merely extensions of principles that have already been accepted by the Legislature, 7487.

Opinion that property left for the employment of the unemployed should not be transferred to education; two instances in which property has been so transferred, the probability being that there are several others, 7489-7503. 7742–7749——Inability of the Charity Commissioners as a general rule to re-transfer to charitable purposes money that has once been taken for educational purposes, the only case in which a re-transfer can be made being one in which the *cy-près* doctrine is applicable, 7501-7503.

Desirability of expanding or reinstating the practice of apprenticeship, or some other method of teaching a definite trade; disapproval of property left for apprenticeship being transferred to middle-class or secondary education, 7504, 7505——Statement that, since powers of diversion were given to the Charity Commissioners, property giving an income of about 20,000*l.* a year has been diverted from charity to education; contention that money so diverted and not actually used should be restored, 7505–7510.

View of witness that no charity lands should be sold, as the provision of allotments would be a relief to the unemployed; large amount of money in the hands of the Charity Commissioners that might be usefully invested in land for allotments, 7511. 7527. 7645–7648——Sanction of the Charity Commissioners of the sale of charity lands to the value of eight millions sterling since 1853, on the grounds of bad management by the trustees and the supposed policy of the law of mortmain; opinion that neither of these grounds is solid, and that further sales should be prevented, 7511 *et seq.*; 7628-7633. 7639–7648. 7660-7662.

Partial remedy for mismanagement of land by trustees provided by the Parish Councils Act; fear, however, that the Charity Commissioners may rather minimise this remedy, as they encourage co-optative rather than representative trustees, 7513–7517——Attitude of the Charity Commissioners rather opposed to allotments, the powers given them under the Allotments Act of 1882 to exempt land from that Act being largely exercised, 7519-7523.

Recommendation that the Charity Commissioners should be brought under Parliamentary control, and that more publicity should be given to their proposed schemes; suggestion that all draft schemes should contain on the face of them a short *précis* of the original trusts of the charity, 7524–7531——Opinion that the result of the

Dodd, John Theodore. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

the public inquiries under the Endowed Schools Act should depend more upon the evidence, 7524–7527.

Evidence in support of the contention that the useful employment of the poor is the true principle of the Poor Law, and that the useless picking of oakum and the profitless breakage of stones are equally pernicious, 7532 *et seq.*——Recommendation that boards of guardians should be allowed to try and give useful employment to the unemployed where they think fit, and to take land for that purpose if necessary; power of the guardians to take land under the existing law, subject to the rules of the Local Government Board, 7537 *et seq.*; 7678 *et seq.*; 7728-7741. 7750 *et seq.*

Doubt as to whether the receipt of reasonable wages by the unemployed for agricultural labour done for the guardians would, as a matter of law, disfranchise them, 7537, 7538. 7544–7546. 7675. 7751, 7752——Attention drawn to the fact that the guardians, by virtue of the early statutes of this century, which are still in force, although regarded as obsolete, can acquire any amount of land and let it out in allotments under the rules of the Local Government Board; copy of a petition from labourers, for the issue of such rules, handed in, 7543 *et seq.*; 7613–7627. 7654, 7655.

Contention that the Local Government Board ought to be fully acquainted with the statutes which it has to administer, and that it should have issued rules, when they were urgently applied for, for the guidance of guardians in giving useful employment to the poor, 7546 *et seq.*——Suggestion that regulations should be issued under the Poor Law Act of 1603 for the useful employment of the unemployed and the disposal of produce; desirability of the produce being so disposed of as not to conflict with the outside market, 7561–7568. 7623–7627. 7750 *et seq.*

Advisability of the Local Government Board giving the guardians power, by way of experiment, to found labour colonies, or works of a like character; opinion that the initial expenses of such works should be chargeable in London on the Common Poor Fund, 7568–7570. 7634 *et seq.*; 7694-7697. 7760–7777. 7805——View of witness that the circulars issued by the Local Government Board have been very useful, but that in future different circulars should be issued to different authorities, clearly explaining their several duties and powers, 7571. 7676, 7677. 7778–7785.

Submission by witness of a copy of a circular which he printed and issued to boards of guardians in rural districts calling attention to the many ways in which they could provide for the unemployed, 7571–7573——Suggestion that the Local Government Board might encourage the local authorities to provide useful work by reducing the interest on loans and extending the time for repayment, 7574–7578. 7789–7791.

Opinion that, while there should be some control by the central authority, the town councils should be allowed to carry out their own affairs in their own way; also, that the powers given to parish councils should be given to all urban councils who ask for them, 7578–7584. 7663–7668. 7792–7799——Proposal that an Act of Parliament should be passed providing a simple uniform method for the compulsory purchase of land by local bodies for all public purposes, similar to that under the Parish Councils Act, 7584, 7585. 7678–7690. 7719–7727.

Suggestion that urban landowners should be taxed in aid of local burdens, 7585–7587. 7734-7739——Contention that the fact that there is no extra pressure on the Poor Law does not in the least prove that there is no exceptional distress, many men being supported by trade unions and private charity, 7588.

Recommendation that the influx of agricultural labourers and others into the towns should be checked by the provision of allotments, proper cottages, and small holdings; disposition of witness to place confidence in, and responsibility upon, the parish councils in these matters, 7589-7592. 7636–7638. 7669-7674. 7805–7810——Suggestion that the guardians be empowered to give temporary outdoor relief, if they have not the power already to do so, and that the prohibitory suggestions made by the Local Government Board in a circular of 1871 should be rescinded, 7593, 7594.

Necessity of a more efficient inspection of workhouses if the temporarily unemployed are to be treated by indoor relief, 7593, 7594——Attention drawn to the unsatisfactory and sometimes illegal manner in which casual paupers are relieved, 7594 *et seq.*; 7702-7704.

Instances of the way in which the Local Government Board have rather sharpened the Poor Law against the poor, and discouraged out-relief to an excessive degree, 7597–7599. 7656–7659. 7698–7701——Unintentional discouragement of thrift among the poor by the Local Government Board; necessity of modifying the Poor Law circulars, many of which are very old, 7597–7602.

Recommendation that the powers of the Board of Trade as to the alteration of the hours of labour should be extended to omnibuses, trams, and mines, 7603, 7604——Suggestion that more power should be given to municipalities and that they should be allowed to hold land whenever they purchase it, instead of having to sell it within a certain time, as at present, 7604–7610.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Dodd, John Theodore. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Desirability of all Crown lands being retained, it being especially objectionable to sell foreshores, 7611, 7612. 7649–7654——Submission by witness of copies of resolutions passed by the conference on the unemployed and other bodies in regard to acquiring land under the old statutes, 7613.

Concurrence in the suggestion that the local authorities, as well as the boards of guardians, should have the power of providing work for the unemployed, 7705–7708——Opinion that the resuscitation of the powers given under the Act of the 43rd Elizabeth should allow the guardians to give both temporary and permanent relief, 7709 *et seq.*

Feeling of witness that it would be an advantage if public bodies so organised and distributed their actual public work over the whole year as to meet the exigencies of the unemployed, 7786–7788——Probability that the lack of employment in agricultural districts is due to the low price of produce and to the difficulty in getting land; doubt as to over-production being one of the causes, 7800–7810.

Dolgelley (Monmouth). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 451.

Doncaster. Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 261——Absence of exceptional distress in Doncaster rural district in February, *ib.* 319.

Dorchester. Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the distress in the urban district and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 135 —— Limited amount of distress in the rural district, *ib.* 187.

Dorking. Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in Dorking urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 221, 222 —— Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 319.

Dorsetshire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedies provided &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 27, 28.

Dover. Absence of exceptional distress in Dover rural district or in the municipal borough, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 187. 214.

Draft Reports. Draft (Interim) Report, as proposed by the Chairman of the Committee, *1st Rep.* x–xii——Adoption thereof, subject to some amendments, *ib.* xii–xvi.

Draft Second Report, as proposed by the Chairman, adopted without amendment, *2nd Rep.* 3.

Decision of the Committee (by the casting vote of the Chairman) in favour of a Draft Report being prepared by the Chairman on certain lines, *3rd Rep.* xiii, xiv.

Copy of Draft Third Report, as proposed by the Chairman, *3rd Rep.* xiv, xv—— Adoption of the foregoing, subject to some amendments, *ib.* xvi, xvii.

Drayton (Salop). Particulars supplied by the chairman and by the clerk of the rural district council as to the amount of distress in February, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 355, 356. 366.

Driffield (York). Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedies provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 244.

Droitwich (Worcester). Amount of distress in this rural district in February; steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 244.

Droxford (Hants). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 366.

Duddington (Edinburgh). Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 677.

Dudley County Borough. Exceptional distress due to several causes; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 394.

Dulverton (Somerset and Devon). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 292.

Dumbarton. Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh of Dumbarton and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep*) 579——Amount of distress in the parish of Dumbarton; means adopted for its alleviation, *ib.* 663, 664.

Dumfermline (Fife). Information supplied by the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 580——

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Dumfermline (*Fife*)—continued.

Amount of distress in the parish, through the severe weather; remedies provided, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 690.

Dumfries. Particulars respecting the amount of distress in the burgh of Dumfries, and the steps taken by the local authorities, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 579——Extent and nature of the distress in the parish; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 668.

Dundee. Letter from the town clerk of Dundee respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted by the town council, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 580——Amount of distress in the parish of Dundee Combination, through the severe weather; measures adopted for its relief, *ib.* 700.

Dundonald (*Ayr*). Information supplied by the inspector of the poor as to the extent and character of the local distress, and the steps taken by the local authorities, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 640.

Dunmow (*Essex*). Very little distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 392.

Durham. Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 136.

Dursley (*Gloucester*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for the relief thereof, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 293.

Dutch Labour Colonies. See *Holland.*

E.

Ealing (*Middlesex*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 222.

Early Marriages (*East End of London*). Belief that early marriages are not the cause of much destitution and poverty, *C. Booth* 10692–10694.

Easington (*Durham*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 293.

Easingwold (*York*). Non-existence of exceptional distress through the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 294.

East Barnet (*Hertford*). Exceptional distress in the urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measure of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 272.

East Dereham (*Norfolk*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 89.

East End (*London*). See *Early Marriages. Metropolis. Poplar. Saint George's-in-the-East. Saint Olave's Union. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

East Ham (*Essex*). Explanations in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 157.

East Retford (*Notts*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 383.

East Stonehouse (*Devon*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 222.

Eastbourne. Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Particulars supplied by the mayor, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 69.

Eastern Counties. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 23——Particulars supplied by clerks to guardians throughout the eastern district, *ib.* 24, 25.

Eastwood (*Renfrew*). Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 768.

Ebbw Vale. Employment provided by the district council; relief also from voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 447.

Eccles (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 70.

Eccleshall (*York*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 158.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Edinburgh. Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 581, 582.——Amount of distress in the parish of Edinburgh through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 677.

Edmonton (*Middlesex*). Extent of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 370.

Edwards, W. H. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is mayor of Swansea, was chairman of the central fund for the relief of distress during the recent severe weather, 4296. 4320.

Population of 100,000 in Swansea, there being now about 5,800 unemployed and 13,000 half-timers (inclusive of women and children), chiefly in the tin-plate trade, 4297–4307. 4390–4414——Explanations in detail respecting the depression in the tin-plate industry and the steel-plate industry, mainly through American competition, witness submitting that the only way to prevent the stoppage of works and to retain the trade in this country is by the men consenting to a reduction in the rate of wages, 4308–4319. 4332. 4340; 4373 *et seq.* 4467–4525.

Particulars respecting the constitution and operation of the voluntary relief committee, a register of unemployed having been opened and relief given in food, 4320–4329. 4458–4461——Employment given by the corporation in sweeping the streets and cleaning away the snow, 4330, 4331.

Proposition as to the Militia being called out, in localities where distress exists, at any time of the year, 4341–4348. 4463–4466——Advantage if the unemployed were put to work in the construction of light railways in the neighbourhood of Swansea, 4349–4361. 4442–4444.

Statement as to the Poor Law guardians at Swansea having done nothing to relieve the able-bodied unemployed, they not having been aware at the time that they had power to give relief partly in money and partly in kind, 4362–4372. 4445. 4462——Approval, conditionally, of the removal of disfranchisement as a consequence of the acceptance of relief, 4446. 4450–4457.

Egham (*Surrey*). Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 244, 245.

Eight Hours Day. Great importance attached to an eight-hours day; belief that not only would many more men thus be employed, but that wages would be increased rather than reduced, *Hunter* 8303–8308. 8357. 8490–8493. 8547–8562——The tide is setting in very strongly in favour of an eight hours day all round, *ib.* 8304.

Grounds for the conclusion that a general eight hours day would not give any permanent relief for the want of employment in the manufacturing districts, *Mather* 8975. 9061–9063——Full day's work obtained by witness upon the eight hours principle, as carried out at his works, *ib.* 8975. 9061–9063.

Experience that the introduction of the eight hours day has been the means of finding work for more men, *Thorne* 10799–10801——Suggestion that an international conference reducing the hours of labour to eight per day would be productive of relief, *ib.* 10831–10834.

Elgin. Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 683.

Emigration. See *Colonisation. Mansion House Committee. Wanstead Flats.*

Employment, Want of (*Remedial Measures*). See *the Headings generally throughout the Index.*

Endowed Schools Act. Opinion that the result of the public inquiries under the Endowed Schools Act should depend more upon the evidence, *Dodd* 7524–7527.

Engineering Trades. Inclusion of machine makers, tool makers, press workers and founders, pattern makers, steel melters, and others in the engineering trades, *Smith* 4631–4634——Information, based on the "Vacant Book" of the Amalgamated Engineers, as to the numerical distribution of loss of time or want of employment among the members of the society; conclusion that there is an increasing tendency to the displacement of the less efficient and less skilful workmen, and to concentrate full employment on a smaller number, *ib.* 4635–4654.

Lower proportion of unemployed in January and February, on an average of the years 1887–93, than in the autumn months, *Smith* 4778–4784.

Chart showing the variations in the percentage of unemployment in the engineering and shipbuilding trades at the end of each month (mean of years 1888–94), *3rd Rep. p.* 52.

See also *Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades. Trade Depression. Trade Unions.*

Epsom Rural District. Absence of exceptional distress in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 459.

Equalisation of Rates (*London*) *Act.* See *Camberwell. Islington. Metropolis. St. Olave's Union.*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Erith (*Kent*). Statement as to there being no exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 332.

Essex. Large numbers out of work in villages in Essex, *Keir-Hardie* 802.

Eton Rural District. Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 451.

Evesham (*Worcester*). Particulars supplied by the Mayor, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 70.

Exceptional Distress. See *the Headings generally throughout the Index.*

Exchequer Contribution Account. Suggestion that a portion of the Exchequer Contribution Account should be utilised in meeting cases of exceptional distress, *Phillips* 6678, 6679. 6751–6758.—— *See* also *State Aid.*

Exeter. Local information, under date 23rd March, as to the distress during the frost, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 414.

Exmouth. Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work, or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 223.

Exports. Advance in manufacturing industries in many foreign countries, the exports from England to certain countries falling off in consequence, *Smith* 4847–4852—— Examination as to the advantages of employments for home wants as compared with employment in connection with goods for export, *C. Booth* 10770–10776.

Extent of Distress. See *the Headings generally throughout the Index.*

F.

Falkirk (*Stirling*). Letter from the town clerk of Stirling respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 583——Amount of distress in Stirling parish through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 788.

Falmouth (*Municipal Borough*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 70.

Fareham (*Hants*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Particulars supplied by Mr. J. Sandy, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, and the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 89, 90.

Farm and Labour Colonies:

I. *Scheme of Farm Colonies proposed by Mr. Mather:*
   1. Explanations and Advocacy on General Grounds.
   2. Two Classes of Colonies, for Temporary and Permanent Employment, respectively.
   3. Supply of Labour through the Poor Law Unions.
   4. System of State Loans for the Provision of Land and Buildings; Adequacy of the Security.
   5. Administration and Detailed Management.
   6. Cultivation, Produce, Auxiliary Employments, &c.
   7. Financial Considerations and Results.
   8. Paper submitted by Mr. Mather containing Explanations in Detail.

II. *Explanations by Mr. Willink and Mr. Moore respecting Labour Colonies on the Continent; Conclusions upon the Question of their Adoption in this Country.*

III. *Particulars in connection with the Labour Colony or Relief Works at Wanstead Flats, and the Action of the West Ham Unemployed Committee, with Suggestions as regards Labour Colonies generally.*

IV. *Proposal by Mr. Hunt on the subject of Small Labour Colonies or Homes.*

V. *Suggestions by Mr. Lansbury for the Grouping of Metropolitan Unions for the Acquisition of Land for Employment.*

VI. *Action taken by the Whitechapel Board of Guardians.*

VII. *Conflicting Evidence upon the Question, generally, of Farm Colonies for the Unemployed.*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

FARM AND LABOUR COLONIES—continued.

I. *Scheme of Farm Colonies proposed by Mr. Mather:*

1. Explanations and Advocacy on general grounds:

Preliminary statement with reference to witness' scheme of farm colonies, showing the close relationship between the questions of agricultural employment and manufacturing employment, *Mather* 8975——Explanation that benevolence and philanthropy have no part in the scheme; nor is it left to the initiative of speculative investors, *ib.* ——Great improvement anticipated in agriculture under witness' scheme jointly with a large increase of employment, *ib.*

Special importance attached to the scheme as not being intended for the pauper class or the depraved or drunken, but as providing free-will temporary employment for those who really want to work for a livelihood, rather than accept Poor Law relief or apply for help from charities, *Mather* 8986. 8999.

Reference to letters received by witness in approval of his draft scheme from Professor Sheldon, Professor Knight, and several other eminent agricultural authorities, *Mather* 9006-9009.

Prospect under witness' scheme of the whole of the unfertile land of the country being gradually brought under cultivation, and of the scheme being taken up eventually by landowners in their own interests, *Mather* 9042–9050——Importance and value of the scheme in preventing rural labour from drifting into the towns, *ib.* 9198. 9358. 9374.

Indirect intention and effect of the scheme that agricultural labour will be improved and increased, the main object, however, being entirely practical as a means of giving employment and relieving distress, *Mather* 9207–9216.

2. Two Classes of Colonies, for Temporary and Permanent Employment, respectively:

Proposition that farm colonies be of two classes, affording employment of a temporary character and of a permanent character, respectively, *Mather* 8975—— Expediency of Part I. and Part II. of witness' scheme being separately dealt with by the Committee, as either part can be carried out independently of the other, *ib.* 9005, 9006.

Broad distinction drawn between the farm settlements in connection with the training colonies and those to be created for direct acquisition by agriculturists; stipulation as to the necessity of some capital in the latter case, *Mather* 9380–9391.

3. Supply of Labour through the Poor Law Unions:

Distinct feature of witness' scheme of farm colonies that it involves the employment of a selected class of unemployed superior to the pauper class or casual workers, *Mather* 8975——Explanation that the proposed training colony should in the first instance be occupied by the respectable and well-conducted working classes, temporarily unemployed but desirous of work, *ib.* 8976–8982——Statement as to the conditions under which the Poor Law authorities might send men of the unemployed class to work on the proposed training colonies, it being stipulated that they must remain for at least a month, *ib.* 8985. 8999, 9000.

Little, if any, difficulty apprehended in respect of the local employment of men sent to a distance from their homes and families, *Mather* 9001——Expectation that a large number of the men sent to the colonies, through the displacement of industries on which previously employed, would eventually obtain a permanent footing upon the farm settlements, *ib.* 9022, 9023. 9041——Belief that only a small proportion of men temporarily unemployed would be excluded from witness' scheme by reason of physical incapacity, *ib.* 9083.

Supply of men for each colony by the unions which contribute to its maintenance, though men from other unions might also be received on payment being made, *Mather* 9092–9095——Necessity of each man applying to his own union for admission to the colony, *ib.* 9096.

Arrangements for always maintaining skilled labour on the cultivated portion of each colony, the fluctuation of the supply on the uncultivated land not entailing injurious results, *Mather* 9096-9098——Consideration of objections as regards the large areas or colonies necessary for supplying employment to the numerous unemployed in large towns in times of exceptional distress, *ib.* 9146–9160.

Facility in selecting well-conducted men for the colonies, this being done by the local Poor Law authorities, but not involving any taint of pauperism, *Mather* 9176–9179——Intention that the more necessitous cases would first be dealt with, there being no legal claim to employment, *ib.* 9264–9269——Admission that the labour upon the uncultivated portion of each colony would probably be intermittent and irregular; due allowance made for stoppage of work in bad weather, *ib.* 9272-9279. 9315–9321.

Consideration of the question whether difficulties would not probably arise in obtaining

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

FARM AND LABOUR COLONIES—continued.

I. *Scheme of Farm Colonies proposed by Mr. Mather*—continued.

3. Supply of Labour through the Poor Law Unions—*continued.*

obtaining from the uncultivated land the extra labour required at harvest time upon the cultivated land; fallacy of the idea that the uncultivated land might at times be without any men upon it, *Mather* 9280–9292. 9357——Intention that men shall be sent to the colonies not only from the unions acting in combination, but if there be room for more labour from outside unions having unemployed men on hand, *ib.* 9333–9335.

4. System of State Loans for the Provision of Land and Buildings; adequacy of the Security:

Argument in justification of the proposition that the state shall take the initial steps, as for the common weal, provided that the security for its capital or loans be reasonably guaranteed against loss, *Mather* 8975——Conclusion that if necessary any deficiency incurred by the State in respect of its invested capital might well be made good by the Poor Law authorities in view of the benefits conferred upon the destitute class, *ib.*

Statement as to the proposed purchase of the land by the State, in the first instance; or, it might be leased in perpetuity, *Mather* 9078-9082——Necessary initiation of each colony by local Poor Law bodies, before the State advances the money for the purchase of the land, due investigation being made before any advance, *ib.* 9090, 9091.

Very favourable opportunity now presented for the acquisition of land at an average of about 10*l.* per acre, as in Essex, and for the application thereto of hand tillage out of the redundant supply of labour in the towns so as to bring it into profitable cultivation, *Mather* 9139–9143. 9165–9171. 9190. 9293–9332. 9361–9364. 9402——Contention that the money advanced by the State under witness' scheme would be a fair investment, though there might be no return from the colonies for the first five years, *ib.* 9183–9188. 9214. 9236–9240. 9346–9350.

Consideration of calculations as to the enormous capital as well as the immense area required if many thousand men suddenly come under witness' scheme; tentative character of the experiment in the first instance, it being proposed to begin with only six colonies at a cost of about 120,000*l.* loaned by the State, *Mather* 9189–9200. 9214, 9215——Entire dissent from the view that 9*l.*, or even 10*l.*, per acre is an excessive value to be derived from the land, *ib.* 9201–9203. 9361–9364. 9402.

Summary of the financial arrangements for starting and working the scheme, no return being expected from the training colonies (or uncultivated land) for the first five years; ample security to the State in the increased value of the land, *Mather* 9335–9350. 9359, 9360.

Re-iteration of the contention that the State could not possibly be a loser, nor the security for the loans be insufficient, even though the uncultivated land were deprived of labour for a considerable time through revival of trade and demand for employment therein, *Mather* 9351–9357. 9401, 9402.

Further explanations in support of witness' scheme of farm settlements, the initiative to be taken voluntarily by the county council, and loans to be obtained from the State for the purchase of the land or the provision of buildings; expected concert on the part of landowners, *Mather* 9373–9402——Conclusion that the State would have ample security for advances for buildings or for purchase of the land; or the county council might share in the liability, *ib.* 9374. 9392–9401——Further grounds submitted in justification of State loans, *ib.* 9401, 9402.

5. Administration and Detailed Management:

Grounds upon which it is proposed that the establishment and control of the farm colonies shall vest in the county councils, there being also the co-operation of the State and of the Poor Law authorities, *Mather* 8975——Contemplated control of the land by a committee of the county councils, the direct management being in the hands of a skilled agriculturist and practical farmer, *ib.* 8982——Conclusion that arrangements can easily be adopted for preventing the herding of the men together on the barrack system; provision contemplated for some families in the colonies, *ib.* 9002–9004.

Examination in defence of the proposition that the expenses of the scheme should be provided by the Poor Law authorities, whilst the administration and management should rest with the county council; or there might be a combination of the former authorities to undertake the management, *Mather* 9085–9089.

Further explanation that, though it is proposed to vest the supervision in the county council, this is not essential, and the Poor Law authorities might combine to form a management committee, *Mather* 9235. 9241–9243. 9344, 9345——Degree of control and supervision to be exercised by the State through the Local Government Board, *ib.* 9347–9350.

Co-operative element in working the farm settlements, so that there would be every prospect of success, *Mather* 9374——Probability that landowners would readily co-operate

FARM AND LABOUR COLONIES—continued.

I. *Scheme of Farm Colonies proposed by Mr. Mather*—continued.

5. Administration and Detailed Management—*continued.*

co-operate in promoting small farm settlements on witness' plan, so that the initiative of the county council might not be necessary, *Mather* 9374–9376. 9401.

6. Cultivation, Produce, Auxiliary Employments, &c.:

Proposal that each farm shall consist partly of cultivated and partly of uncultivated land, the unskilled labour being employed upon the latter; sustenance of the whole colony out of the produce of the former, *Mather* 8982–8984——Intention that the training colonies shall mainly supply products requiring more or less of hand-labour after production, and which are now imported from abroad, such as flax, seeds, straw-plaiting, &c.; very extensive auxiliary employment thereby, *ib.* 8987–8994——Intention that the men who go to the training colonies should be employed from month to month, after which, when acquainted with farming occupations, they might go abroad to an English colony, or might take up settlements created out of the training colonies, *ib.* 8999, 9000.

Suggestions as to the large amount of auxiliary work which may be provided in the cottages and homes of the workers, in connection with the products of each training colony, *Mather* 8992-8994——Important feature of witness' scheme that portion of each colony or farm shall consist of uncultivated or half-cultivated land, for the employment of unskilled men: belief that there would be no difficulty in finding such farms, *ib.* 9033-9041——Much better results anticipated from the land being under skilled managers than under the present class of farmers, *ib.* 9043–9051.

Considerations as to the extent to which unskilled men, employed for a month or so, could be usefully engaged on certain auxiliary industries, *Mather* 9052–9054——Doubt as to the colonies labouring under any practical disadvantage if they did not compete with local produce, but only with imported products, *ib.* 9055–9060.

Explanation that certain work required, as regards each colony, should be executed by the occupants, but that it is not proposed to compete with village industries outside, *Mather* 9100–9108——Several kinds of work now done in the homes of the people, such as ornamental iron work, art weaving, &c., which might be carried on in the colonies, *ib.* 9109——Intention that hand tillage should be largely employed in potato cultivation, but that horse labour would also be probably used, *ib.* 9307–9314

Calculation that the men in the training colonies would be employed on auxiliary industries for from forty to sixty days in the year; sufficient qualifications available for the purpose, *Mather* 9315–9332——Explanation that there would be fixity of tenure on the farm settlements, and that these holdings would be obtainable, not only by men who have passed through a training colony, but by agriculturists from outside, *ib.* 9367–9374.

7. Financial Considerations and Results:

Belief that, with the aid of auxiliary industries, labour on the training colonies might be made self-supporting, and that the initial capital expenditure would probably be met by the increased value of the land through hand tillage, *Mather* 8993–8998——Examination to the effect that the Poor Law authorities should not only take the initiative in sending men to the proposed colonies, but should be liable for any pecuniary deficit in working, whilst the administration should rest entirely with the county council, or, the guardians might take part in the management, *ib.* 9010–9021.

Explanation in connection with the proposal that the family of each man sent to a training colony shall receive 4*s.* a week from the guardians, it being contended that the man will earn by his labour, not only the cost of his own maintenance, but probably something in reduction of the guardians' payments, *Mather* 9072–9077——Mode of appropriation of any profits from the scheme, the managing authority having nothing to do with profit or loss, *ib.* 9084-9086.

Discussion upon the grounds for witness' assertion that under his scheme of training colonies men unaccustomed to ordinary farm work would be able to earn their maintenance and, after a time, more than their maintenance, *Mather* 9127 *et seq.*——Extent and character of the permanent employment to be afforded by the cultivated portion of each colony in the form of farm settlements; contention as to the profitable and self-supporting character of the latter, *ib.* 9161–9171.

Explanations in reply to certain objections raised with respect to the proposed contribution by the men (whilst employed on the colonies) of 4*s.* a week for the maintenance of their families; that is, out of piecework earnings on the land, *Mather* 9172–9175——More economical and efficient arrangements as regards labour on the colonies than are feasible on ordinary farms for the production of flax, &c., at a profit, *ib.* 9180–9182. 9204–9206.

Concurrence in the proposition that the obstacles which hinder the successful cultivation of land should at once be removed, irrespectively of the adoption of witness'

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Farm and Labour Colonies—continued.

I. *Scheme of Farm Colonies proposed by Mr. Mather*—continued.

7. Financial Considerations and Results—*continued.*

scheme of farm colonies, *Mather* 9217–9219——Doubt whether the removal of all the rates and taxes on land would be effectual in bringing about profitable farming, *ib.* 9220.

Success anticipated for the training colonies in as far as they would be profitable to those occupied on the farm even if they did not pay in a financial sense, *Mather* 9221–9223——Indirect rather than direct effect of the training colonies in relieving the rates, as they would not touch the existing class or number of in-door or out-door paupers, *ib.* 9224–9234.

Information with further reference to the proposals as to the earnings and maintenance of the colonists, and as to their contributing 4*s.* a week to the support of their families; computed earnings (including piecework) equal to 16*s.* 6*d.* a week, provided the men work very hard, *Mather* 9244–9263——Expediency of the unmarried men contributing something out of their earnings to the general well-being of the colony, *ib.* 9270, 9271.

Examination as to witness' grounds for the conclusion that arable dairying may be worked at a profit in connection with witness' scheme, certain products now imported being also cultivated, *Mather* 9293-9331——Maximum deficit calculated at 1*s.* 3*d.* per head per week, which is far less than the allowance to the man out of the rates, *ib.* 9335. 9342—— Successful competition anticipated on the part of the farm settlements with small owners on the Continent who now send produce to this country, *ib.* 9365–9372.

8. Paper submitted by Mr. Mather containing Explanations in Detail:

Communication from Mr. Mather, dated 15th March 1895, together with draft scheme for providing work for the unemployed, firstly, by means of farm training colonies, and secondly, by means of small farm settlements; summary of proposals under each head of scheme, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 535–542.

II. *Explanations by Mr. Willink and Mr. Moore respecting Labour Colonies on the Continent; Conclusions upon the Question of their adoption in this Country:*

Visit paid by witness to the Dutch labour colonies in 1888, and to the Belgian colonies in 1890, the results of his inquiries having been published in separate Reports which were subsequently submitted to, and generally confirmed by the local authorities in Holland and Belgium, *Willink* 8735–8740.

Information respecting the origination of the Dutch free colonies, which were founded in 1818, the area under cultivation since 1821 consisting of about 4,000 acres; three different classes received, there being about 1,800 persons altogether, *Willink* 8741-8749——Explanation of the financial arrangements in the free colonies; reference especially to the practice as to the reception of families on payment by each district of 140*l.* per family, *ib.* 8742–8749.

Foundation of the first beggar colony in Holland in 1820, these colonies comprising in 1888 about 3,500 persons; several classes received, one class being able-bodied persons convicted of begging, there being also a class of old soldiers and orphans, *Willink* 8750–8754——Financial difficulties of the two sets of colonies for many years past owing largely to the inefficient labour on the beggar colonies, and the heavy cost, *ib.* 8750. 8755, 8756. 8851–8859.

Extracts from report by Count Arrivabene, who inspected the Dutch colonies in 1829, and from report by Sir John MacNeill, who visited them about thirty years later; unsatisfactory conclusions arrived at as to the working of the colonies, and the bad financial results, *Willink* 8755–8760——Original intention to make both the free and the beggar colonies agricultural, whereas the labour coming mainly from towns was found to be unsuitable, so that manufactures, schools, and model farms were established, entailing great expense, *ib.* 8759–8761. 8820. 8830–8843.

Summary of the leading changes and improvements which have been made as regards the Dutch free colonies since 1859; conclusion as to the very limited extent to which the system deals with the question of poverty in Holland, though the administration is now very efficient, *Willink* 8760–8772. 8844. 8862. 8867–8870——Limited opportunities of witness for observing the working of the beggar colonies; several respects in which they have not been a success, whilst they have been very costly, and are now a considerable burden on the State, *ib.* 8773–8780. 8784, 8785. 8792. 8856–8861. 8874–8881.

Opinion that neither the system of the free colonies nor of the beggar colonies is applicable to this country; similar view of the director of the free colonies, *Willink* 8779. 8817–8820. 8844–8866——Belief that as regards competition with outside producers the free colonies are not looked upon as any grievance; competition of the beggar colonies as regards manufactured articles, *ib.* 8781-8783.

Several

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Farm and Labour Colonies—continued.

II. *Explanations by Mr. Willink and Mr. Moore respecting Labour Colonies on the Continent, &c.*—continued.

Several causes which have led to the greater success of the free colonies than of the beggar colonies, though even in the former case the colonists seem unable to save anything, *Willink* 8786–8791. 8856——Compulsory constitution of the beggar colonies, beggars being now rarely seen about the streets, *ib.* 8793, 8794. 8905–8207.

Explanations in detail respecting the Belgian labour colonies, three in number, these being in the nature of penal institutions for able-bodied vagrants and for mendicants; cost borne by the several communes, *Willink* 8798–8816.

Statement to the effect that the free and beggar colonies in Holland would hardly have been started if a poor law, or workhouse system, were in force there as in this country, *Willink* 8824–8829——Examination as to the poor land used for the Dutch colonies, and the small yield in comparison with the superior land and the larger yield in England, *ib.* 8830–8843.

Admission that in some respects the Dutch free colonies, as philanthropic institutions, have worked usefully, though neither this system nor that of the beggar colonies would answer in this country, *Willink* 8844-8882——Belief that the beggar colonies are conducted on total abstinence principles, *ib.* 8883–8887.

Examination with further reference to the operation of beggar colonies in Holland, and the extent to which they dispose of the whole class of tramps and beggars in the country in the absence of a poor law system, *Willink* 8900–8934——Statement as to the amount of accommodation in the Dutch penal colonies, the number of beggars and vagrants sent to them, and the duration of their stay, *ib.* 8915–8928.

Paper submitted containing sundry details in connection with penal and voluntary farm colonies in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, and France, *Moore* 9410, 9411; *3rd Rep.* pp. 332–336.

Detailed information, supplied by Mr. Moore, respecting the penal colony at Veenhuisan, in Holland, *3rd Rep.* p. 333; also, respecting the settlement of small holders at Frederiksoord, *3rd Rep.* pp. 335, 336.

Deduction by witness of four conclusions from his examination of voluntary farm colonies in Germany, the first being that no colony can be used for the accommodation of both vagrants and the unemployed working classes; confirmation of this view by the Belgian experience, *Moore* 9532, 9533. 9547. 9689–9692——Second conclusion that, where a man unaccustomed to agricultural work has to be employed on a farm the proper course is to employ him upon the reclamation of uncultivated land, *ib.* 9534–9536. 9693–9698.

Conclusion that a willing worker employed upon the reclamation of uncultivated land can give such value as will more than provide for his maintenance, *Moore* 9537——Further conclusion that, side by side with the uncultivated land, there ought to be some land of a better quality, otherwise there will be no produce to maintain the men on that particular colony, *ib.* 9538.

Explanation that the sudden stoppage of the reclamation of a piece of waste land, through the men engaged on it happily finding their own natural work again, would have no financial effect, except, perhaps, in somewhat increasing the cost of supervision on account of the work being extended over a longer period, *Moore* 9539–9543.

Opinion generally that the system of voluntary labour colonies might be adopted with advantage in England in view of the favourable conditions that could now be obtained, *Moore* 9544, 9545——Agreement of witness with Mr. Willink's opinion in regard to the failure of the Veenhuisan colony, *ib.* 9545, 9546. 9718.

Material difference between the scheme of Mr. Mather and the principles upon which the Continental colonies are based, the nearest approach being the French colony; there is no necessity, however, for relying upon Continental experience, *Moore* 9552, 9553——Doubt as to a colony of single men necessarily involving any more degradation; desirability, however, of there being married men and women on a colony, as proposed in Mr. Mather's scheme, *ib.* 9639–9643. 9714–9717.

Possibility that it would be more profitable, though somewhat difficult, to give an average of 40,000*l.* a year to the Essex farmers to employ a certain proportion of the men out of work, than to have a separate colony for the submerged tenth alone, *Moore* 9646-9649——Usefulness of labour colonies on the voluntary system in offering a man a very easy medium of getting back to his regular employment again; necessity, however, of keeping the colony for the respectable members of the working class and of approving each man before admission, *ib.* 9650–9657. 9689–9692. 9719–9729. 9791 *et seq.*

Opinion that labour colonies could, under good management, be so directed as to prevent the products entering into competition with the free labour outside; recommendation that only such crops should be grown for sale as would not compete with the

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

FARM AND LABOUR COLONIES—continued.

II. *Explanations by Mr. Willink and Mr. Moore respecting Labour Colonies on the Continent, &c.*—continued.

home products, *Moore* 9658–9682——Possibility of unskilled labour in labour colonies successfully competing with skilled labour without protection, in view of the fact that the colonies can employ the most improved systems, machinery, &c., *ib.* 9683–9685.

Conclusion that there would doubtless be some difficulty in dealing with a number of labourers in the country during a prolonged frost; belief, however, that the suggestions made in Clauses 22 to 26 of Mr. Mather's scheme would partly meet the case, *Moore* 9805, 9806.

III. *Particulars in connection with the Labour Colony or Relief Works at Wanstead Flats, and the action of the West Ham Unemployed Committee, with Suggestions as regards Labour Colonies generally:*

Institution by the West Ham Relief Committee last year of works upon about 180 acres of land at Wanstead Flats, men in want of work having been employed six hours daily for four days a week, at 4*d.* an hour, *Hills* 2533, 2534——Eventual carrying out of the works on Wanstead Flats by the Relief Committee (without aid from the Town Council), employment having been given to from 120 to 180 men, *ib.* 2536.

Explanations in detail respecting the conditions and system of payment under which the men have been employed, the character of the work, the supervision exercised, and the financial results; success claimed notwithstanding that there was an organised trades union obstruction to the payment of 4*d.* instead of 6*d.* an hour, *Hills* 2536–2566——Arrangements as regards food for the men, so that they show much physical improvement, *ib.* 2557.

Invitation to the present Committee to visit the relief works on Wanstead Flats, so that they may see for themselves the practical working of the system of employment, *Hills* 2568.

Very satisfactory results of the experiments in West Ham not only as regards the improved condition of those employed by the Relief Committee but as regards their future employment elsewhere, *Hills* 2574. 2580. 2778–2790. 2798–2800——Shelter and food provided for the men at a very small charge, *ib.* 2574. 2582-2584.

Simple character of the work (chiefly digging) contemplated under the proposed national scheme; condition to be enforced, as at West Ham, that a certain minimum of labour must be performed, *Hills* 2574-2580. 2647, 2648——Arrangements for supervision at Wanstead Flats; maximum of 186 employed at any time, *ib.* 2770–2773——Facility in applying the test of residence in connection with employment, *ib.* 2774–2777.

Grounds for the contention that the experiment at Wanstead Flats proves that the men earned, in kind, an equivalent of 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a day, and that their labour did not entail any loss whatever, *Mather* 9024–9032.

Experience of witness in regard to the Wanstead Flats and Abbey Mills experiments that sober and steady unemployed men do resort to labour colonies when out of work, at all events as a temporary means of maintenance; doubt, however, as to their breaking up their homes to go to such colonies, *Moore* 9624–9638. 9795–9801.

Proposal of the West Ham Unemployed Committee that the whole country should be divided into districts. and that each district should have a farm or colony to deal with the unemployed and be responsible to Government for its management, so that the unemployed could produce food for themselves, for the institutions supported by the rates, and for the army and navy, *Morton* 11022 *et seq.*; 11049 *et seq.*; 11071–11076. 11102-11110. 11128–11143.

Condemnation of the work done on Wanstead Flats under Mr. Hills' scheme as useless and in no way remunerative, elevating, or productive; no doubt that it was done at a lower price than if it had been put out under contract, but not so low as the rate at which the borough council could have done it, *Morton* 11064–11069. 11144–11149.

Information respecting the men employed in the levelling and digging operations on Wanstead Flats, most of whom were country-born, the number, which averaged about 100, having risen to 180 at the busiest time; statement that the work paid better after the gangs were reduced from twenty-five men to ten, as the superintendence was better, *Mansell* 11433–11450. 11478 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that on the conclusion of the work on the Flats most of the intelligent and willing workmen were provided with situations in the Thames Ironworks and other works; belief, however, that a few of the men who had served their time at a trade and were "past forty" are still out of work, *Mansell* 11451–14461.

Willingness of the majority of the men employed to do the work allotted them, those who were not quite fit, physically, doing their best; care taken to make the gangs as equal

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Farm and Labour Colonies—continued.

III. *Particulars in connection with the Labour Colony or Relief Works at Wanstead Flats, &c.*—continued.

equal as possible, *Mansell* 11462–11466——Statement that the rate of pay was 4*d.* per hour with 1*s.* per rod for double digging, the amount earned by each gang beyond the 4*d.* per hour being given at the end of the week as a bonus, *ib.* 11467–11470. 11490.

Uncertainty as to whether the Wanstead experiment can be considered a paying transaction from a business point of view; no doubt that if witness had not had to take all comers, but could have picked his men, he could have made it pay, *Mansell* 11471 *et seq.*——Opinion that in addition to the absolute relief given at the moment the Wanstead Flats operations cured some of the men and made them more permanent workers, *ib.* 11491–11501.

Suggestion that continuous land cultivation should be found for those employed, the men being mostly able and willing to work; desire of some of them to go back into the country again if they could find work there, *Mansell* 11502–11531.

IV. *Proposals by Mr. Hunt on the subject of Small Labour Colonies or Homes:*

Proposition that it is desirable to start small labour colonies for the unmarried, and to provide small holdings for married people on the land, *Hunt* 10182. 10346–10354. 10367, 10368——Explanations as to the degree of experience of witness in regard to farm colonies, *ib.* 10183. 10207–10216. 10256–10269. 10369–10371.

Offer made by witness, on the part of the Church Army, of two or more of the labour homes, together with a large farm, in order that experiments might be made on a small scale, a sum not exceeding 8½*d.* per day to be paid for each man sent; necessity for all experiments to be exhaustively investigated and recorded by impartial experts of the Labour Department, *Hunt* 10190. 10253–10255.

V. *Suggestions by Mr. Lansbury for the grouping of Metropolitan Unions for the acquisition of Land for Employment:*

Evidence in explanation and support of the suggestion that the President of the Local Government Board should exercise his power and group the unions of London in one district so as to hire land where the unemployed could raise food for their own sustenance, and manufacture their boots, clothes, &c., *Lansbury* 10408. 10415–10438. 10459. 10469–10473. 10484–10488——Discussion as to the distribution of cost if the unions of London were grouped in one district in connection with the foregoing proposition, *ib.* 10474–10483.

Question considered as to the mode in which the money should be raised to support the proposed farm colony; opinion that an Imperial grant should be allowed either by means of a graduated income tax or a tax on landlords, *Lansbury* 10489–10496.

VI. *Action taken by the Whitechapel Board of Guardians:*

Consideration given by the Whitechapel Board of Guardians to the question of the unemployed upon the land, several conferences of metropolitan guardians having been held on the subject; conclusion that any scheme of agricultural training homes or colonies must be carried out by some other body than the Poor Law authorities, *Vallance* 11542–11546.

Report of the committee of guardians appointed in January 1888 to consider certain proposals of the Rev. S. A. Barrett for training able-bodied men in country pursuits by means of the Poor Law, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 548, 549.

Draft Report submitted at a meeting of the agricultural training homes committee of the guardians held on 13th June 1895, with reference to the question of agricultural training homes for the unemployed, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 552–554.

Report of committee of guardians, adopted by the board at meeting on 3rd October 1893, respecting the proposed "English Land Colonisation Scheme," *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 554, 555.

Report of the general purposes committee submitted to the guardians on 9th April 1895; conclusions and suggestions therein on the subject of training farms and of employment on the land, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 555, 556.

VII. *Conflicting Evidence upon the Question generally of Farm Colonies for the Unemployed:*

Practical obstacles to the beneficial working of schemes under control of the Poor Law Guardians, for employment on land in times of distress; adverse views of the Local Government Board on the subject, *Sir H. Owen* 400–405. 485–490.

Opinion that some 25 per cent. of the men out of work in West Ham could be employed on land in Essex, *Hilleary* 1653–1659.

Explanations with reference to the proposed system of farm colonies with workshops, &c., and in reply to objections on the subject, *Alden* 2077. 2182–2191. 2235–2269,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Farm and Labour Colonies—continued.

VII. *Conflicting Evidence upon the Question, generally, of Farm Colonies for the Unemployed*—continued.

2287–2295——Value of employment on land as a means of restoring the health of men who are temporaly weak; desire of many to get back to employment on to the land, *Alden* 2077. 2328-2331.

Advantage of employment for the more respectable men (who cannot find work) not only on farm colonies, as at Hadleigh, but upon industries in connection herewith, though not in competition with the open market; employment in these cases without pauperism being entailed, *Alden* 2144–2156. 2235–2240. 2311-2313——Probability that many of the unemployed if put upon the land would not produce such good results as regular labourers, though witness submits that the former should be paid at the ordinary rate, *ib.* 2362–2378. 2388–2403.

Examination with reference to the question of labour colonies, as in Germany, Holland, and other foreign countries, as well as on a limited scale in England; several obstacles to their satisfactory operation, *Smith* 4724, 4725. 4760, 4761. 4967–5011.

Disapproval of the proposal to establish farm colonies in order to relieve the distress due to want of employment as it would be a continuous financial failure; objections, moreover, on several other grounds, *Mackay* 5364–5366.

Grounds for the opinion that for respectable men and women, who, through natural weakness, are unable to do work of an average quality, but who could do a limited quantity, if superintended, a labour farm or colony would give better physical, moral, and financial results than the present Poor Law system, *Cox* 6206 *et seq.*; 6288–6295. 6399–6426. 6508–6514. 6595 *et seq.*

Approval of farm colonies as a medium for bringing thepeople back to the land, if worked concurrently with witness' scheme of allotments, *Tuckwell* 7131–7133.

Suggestion that regulations should be issued under the Poor Law Act of 1603 for the useful employment of the unemployed and the disposal of produce; desirability of the produce being so disposed of as not to conflict with the outside market, *Dodd* 7561–7568. 7623–7627. 7750 *et seq.*——Advisability of the Local Government Board empowering the guardians by way of experiment, to found labour colonies, or works of a like character; opinion that the initial expenses of such works should be chargeable in London on the Common Poor Fund, *ib.* 7568–7570. 7634 *et seq.*; 7694–7697. 7760–7777. 7805.

Grounds for strongly objecting to a system of farm colonies as a means of employment in times of distress; main objection that very little employment could be usefully provided thereby, *Bell* 7872–7876. 7882. 7958–7962.

Contemplated provision of work, shelter, and food on farm colonies when there is exceptional distress; expediency of the land being adjacent to the poorhouses, *Motion* 8148. 8158–8163. 8216–8236. 8252–8255.

Approval of some experiments in the way of farm colonies or of penal colonies for the idle and lazy class, though witness has not any strong opinion in their favour, *Hunter* 8311–8315. 8385–8392. 8565–8567.

Conclusions as to the unfitness of the unemployed in towns for labour and farm colonies, *Willink* 8728-8734——Contention that State labour farms in this country are not expedient, and would probably be failures, private enterprise in this direction being more likely to succeed, *ib.* 8820–8823. 8865, 8866.

Question considered as to the advisability of establishing industrial homes in the country for the cultivation of land; belief that the experiment would prove costly, *C. Booth* 10660–10662.

Disapproval of farm colonies and the allotment system; expediency of the land being cultivated by men who should make it their regular avocation, and who should be paid a decent wage, *Thorne* 10835–10840. 10864–10873.

Contention that the establishment of national farms would relieve the congestion and competition in industrial centres, the labouring section in all the large industrial concerns being composed chiefly of farm workers who, in consequence of this, being strong and robust, are more keenly sought after than the town men, *Marston* 11023 *et seq.*; 11192, 11193.

Evidence in support of the conclusion that the proposed national farms could produce the necessaries of life in this country cheaper than can be done on the Continent, provided the present restrictions upon the agricultural community were removed; opinion that farms have gone out of cultivation because the scientific side of farming is not studied, the object now being to get as much as possible out of the land

at

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Farm and Labour Colonies—continued.

VII. *Conflicting Evidence upon the Question, generally, of Farm Colonies for the Unemployed*—continued.

at the cheapest possible cost, *Morton* 11024–11028. 11111–11119. 11156–11181. 11184–11191.

See also *Abbey Mills. Agriculture. Allotments. Belgium. Church Army. Co-operative Farming. Germany. Glasgow*, 6. *Hadleigh Farm Colony. Imports. Land* (*Acquisition by Boards of Guardians*). *Land Nationalisation. Loans* (*Relief Works*). *Reclamation Works. Relief Works. Salvation Army. Small Holdings. State Aid. Wanstead Flats. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Farnham (*Surrey and Hants*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 234.

Farnworth Urban District (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 90.

Faversham (*Municipal Borough*). Extent of the distress in this borough; measures adopted for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 71.

Felling Urban District (*Durham*). Amount of distress in this district; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 91.

Female Labour. See *Women and Children.*

Fenton, Edward Pitts. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—As clerk to the Union of St. Olave's witness explains that the union comprises Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, and other parishes, part of the borough of Southwark, 2801–2803.

Considerable distress in these districts during the winter, through want of employment, so that the guardians decided on the opening of a stone-yard, on the 7th January, work being offered therein at certain rates of wages, 2804 *et seq.*——Distress mainly due to depression in the leather and tanning trades and the want of work at the river-side and the docks; belief that the number of unemployed from these causes is increasing yearly, 2806–2808. 2812–2830.

Information as to the conditions under which the stone-yard is in operation, the restrictions as to admission, the amount of work required to be done, and the rate of payment in money and in kind, the total representing 3*s.* 6*d.* per man per day, 2832 *et seq.*——Limit of residence not imposed for few days, so that there was a large influx from outside districts; steps taken for the removal of this difficulty, witness having previously closed the stone-yard on his own responsibility till some remedies could be adopted, 2833–2836. 2871–2873. 2919–2923. 2966–2968.

Varying number of days in the week for which different classes may work in the stone-yard, 2838, 2839. 2931, 2932——Very large increase of staff in connection with the stone-yard and with the great increase of out-door relief, 2846–2857. 2948–2250. 3037–3042——Particulars as to the numbers relieved through the stone-yard and the total cost, the numbers in one day having reached 1,759; comparison with the number of out-door poor in previous winters, 2858–2870. 2901–2909. 2914–2918. 2957–2959——Statistics of the annual cost of out-door relief in the union since 1873; very large increase since 1884, whilst the numbers have been practically the same, the policy of the board of guardians having then been changed in favour of more liberal relief, 2879–2894. 2910–2913. 2969–2974. 3010–3020.

Amount of the rates in Bermondsey and other parishes in the union: poor rate of 2*s.* 10*d.* in Bermondsey (the total rate being 7*s.*) and of about 2*s.* in the other parishes, 2895–2900. 3006——Recent decision of the guardians that men residing in common lodging-houses shall be eligible for admission to the stone-yard, whereas these may not be genuine residents, 2924–2929.

Letter from the Local Government Board on 8th January as to the conditions on which approval is given to the opening of the stone-yard, 2930–2932——Difficulty in obtaining a fair day's work in return for the wages paid, even from those who are really capable and able-bodied, a large proportion of whom shirk the labour as much as possible, in spite of the increased staff and supervision, 2933–2940. 2950. 2955, 2956. 3028–3040. 3046–3054, 3061——Information as to the cost of the granite obtained for the stone-yard, the large increase therein, and the unprofitable results of the system, 2941–2947. 2960–2963. 3021–3027.

Other sources of employment resorted to in St. Olave's besides work in the stone-yard; special employment provided also by the vestries of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, 2953, 2954. 2991–2997. 3002–3005——Objectionable results from the payment of so much as 3*s.* 6*d.* a day in the stone-yard: demoralising effects of the

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Fenton, Edward Pitts. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

system, 2975–2985. 2991–3001. 3046–3054——Opinion as to the sufficiency of the present powers of the guardians and local authorities to deal with exceptional distress, 2986–2997. 3062–3069.

Tendency to increased want of employment when manufactories and places of business are removed, as in making the approaches to the Tower Bridge, 3007–3009 ——Improvement if work in the stone-yard were placed entirely under the vestry and the surveyor, and were transferred from the workhouse officials, 3043–3061—— Objection to disfranchisement being removed as a condition of relief in exceptional times, 3070–3076.

[Second Examination.]—Explanation that it is necessary to get the sanction of the Local Government Board before a stone-yard can be opened, 6174, 6175.

Fenton (Stafford). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 362.

Festiniog (*Merioneth*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 91.

Finchley Urban District. Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 462.

Flax. Reference especially to flax as admitting of extensive and profitable cultivation in this country, though, for special reasons, the cultivation in Ireland has been largely given up, *Mather* 9118–9124.

Fleetwood (*Lancaster*). Particulars supplied by Mr. A. Davies, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 159.

Fluctuations in Employment. Charts submitted by Mr. Llewellyn Smith illustrative of seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in employment, as shown by the per-centage of unemployed members of trade unions making returns to the Board at different periods, *3rd Rep. p.* 52.

Folkestone (*Municipal Borough*). Extent of the local distress and remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 71.

Forehoe Rural District (*Norfolk*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 451.

Foreign Countries. Pressure experienced by municipal authorities in Germany, Holland, and other countries as well as in England as regards work for the unemployed, *Smith* 4724.

Statistics respecting the number of persons employed in various foreign countries in the principal industries in different years, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 508–512.

See also *France. Germany. Holland.*

Foreshore (*Thames*). See *Reclamation Works.*

Forfar. Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh of Forfar and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 583——Amount of distress in the parish, through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 702.

France. Strong contrast between the happy and comfortable condition of the French agricultural labourer and the wretched and despairing condition of the agricultural labourer in England, *Tuckwell* 6979, 6980. 7037 *et seq.*——Admission that there are very high protective duties in France on certain produce, and that these duties are an important factor in the comparison of the French and English agricultural systems, *ib.* 7173–7179——No doubt that the French peasant and his family can live on very much less than the amount required for an English peasant and his family, *ib.* 7180–7189.

Detailed information supplied by Mr. Moore respecting the voluntary farm colony recently established at La Chalmelle, about seventy miles from Paris, *3rd Rep. pp.* 334, 335.

Entire success of the French experiment, which conformed to the idea suggested by witness as most likely to produce a good result, *Moore* 9549–9551. 9628–9632. 9699 *et seq.*

Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain industries in 1886 and in 1891; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 508.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

FRANCHISE:

1. *Evidence in favour of the Removal of Disfranchisements in Times of Distress as a condition of Relief under the Poor Law.*
2. *Evidence to a Contrary Purport.*
3. *Conclusions of the Committee.*

1. *Evidence in favour of the Removal of Disfranchisement in Times of Distress as a condition of Relief under the Poor Law:*

Great reluctance of unemployed respectable working men, even when in great distress, to apply for relief, in view of their disfranchisement; suggestion hereon, *Keir-Hardie* 737–740——Obligation upon guardians to relieve distress, whilst they have no power to find employment and to make payment to workers without disfranchising and pauperising them, *Hilleary* 1265–1267. 1285–1288. 1300–1306. 1327–1332——Objections on the score of disfranchisement to the operation of the labour test, *ib.* 1285–1293.

Concurrence to some extent in the view that in times of exceptional distress the guardians should be free to give relief in any form, and to open soup kitchens, without disfranchisement being involved; probability, however, that this would largely increase applications for relief, *Hilleary* 1418–1430. 1443–1450——Deterrent effect of disfranchisement and the stigma of pauperism further adverted to, *ib.* 1906–1908.

Expediency of the guardians being empowered to give relief in exceptional weather without disfranchisement, *Alden* 2106. 2178–2181——Considerable proportion of the men out of work in West Ham who have votes, and who have objected to go to the stoneyard because of losing them, *ib.* 2221–2228——Further approval of a suspension of the rule as to disfranchisement, *ib.* 2336–2341. 2410–2412.

Objection of large numbers of men to receive poor relief as disqualifying them for the franchise; grounds for this conclusion, *Tagg* 3385. 3387, 3388. 3439–3447. 3554, 3555. 3598–3600——Doubt as to the expediency of loss of franchise being consequential upon receipt of out-door relief, *Griffith* 4204–4210.

Approval, conditionally, of the removal of disfranchisement as a consequence of the acceptance of relief, *Edwards* 4446. 4450–4457——Resolution passed by witness' board adverse to disfranchisement, *Henderson* 5266. 5917, 5918.

Approval of the proposal that persons in receipt of relief should not lose the Parliamentary Vote, so far as infirmary relief is concerned, *Martineau* 6920, 6921——Doubt whether the receipt of reasonable wages by the unemployed for agricultural labour done for the guardians would as a matter of law, disfranchise them, *Dodd* 7537, 7538. 7544–7546. 7675. 7751, 7752——Undesirability of taking people who have been relieved by the parish off the register, *Lansbury* 10408–10413.

View of witness that any man or woman outside the workhouse should be allowed to vote, *Thorne* 10846–10851——Opinion that those people who are compelled to seek Poor Law relief are not themselves responsible in any case for their misfortune, and ought not therefore to be deprived of their right to vote, *Morton* 11029–11037. 11097–11101.

2. *Evidence to a Contrary Purport:*

Extent to which disability or disfranchisement should still continue where the Poor Law comes in, *Hills* 2592. 2795–2797——Strong objection to removing disqualification on the temporary receipt of out-door relief, or otherwise modifying the strictness of the regulations on the subject, *ib.* 2658–2662. 2795–2797.

Objection to disfranchisement being removed as a condition of relief in exceptional times, *Fenton* 3070–3076——Result of witness' extensive experience that he considers the question of disfranchisement has practically no effect in preventing applications for out-relief, *Dewey* 3759–3761. 3799–3805.

Approval of the policy which prevents the exercise of political right by paupers; witness is not aware of any complaint by the poor on losing their vote, *Mackay* 5663–5668——Explanation that a man taken into the infirmary and staying there would be disfranchised, *ib.* 5768–5773——Self-evident proposition with regard to disfranchising persons who apply for relief that the condition of paupers ought to be less eligible than that of the independent labourer, *ib.* 5812, 5813.

Approval by witness, as a Poor Law guardian, of the disfranchisement of men who accept relief, although personally he disagrees with it, *Milligan* 5910–5916——Limited extent to which the liability to disfranchisement deters from applications for relief, *Hunter* 8318, 8319——View of witness that there should be a broad distinction between a confirmed pauper and a man who is driven to seek relief, so as to disfranchise the former and preserve to the latter his right to vote, *Smart* 11328–11331.

FRANCHISE—continued.

3. *Conclusions of the Committee:*

Various complaints made to the Committee as to the effect of the existing law which deprives of his franchise rights any recipient of poor law relief, 3*rd Rep.* v—— Conclusion that this provision may have a salutary effect as a check upon ordinary Poor Law claims and may thus foster independence of character and prevent unnecessary burden falling on the rates, *ib.*

Contemplated discrimination in cases of exceptional distress between the deserving man forced to become dependent upon public and the ordinary claimant for parish relief, 3*rd Rep.* v——Opinion that it would be both humane and wise to exempt the former class from the disability as regards the franchise, whether local or Parliamentary, *ib.*

Fraserburgh (*Aberdeen*). Information supplied by the Inspector of the Poor as to the extent and character of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 618.

Freebridge Lynn Rural District (*Norfolk*). Limited amount of distress in this district; relief by means of voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 336.

Friendly Societies. Provision made by a few Friendly Societies for their members in the form of unemployed benefit, *Smith* 4681.——*See* also *Trade Unions.*

Frome (*Somerset*). Very little distress in the Frome rural district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 397.

Frost. See *Weather* (*Stoppage of Employment*).

Fulham Union. Statement on the part of Fulham Union, dated 4th February, that the distress among the poor is not greater than usual at this season of the year, and that there has been no undue pressure by offering the workhouse; exceptional arrangements not contemplated, *Sir H. Owen* 90.

Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 23rd March 1895, respecting the distress and want of employment up to that date and the measures of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 413.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing, for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94, the number of indoor and outdoor paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and outdoor relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 524–533.

G.

Gainsborough (*Lincoln and Nottingham*). Information respecting the extent of the distress in Gainsborough Urban District and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 91——Similar information respecting Gainsborough Union, *ib.* 115.

Galashiels (*Selkirk*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 584, 585——Amount of distress in Galashiels parish, through the severe weather; measures taken for its relief, *ib.* 785.

Garstang (*Lancaster*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 319.

Garston (*Lancaster*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 224.

Gas Works (*Poplar District*). Displacement of men from the gas works owing to the introduction of a machine called a "Sloper," *Lansbury* 10408.

Gateshead. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 22——Amount and cause of the distress in the county borough; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 394, 395.

Germany. Movement in Germany for a revision of the labour registries, they having failed to a large extent, *Smith* 4709–4711.

Approval of the German plan for ascertaining the actual state of the deserving poor, whereby each member of a committee takes charge of a small section of a town and is made responsible for a thorough knowledge of every person or family in it, *Cox* 6217, 6218.

Explanation relative to the system of labour colonies in Germany and the severe penalties attached to vagrancy, &c., *Motion* 8164, 8165. 8216–8221——Information in detail, as supplied by Mr. Moore, respecting voluntary farm labour colonies in Germany, 3*rd Rep. pp.* 332, 333. 336—— Also, respecting certain forced labour colonies near Berlin, *ib.* 333—— Also, respecting a home colony settlement near Bremerhaven, *ib.* 336.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Germany—continued.

Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in the mining and metal industries in each of the years 1883–92, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 508——Number of persons employed in the textile industries in 1892, *ib.*

Gillingham (*Kent*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 224.

Glanford Brigg (*Lincoln*). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 374.

GLASGOW:

1. *Number and Class of Unemployed; Extent and Character of the Distress.*
2. *Action of the Corporation; Provision and Administration of Relief Works.*
3. *Liberal Help provided by the Citizens; How administered.*
4. *Trade Unions.*
5. *Common Good Fund.*
6. *Employment on Corporation Farms.*
7. *Question of Reclamation of Foreshore.*
8. *Immigration from Outside Districts.*
9. *Model Lodging Houses.*
10. *Paper submitted by the Lord Provost containing Explanations in detail on various points.*
11. *Information supplied by the Town Clerk and by the Inspector of Poor.*

1. *Number and Class of Unemployed; Extent and Character of the Distress:*

Very large number of unemployed in Glasgow and of destitute families, *Keir-Hardie* 723–728——Estimate of 5,000 destitute families and of 8,000 unemployed, this being an understatement, *ib.*

About seven periods of distress in Glasgow since 1848, there having been no undue distress this year from want of employment till the exceptionally severe weather set in, about the end of January, *Bell* 7815–7817. 7835–7838——Very little distress among skilled artisans, as in the building and other trades, apart from the actual labourers, *ib.* 7835–7838. 7874–7876. 7973-7976——Agitation among the men against piecework followed by a strike of very short duration, *ib.* 7840.

Various kinds of work stopped by the severe frost; great increase also in the death rate, *Bell* 7845. 8023–8025——Frequent instances of bricklayers going to America, where they earn very high wages, and returning to Glasgow in the winter-time, *ib.* 7875, 7876. 7935–7937——Savings in the masons' trade and other trades in Glasgow against times of distress, the applicants for work being mainly from the class of labourers, *ib.* 7907–7920——Very few agricultural labourers who availed themselves of the relief works, *ib.* 7938–7940.

Important effect of the exceptionally severe weather upon the death rate, irrespectively of insufficiency of food, through dearth of employment, *Bell* 8058–8064.

Statistics submitted as to the population and area of barony parish, and as to the comparative pauperism in February 1885 and February 1895; large increase of lunacy, *Motion* 8079–8090. 8175–8193. 8246–8249——Absence of any unusual distress in Glasgow during the past winter till the exceptionally severe frost set in; frequent instances of unemployment through the fault of the men themselves, as through indulgence in drink over-night, *ib.* 8102–8107. 8196——Very close and full collection of rates in Barony parish throughout the period of distress, *ib.* 8168.

Data for the conclusion that the distress in the parish was felt chiefly among the class verging upon pauperism, *Motion* 8169, 8170——Very bad and worthless class of men who availed themselves of the shelter organised by the Charity Organisation Society, *ib.* 8171-8173——Large proportion of out-door as compared with in-door paupers, *ib.* 8177, 8178. 8246-8249——Considerable number of weakly or infirm persons, without friends, who should be permanently in the poorhouse infirmary, *ib.* 8179–8185.

Great number of painters, masons, and others engaged in the seasonal trades, who were thrown out of employment by the severe weather; comparatively few of these who applied for relief, as they supported themselves as long as possible on their own resources, *Hunter* 8269–8272——Vast numbers of idle men before the severe weather set in, there being still many trades in which the unemployed are numerous, there being a superfluity of labour in Glasgow; dissent from the Lord Provost's evidence on this point, *ib.* 8269. 8272–8284. 8393. 8400–8410. 8415–8458.

Repugnance of the working classes in Glasgow to apply to the parochial authorities for relief, *Hunter* 8316-8318——Bulk of the distress and of the want of employment among labourers, the number being swelled by the thriftless and idle *ib.*, 8347-8356.

Belief that during the distress there were many more than 10,000 out of employment, *Hunter* 8351–8353——Exception taken to a certain statement as to tippling at night frequently leading to an increase of unemployment, *ib.* 8394–8396.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

GLASGOW—continued.

1. *Number and Class of Unemployed, &c.*—continued.

Considerable depression and want of employment in the Glasgow shipbuilding and engineering trades, this having been accentuated by the coal strike, *Hunter* 8400–8410——Enormous development of Glasgow within the last fifty years, the sources of employment having greatly increased, *ib.* 8494–8501——Conclusion that the working classes could make a better use of their earnings by saving more, though this is not feasible to the extent contemplated by the Lord Provost, *ib.* 8529–8533.

2. *Action of the Corporation; Provision and Administration of Relief Works.*

Institution of relief works under the corporation, with a labour test; expenditure of 4,854*l.*, the men being paid 1*s.* a day with three meals, the material resulting from their labour representing only 1,894*l.*, *Bell* 7833, 7834. 8010–8015——Discontinuance of the test, with a daily wage, on the 2nd March, piecework having been substituted (with two meals a day), by which a man could earn 7*s.* in three or four days with ordinary diligence; great reduction thereupon in the number of applicants for work, *ib.* 7822. 7828. 7839–7844.

Statement as to there having been no room for the employment of those in distress in street-cleaning or other municipal work, *Bell* 7852, 7853——Several very acute periods of distress in Glasgow, the action of the municipal authorities, combined with the liberality of the citizens, having sufficed to meet the pressure; difficulty probably in small towns, *ib.* 7877–7879. 7882. 7952, 7953. 7973–7990.

Great facility given, on the score of humanity, to applications for relief during the exceptional frost, though as a rule certain tests are doubtless necessary, such as piecework, *Bell* 7896–7906——Large expenditure of the corporation in buildings and public works; decided objection to employment upon these being postponed till the winter in the interests of the unemployed, *ib.* 7940–7947.

Examination as to the responsibility assumed by the corporation in authorising expenditure on relief works or stone yards, irrespectively of any claim upon the rates for recouping the cost, *Bell* 8029–8053——Limited disadvantage of the men less capable physically, under the piecework system, inasmuch as they received meals so long as they were employed, *ib.* 8067–8071.

Application of out-door relief not only to those unable to work but to those who are partially able to work, *Motion* 8175, 8176——Suggestions made by witness to the Lord Provost during the recent distress for ascertaining what classes of persons were chiefly employed on the relief works; nothing has been done in this direction, *ib.* 8180–8183.

Valuable relief distributed during the recent distress under the plan of employment adopted by the municipality, though there were thousands of unemployed who did not apply for this mode of relief, *Hunter* 8521–8528. 8563, 8564.

3. *Liberal Help provided by the Citizens; How administered:*

Admission that at Glasgow much has been done by relief committees and by the corporation in aid of the distress, *Keir-Hardie* 877–889. 1144, 1145——Subscription of nearly 10,000*l.* by the citizens, *ib.* 878, 879.

Receipt from the citizens of about 11,000*l.* in money and food; liberal expenditure in the distribution of soup and bread, about 5,000*l.* of this fund being still in hand, *Bell* 7818, 7819. 7831, 7832. 7845. 7849. 7921. 8022; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 519–521——Witness had to restrain people from sending money, *Bell* 7818–7849. 7922.

Very successful utilisation of the police in connection with the distribution of the excessively liberal benefactions of the citizens; several other checks before distribution, *Bell* 7845–7849. 7922. 7927, 7928–7934. 8016–8022——Belief as to the very limited extent to which the distribution of relief had any injurious or degrading effect upon the recipients, *ib.* 7850, 7851——Reference to the Citizens' Relief Fund as not having entailed any charge upon the rates, *ib.* 7921, 7922. 7966, 7967.

Very slight inquiry or investigation before relief was given when the pressure was at its height, there having doubtless been much abuse; numerous "loafers" relieved, *Motion* 8108–8115——Large sums raised in Glasgow for the relief of the unemployed on former occasions of severe distress; complaints in 1862 as to most of the unemployed being loafers, *ib.* 8137–8139.

Very large number of meals provided out of monies collected by the management of the Gaiety and Scotia theatres, *Hunter* 8266–8269.

4. *Trade Unions:*

Statement showing the large sums paid during the recent distress in Glasgow by different trade unions by way of aliment allowance; this largely accounts for the unemployed not applying for more relief from the Lord Provost's Fund, *Hunter* 8263–8266——Rule of the trade unions in Glasgow as to the payment of "idle benefit," whereas

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

GLASGOW—continued.

4. *Trade Unions*—continued.

whereas the ordinary labourers have no such resource in time of distress, *Hunter* 8329–8336——Numerous trade unions represented on the Glasgow Trades Council, there being also two labourers' unions connected with the Council, *ib.* 8343–8346——Continued payment of idle aliment to trade unionists, irrespectively of the weather, there being a surplus of labour and a legalised eight hours day being needed, *ib.* 8534-8539. 8547–8562.

Partial extent to which the unemployed benefit given by trade unions in Glasgow meets the whole amount of the distress; doubt as to the actual contribution by the men for such benefit, *Hunter* 8365–8376.

5. *Common Good Fund:*

Information respecting the Common Good Fund of Glasgow, which is administered by the corporation, the income being 40,000*l.* a year and the capital being jealously preserved, *Bell* 7964–7972. 8026, 8027.

6. *Employment on Corporation Farms:*

Information respecting two farms held by the corporation, city refuse being disposed of thereon, and the larger farm being made productive and greatly increased in value; permanent employment of only thirty-two men on the two farms, *Bell* 7854–7864. 7871. 7991–8009. 8072.

7. *Question of Reclamation of Foreshore:*

Explanation as to the Clyde trustees depositing the river dredging in the sea instead of reclaiming riverside lands with it; undue cost in the latter case, *Bell* 7865–7871.

8. *Immigration from Outside Districts:*

Statement showing the great number of discharged prisoners who find their way into Glasgow, *Motion* 8130-8136. 8197, 8198.

Examination with reference to the large immigration from the Highlands and other parts of Scotland into Glasgow, as well as from Ireland; various occupations of these men adverted to in connection with the question of their being usefully employed on the land, *Hunter* 8415–8458. 8502–8520. 8543–8546.

9. *Model Lodging Houses:*

Exceedingly pernicious and immoral operation of the model lodging houses in Glasgow as evidenced by the admissions to the poorhouse, *Motion* 8115–8129. 8204–8206.

10. *Paper submitted by the Lord Provost containing Explanations in detail on various Points:*

Statement by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, dated 2nd May 1895, respecting the amount and causes of local distress, the provision of relief works, the trades and occupations of unemployed men, the expenditure in connection with relief, &c., *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 514–521.

Information respecting the amount of distress and the expenditure in relief in previous years as well as in 1895, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 515, 516.

Particulars respecting the Citizens' Relief Fund, 1895, and its administration, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 519–521.

11. *Information supplied by the Town Clerk and by the Inspector of Poor:*

Letter from the town clerk depute, dated 27th February 1895, respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 586.

Communication from the inspector of poor as to the amount of distress in Glasgow parish through the severe weather, and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 736, 737.

Glossop (*Derby*). Explanations in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 136.

Gloucester (*County Borough*). Official explanations in February as to the extent of the distress in the county borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 207.

Gloucestershire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the relief measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 26, 27.

Glyn Colliery (*South Wales*). See *Pontypool.*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Godalming (*Surrey*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 261, 262.

Godstone (*Surrey*). Amount of distress in this district in February; steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 337.

Golcar (*York*). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 363.

Goole (*York*). Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 421.

Gorton (*Lancaster*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the provision of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 160.

Gosport and Alverstoke Urban District (*Hants*). Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 421.

Govan (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 586——Amount of distress in Govan combination parish, through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 737.

Government Grants. See *State Aid.*

Grantham (*Lincoln*). Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 212——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 294.

Gravesend (*Municipal Borough*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 71, 72.

Grays (*Essex*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 196.

Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 347–349.

Explanation in connection with the unemployed register and its inoperative character, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 386.

Great Harwood Urban District (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the proceedings taken with a view to employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 92.

Greenock. Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 587——Amount of distress in Greenock parish through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 768.

Greenwich. Large increase of distress and of relief in Greenwich previously, chiefly through able-bodied men being out of employment through the severe weather, *Sir H. Owen*, 90, 240.

Letter dated 23rd March 1895, to the effect that exceptional distress was due only to the severe frost; extent of want of employment still existing, this being of a chronic character, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 414.

Return handed by Sir Hugh Owen, showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Griffith, Rev. E. T. C. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is vicar of Trevethin, which includes the town of Pontypool, and is chairman of the local relief committee which has been working for the last two winters, 3870–3874.

Estimated population of 16,000 in the district represented by witness, its area being about three miles long by one mile broad, 3875, 3876——Information respecting the dearth of employment in the district borough, the closing of certain tin works and iron sheet works, and of the Glyn Colliery at different periods since the strike in August and September 1893; loss of employment by at least 1,350 men, some 200 being employed intermittently at the Town Forges works, 3877–3904. 3914, 3915. 4005–4007. 4041, 4042. 4101–4106.

Formation of the relief committee in January 1894, about 300*l.* having been collected and the committee having worked for about twelve weeks, relief having been given in kind, 3905–3908. 3914, 3915——Employment offered by the local board during the winter of 1894 upon stone-breaking at 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard, or about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; unfitness of this class of work for the class of men out of employment, 3909–3913. 3973–3987. 4055–4060.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Griffith, Rev. E. T. C. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Relief committee again formed in January 1895, upon the closing of the Pontnewynydd Iron Sheet Works, whereby 400 men were suddenly thrown out of employment; committee also formed in the Pontypool district, the two committees having been subsequently amalgamated, with witness as chairman, 3916–3920. 4040–4042——Collection of about 500*l.*, mainly from shopkeepers, about 100*l.* of which is yet in hand, relief having been given in a daily distribution of bread and a bi-weekly distribution of soup; coals also given by colliery owners, 3921–3927. 4035. 4067–4075.

Large and influential character of the relief committee; careful inquiry in every case before help is given, 3926. 4030–4034. 4040——Total of about 1,800 persons (including women and children) relieved daily by the committee during the distress; estimate that about 1,000 men were absolutely without employment, only between 200 and 300 of whom were affected by the frost, 3928–3933. 4061–4066. 4154, 4155.

Very poor prospect of a revival of the tin-plate trade in the Pontypool district, though there is now some intermittent employment at one of the works; odd jobs of various kinds upon which some of the men have obtained employment, 3934–3938. 3948. 3953–3963——Improbability of the Glyn Colliery being soon reopened, 3938–3941.

Grounds upon which witness submits that the case of Pontypool is one which has a strong claim to outside aid in the form of a Government grant, the local voluntary resources having been already greatly strained in order to keep the people from starvation and no other funds being available to meet the want of employment, 3942–3964. 3990–4004. 4008–4037. 4050–4054.

Doubt as to much help having been given by the local trades unions, 3955–3957. 4151–4153. 4239, 4240——Improved system of distribution of bread and soup, at the homes of the people, during the present distress, as compared with the practice in the previous winter, 3965–3972——Unfitness of tin-plate workers and of miners not only for stone-breaking but for agricultural employment, 3973–3989. 4156–4163. 4251–4254——Statement to the effect that the board of guardians have taken no active part in relieving the distress, whilst the urban district council have co-operated in every way; reference hereon to the amount of the local rates, the poor rate having slightly increased, 3990–4004. 4012–4034. 4174–4193. 4258, 4259.

Good earnings of the tin-plate workers when in full work, many having saved money, and benefit clubs being largely used by them, 4043–4049. 4122–4128—— Advocacy of State aid, in view of the exceptional acuteness of the distress and want of employment, rather than of an increase of rates, or a further resort to voluntary help; dissent from the view that a Government grant might tend to pauperise the recipients, 4050–4054. 4067–4071. 4139–4144. 4241–4250. 4255–4269——Liberal contribution by owners of works and collieries, whilst the men have helped each other with great generosity, 4068–4071. 4129–4133. 4231–4240.

Further information respecting the great depression in the Pontypool tin-plate industry, and in the local collieries, in connection with the question of the future employment of the workpeople, and of their migration to other districts in search of work, 4076–4109. 4134–4138. 4150. 4164–4173. 4211–4213——More acute distress recently in Pontypool than witness has ever known elsewhere; widespread destitution outside the operations of the voluntary relief committee, 4110–4112. 4117–4121. 4150. 4261——Severe distress in Merthyr in 1875 through the coal strike; large voluntary fund raised on that occasion, 4145–4149.

Further statement as to the guardians not having relieved the able-bodied unemployed, voluntary assistance having been a necessity; expediency of an extension of powers in this direction, 4194–4197. 4259–4263. 4270–4278——Reference to the cottage rents in the district, many of them being unpaid, 4198–4203. 4289. 4292.

Doubt as to the expediency of loss of franchise being consequential upon receipt of outdoor relief, 4204–4210——Probable benefit to Pontypool if the cost of indoor relief were paid generally out of imperial funds, 4214, 4215.

Explanation as regards the closing of one colliery at Pontypool, whilst another is only partially at work; question of royalty rents adverted to hereon, 4216–4230. 4279–4284. 4293–4295——Liberal help received by the relief committee from the local landowners, 4285–4291.

Grimsby. Letter from the town clerk, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 60.

Ground Rents. Consideration of a suggestion that the increase of ground values, without any expenditure by the owners, might be diverted for the benefit of the community at large, *Tagg* 3572–3580.

Guardians. See *Boards of Guardians.*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Guildford (*Surrey*). Explanation in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 137——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district at the end of February, *ib.* 367.

Guiltcross Rural District (*Norfolk*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep*). 115, 116.

H.

Habitual Paupers. Decided opinion that the present time is opportune for the Legislature to deal sternly with the habitual pauper, who uses the workhouse as a legal means of avoiding the necessity for self-maintenance by work; recommendation that justices should have the power of sending such men to some place where they should be kept to useful labour for three months, *Vallance* 11551. 11576–11591.

Hackney. Statement from Hackney, on 4th February, to the effect that there has been no material increase of distress, *Sir H. Owen* 90.

Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 5th March 1895, as to the exceptional distress in the parish, the causes thereof, and the relief measures in operation, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 385.

Further letter, dated 9th March, respecting the employment provided, together with suggestions for an amended system of relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 396.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 and 1893–94 the number of indoor and outdoor paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of outdoor relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Hadleigh Farm Colony (*Salvation Army*):

1. *Number and Class of Men Employed at the Colony; their Capacity for Work and for Improvement.*
2. *Operations carried on, System of Management, &c.*
3. *Payments to the Men, and Cost of Administration generally; Annual Financial Results.*

1. *Number and Class of Men Employed at the Colony; their Capacity for Work and for Improvement:*

Satisfactory result of the employment of some men of the "casual" class (West Ham) upon the farm colony at Hadleigh (Essex); belief that about half of these men returned to West Ham as applicants for relief, *Alden* 2066–2080.

Great variation in the class of men put upon the Hadleigh colony, most of them having passed some time in the Salvation Army shelters; the best and most willing workers were the Army Reserve men, who had been drifting about London without any occupation, *Moore* 9558 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that all the men who come to the colony have, more or less, lost their characters, and that the colony was established for saving souls, not for reclaiming the land; claim of the Salvation Army to have reclaimed a large proportion of the 1,600 men that have passed through the colony, *Moore* 9590–9592.

Number of men in the colony 298, of whom 242 are colonists, the remainder being paid *employés*, officials, &c.; estimate that about 60 per cent of the men were unskilled workers, 30 per cent. mechanics, and 10 per cent. from the educated professional and commercial classes, *B. Booth* 9854–9858. 9957 *et seq.*; 9981–9990. 10061–10066.

Present distribution of the men in the colony as follows:—235 engaged in agriculture, 52 in industries, including making bricks and building, and 11 in managing the colony, a few of the colonists and officers being married, *B. Booth* 9858.

Arrangement made by the Army with the London Boards of Guardians to receive 110 paupers at *5s.* per week per man, the workhouses being too full; total incapacity for work of 22 per cent. of these paupers, 74 per cent. of the remainder working satisfactorily on the farm, *B. Booth* 9858–9862. 9959–9961. 9991 *et seq.*

Statement that 41 per cent. of the paupers are still with the army and give reasonable promise of becoming decent working men again, and that 16 per cent. have obtained situations outside; refusal of 21 per cent. to work, never having done any work and never intending to do any, *B. Booth* 9862. 10001–10004.

General conduct of the men received into the Hadleigh colony satisfactory, 80 per cent. of them being willing to work; explanation that the colony is open to all three classes of the unemployed, as described by witness, and that the men are rapidly improving, *B. Booth* 9862–9866. 10005, 10006——Conclusion, after careful investigation, that only 34 per cent. of the men were brought to poverty through drunkenness, the cause more often being misfortune, bad health, accidents, &c., *ib.* 9866. 10020 *et seq.*

Return showing the number of men passed through the Hadleigh colony, and with what results, up to 30th September 1894, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 544, 545.

Information

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hadleigh Farm Colony (Salvation Army)—continued.

2. *Operations carried on, System of Management, &c.*

Information with reference to certain experiments in the form of labour colonies, more especially as regards the Salvation Army Colony at Hadleigh, *Smith* 4760, 4761. 4967–5011.

Explanations respecting the Hadleigh colony, in connection with which witness was professionally engaged in 1891, having been largely instrumental in laying out the system on which it was worked during the first year, *Moore* 9554 *et seq.*

Dissatisfaction of the men with the requirement that they shall work in the gravel pit on arrival, 30 out of the first 160 leaving on this account; great difficulty in dealing with men of education, *Moore* 9558 *et seq.*

Experience gained from the colony chiefly useful on account of the detailed evidence it affords as to the ability of unskilled men when directed in the early stages of the work; no doubt that the whole expenditure on the land improvement work was of a profitable character and that the labour was cheaper than ordinary labour, *Moore* 9593–9597. 9754–9787. 9815–9818.

Certainty that in some cases men arriving at the colony without any knowledge of the cultivation of the soil became, after a certain time, capable of cultivating an allotment; desirability of the Salvation Army trying the allotment experiment on a larger scale, *Moore* 9598–9606——Opinion that the first work that should have been undertaken at the colony was the reclamation of the marsh land, which, when reclaimed later on, yielded an extraordinary crop of wheat, *ib.* 9600. 9784–9791. 9804.

Statement that witness strongly objected to the Salvation Army building dwelling-houses, farm buildings, &c., outside their colony; certainty that some 30 or 40 market gardeners have been thrown out of work owing to the competition of the army in the limited market of Southend, *Moore* 9615–9623.

Explanation that the farm colony at Hadleigh, is, first, a farm colony, and secondly, an industrial colony, consisting of about 1,800 acres of land with about 1,000 acres of water; statement that about 1,270 acres are actually in occupation and that the "saltings" are reclaimable, *B. Booth* 9847 *et seq.*; 9944 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that in addition to the ordinary farming operations, dairying and market gardening, several industries are carried on in the colony, the men being taught to make boots and shoes, &c.; erection of buildings by the army both inside and outside the colony, *B. Booth* 9853, 9854. 10011–10019.

Payment of the men on the farm colony by ticket, as in the case of the city colony; average time the men stay at the colony being about one year and two weeks, *B. Booth* 9882, 9883. 10067 *et seq.*

Dismissal of about 10 per cent. of the men received on the farm for incorrigible idleness and drunkenness, the practice being to discharge a man on his getting drunk the third time, *B. Booth* 9883–9891.

Grounds for the opinion that the Hadleigh scheme is based upon sound principles, the chief being that it enables the men on it to earn sufficient to support themselves, and also benefits the working classes by relieving the overcrowded market, *B. Booth* 9911——Assertion generally that there has been no underselling on the colony, but only ordinary competition; contention that the colony has not displaced any growers around Southend, *ib.* 9913–9922.

3. *Payments to the Men, and Cost of Administration generally; Annual Financial Results:*

Publication of the first balance sheet of the Hadleigh colony at the end of 1891, showing a profit of 53*l.* on the first year's working, or an expenditure of 6,819*l.*, disregarding the charge for interest on capital; non-inclusion of the general costs of administration in this expenditure, *Moore* 9555 *et seq.*; 9730–9753.

Failure of the attempt to convert the whole colony into a workshop for manufacturing goods for the market, the balance sheets for 1892 and 1893 showing deficiencies; profit of 532*l.* made by the colony on farming work in 1894, when the men had been put back on the land again, *Moore* 9575–9583. 9802, 9803.

Capital of the colony last year 94,000*l.*, and total acreage of about 1,150 acres in possession, a few farms not being worked by the Salvation Army; present number of men employed about 300, *Moore* 9584 *et seq.*; 9644, 9645.

Explanation that witness left Hadleigh, because an elaborate expenditure out of the Darkest England Fund was contemplated, on buildings, brickworks, a railway, the organising of industries of which he disapproved, and because there was no competent agricultural expert in control of the agricultural work of the colony, *Moore* 9605–9611.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hadleigh Farm Colony (*Salvation Army*)—continued.

3. *Payments to the Men, and Cost of Administration generally; Annual Financial Results*—continued.

Attention drawn to the fact that although last year a profit of 532*l.* was made in the farming department, there was an admitted loss of about 1,700*l.* in the industrial department, in addition to the cost of administration, *Moore* 9612–9614.

Explanation that the estimate of 4,900*l.* for the current expenses of the cultivated land was calculated for ordinary crops, and includes the cost of horses and of honest labour, *Moore* 9807–9814.

Details of the expenditure upon the farm colony, the total in the last balance sheet amounting to about 94,000*l.*, of which 39,700*l.* was for the land; property to the value of about 13,000*l.*, now in the possession of tenants, will ultimately come into use for the farm colony, *B. Booth* 9880–9882.

Assertion, with reference to the statement that the Hadleigh colony was a financial success so long as the work on it was confined to land cultivation and reclamation, that the loss in the industrial section was almost entirely in the brickfield, which no doubt will pay when proper kilns are provided, *B. Booth* 9892–9895.

Belief that the total loss on the colony since its commencement is about 10,000*l.*, or a little more; explanation that as credit was not taken for improvements, the charge for rent was not included, one being set off against the other, *B. Booth* 9896, 9897. 10072–10082.

Great improvement of the Hadleigh estate since it was taken over by General Booth, the land planted with fruit being fully worth 100*l.* per acre; original cost of the whole estate, taking land and water together, about 13*l.* 5*s.* per acre on the average, *B. Booth* 9897-9910. 9942 *et seq.*

Statement showing the loss on the colony in 1894, the average number of colonists at work, the distribution of the colonists, and the average loss per week per man, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 544.

Halifax. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 39, 40. 46——Limited distress in the rural district; modes of employment provided, *ib.* 116.

Ham (*Surrey*). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd. Rep.*) 382, 383.

Hamilton (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk of Hamilton respecting the amount of distress in the burgh and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd. Rep.*) 587——Letter from the Inspector of Poor respecting the amount of distress in the parish through the severe weather, and the measures adopted for its relief, *ib.* 737.

Hammersmith. Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 187-189.

Hampstead. Letter from Hampstead, dated 14th February, showing that the guardians do not anticipate any difficulty in meeting the distress, and that the vestry are co-operating with them in finding work, *Sir H. Owen* 90.

Official statement as to the amount of distress in the parish; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (2*nd. Rep.*) 204.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of indoor and outdoor paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of outdoor relief, *App.* (3*rd. Rep.*) 524–533.

Hanley (*Stafford*). Particulars supplied by the mayor, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 128.

Handsworth (*Stafford*). Local explanations in February, as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 225.

Handsworth (*York*). Distress in this district due to the severe weather; means of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 395.

Harrogate. Explanation in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 137.

Hartismere (*Suffolk*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 357.

Hartlepool. Explanations in February respecting the extent and character of the distress, and the measures of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 137.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Harwich. Information respecting the local distress and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 137.

Haslingden (*Lancaster*). Extent and character of the distress in this municipal borough in February 1895 ; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 262.

Hastings (*Sussex*). Particulars respecting the amount and cause of distress in the county borough in February and the steps taken by the local authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 359——Amount and cause of the distress in the rural district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 390, 391.

Haverfordwest (*Pembroke*). Explanations in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *2nd Rep.*, *p.* 138.

Hawarden Rural District (*Flint*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 463, 464.

Hawick (*Roxburgh*). Letter from the town clerk of Hawick respecting the amount of distress in the burgh and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 588——Amount of distress in the parish through the severe weather; measures provided for its relief, *ib.* 780, 781.

Haydock Urban District (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 92.

Hebburn (*Durham*). Amount of distress in this district in February ; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 349.

Hebden Bridge Urban District (*York*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 93.

Hemel Hempstead (*Hertford*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 295.

Henderson, Alfred Nicol. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is clerk to the guardians of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union, 5155.

Evidence to the effect that the Wandsworth and Clapham Union comprises 11,454 acres, with a population of 332,542, and is the largest in the metropolis ; division of the union into six parishes, of which Battersea and Wandsworth contain a large number of the working class, the remainder being more residential, 5156–5160——Details as to the rateable value of the union, which has been just about doubled in the last twenty years, and is now 1,962,355*l.* ; variation of the rates in the various parishes, 5161–5165.

Inclusion of various rates under the heading of poor rate, the actual amount spent in connection with the poor not being more than one-third of the whole rate ; great difference in the constitution of the poor rate inside and outside the metropolis, 5166 *et seq.*——Statistics showing that the actual money required for the maintenance of the poor in the Wandsworth and Clapham Union has increased in a greater ratio than the valuation, 5169 *et seq.* ; 5235–5240.

Result of a committee of inquiry into the out-relief in 1894 that some of the relieving officers were dismissed for malversation, new rules made, and the whole district reconstituted, 5180–5190. 5237–5240——Decrease in the out-relief this year until the very severe weather set in, when the number in the stoneyard increased very much ; permission given for the men to work six instead of four days per week in the stoneyard this year because of the acute distress during the frost, 5187–5200. 5241 *et seq.* ; 5273–5275. 5311–5324.

Particulars of the relief given to the men working in the stoneyard, the weekly value going up to a maximum of 15*s.* 2*d.*, with a double allowance of bread on Saturday, for a man with a wife and more than six children, 5200–5215. 5293–5310——Statement that the inquiry into the genuineness of the circumstances alleged by the applicants for relief was as thorough as possible, considering the large number of applications, 5206–5215. 5272.

Average quantity of stones broken in the stoneyard this year two to three hundredweight per man per day, while the allotted task is eight hundredweight ; understanding, however, that the men work according to the best of their physical ability, 5216–5220——Analysis of the trades of the men working in the stoneyard in 1894, the majority of the men being labourers, 5221–5226. 5276–5278.

Statement that in no single case was an applicant who came within the rules refused work by the guardians ; belief, however, that the greater number of people in distress did not apply for relief, 5227–5234. 5268–5271. 5281–5292——Resolution passed by the guardians of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union expressing the opinion that the

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Henderson, Alfred Nicol. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Government should at once consider the question of starting some scheme to meet the difficulty of want of employment otherwise than by opening stoneyards, which are calculated to pauperise and demoralise the poor, 5243-5267. 5303-5310. 5325.

Henley-on-Thames (*Municipal Borough*). Extent of the local distress; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 72.

Hereford. Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 213——Amount of distress in the rural district; steps taken by the local authorities and by the voluntary agencies, *ib.* 367.

Heston and Isleworth (*Middlesex*). Exceptional distress in this urban district in February due to the severity of the weather; measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 273–275.

Hexham Urban District (*Northumberland*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 93.

Heywood (*Lancaster*). Character and extent of the local distress in this district; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 72.

Hilleary, Frederic Edward, LL.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Long experience of witness as clerk to the guardians of West Ham Union; he is also town clerk, 1235–1239.

Seven parishes comprised in the union; acreage and population of each, 1240, 1241——Extent to which the several parishes are rural or urban, the want of employment and the distress existing chiefly in West Ham and Leyton parishes, 1242, 1243——Total of about 55,000*l.* as the amount of relief in the union last year, the rateable value being 1,627,485*l.* and the poor rate being 1*s.* 1*d.*; 1244–1248. 1655, 1656.

Particulars respecting the amount of outdoor relief in the winter months in recent years, and in February 1895; also the total number of persons relieved at different periods 1249–1264——Obligation upon guardians to relieve distress, whilst they have no power to find employment and to make payment to workers without disfranchising and pauperising them, 1265–1267. 1285–1288. 1300–1306. 1327–1332——Conditions of the Local Government Board, subject to which the West Ham guardians sent twenty-seven men last year to do farm work under the English Colonisation Society, the society being paid 5*s.* a week for each man; advantage if similar arrangements could be carried out on a large scale without entailing disqualifications, 1268-1283. 1333–1339. 1365. 1706–1709.

Explanation respecting the action taken in West Ham Union with a view to the provision of employment, there having been several deputations from the unemployed, followed by an interview with the Local Government Board; legal difficulties in the matter, 1284–1289. 1327–1332. 1694–1696——Eventual withdrawal of the council from Mr. Hills' scheme, to which that gentlemen contributed 1,000*l.*; 1285. 1510–1522.

Objections, on the score of disfranchisement, to the operation of the labour test, 1285–1293——Great facility to the guardians in dealing with distress if employment and relief could be given without disqualifications being entailed, 1287–1293. 1366–1372.

Petition presented to Parliament on the part of the Corporation of West Ham; submission therein that the duty of finding employment for able-bodied persons out of work should be undertaken by the State, neither the council nor the guardians having any machinery for dealing with the evil, 1294–1306. 1379, 1380——Grounds for complaint as to the circular of the Central Board having implied that the corporation could start relief works, 1296. 1300–1302. 1549. 1570–1572.

Steps taken last year by the council, jointly with a voluntary committee, for giving employment on certain works, 1307——Further reference to the scheme of employment promoted by Mr. Hills, at a low rate of wage, and objected to on that ground, though it was eventually carried out by a local committee, 1307, 1308. 1469–1480. 1510–1522.

Summary of the employment given in January and February on relief works, showing the numbers employed and the cost incurred, 1308, 1309——Report of the borough engineer for 1893–94, containing particulars as to the relief works during the year, the wages paid for works on Wanstead Flats, for the laying out of recreation grounds, &c.; conclusion expressing that national rather than local treatment is required, 1310–1315——Information respecting the various callings of the unemployed, the main proportion being returned as labourers, 1316–1326.

View

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hilleary, Frederic Edward, LL.D. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

View of the West Ham Council (and of witness) that the State should either undertake the duty of finding work for the unemployed, or should throw the duty upon the council or the guardians, and prescribe how it is to be done, 1340–1347. 1403. 1406. 1416, 1417. 1451–1455. 1542–1551. 1570–1572. 1672, 1673. 1725–1729——Probability that a great many of the unemployed have been deterred from applying for relief on account of the pauperising effect, 1348–1353.

Considerable increase, through the frost, in the number employed in the labour yard as compared with previous years, the number, however, being now (26th February) on the decline; limited influx of unemployed from other districts, 1354–1364. 1381–1391. 1802–1808——Sufficient poor-rate available for the relief of distress in the district if pauperism with its disqualifications did not deter applications, 1366–1372. 1431–1443. 1492, 1493.

Information with reference to the poor rate (1*s.* 1*d.*), the School Board rate and other rates in West Ham, the total being about 8*s.* in the £., witness explaining that each additional penny of poor rate in the union would bring in nearly 7,000*l.*, which would be a much larger sum than a share of a Government Grant, 1368–1372. 1411–1415. 1431–1443. 1481–1493. 1606–1611. 1787–1790——Benefit to the union from the Equalisation of Rates Bill if the union were within the area, 1373–1375. 1617–1620——Enormous and rapid increase of the working class population of the union; chief occupations and industries in which employed, 1376–1378. 1392–1400. 1494–1500. 1596–1603.

Examination to the effect that distress and want of employment are not exceptional in West Ham as compared with other parts of the metropolis, though it is submitted that the State could interfere, and would provide relief works, 1381–1405. 1451–1455.——Concurrence to some extent in the view that in times of exceptional distress the guardians should be free to give relief in any form, and to open soup kitchens, without disfranchisement being involved; probability, however, that this would largely increase applications for relief, 1418–1430. 1443–1450.

Suggestions as to the class of works which Government might promote for the unemployed, and as to the removal of able-bodied men from one part of the country to another, 1451–1455. 1556–1563——Payment of 6*d.* an hour to the men employed in the West Ham Union; tendency of this rate to prevent men seeking regular employment, 1456–1468.

Probability that the stigma of pauperism is more operative than disfranchisement in preventing applications for relief, 1502–1509. 1660–1663——Reference to the census taken in West Ham as not having led to any action on the part of the Council; way in which the census was compiled, 1523–1529. 1576–1581——Circumstance of the Petition to Parliament not having been read over to the Council; general approval, however, by the members, 1530–1541. 1582–1595.

Belief that not many persons in West Ham are summoned for non-payment of rates, 1552–1555——Large amount of work soon to be had, so that the unemployed difficulty will gradually settle down for the present, a grant from the State not being necessary, 1563–1569. 1612–1614. 1621–1625. 1665–1667. 1674–1684. 1710. 1736–1738——Approval of some distinction as regards relief between those who are quite destitute and those who receive an allowance from their trades union, 1626–1635.

Expediency of a relaxation of the present legal restrictions upon relief in times of exceptional distress, 1641–1648——Recurring character of the want of employment in West Ham in the winter months whenever the weather is severe, 1649–1652. 1731–1735——Opinion that some 25 per cent. of the men out of work could be employed on land in Essex, 1653–1659——Facility with which the union can raise money at 3 per cent. or less, 1664.

Demand of the unemployed in West Ham for work at a fair rate of pay, their objection being to the stone-yard as a test of relief, 1668–1671——Reference to oakum-picking, wood-chopping, and stone-breaking as the three kinds of test work by which the guardians are able to deal with the distress of the able-bodied, 1685–1693. 1724, 1725——Difficulties in the way of certain joint arrangements between the guardians and the corporation, whereby the latter might aid as regards work for the unemployed, so as to obviate the application of the labour test by the former, 1694–1705. 1725–1727.

Information as to the numbers relieved in October and November last, and in March and April, before and since the severe weather, 1711–1712——Small number of skilled workmen permanently unemployed in the union, those out of work being chiefly labourers, 1713–1722.

Belief that no steps are taken in West Ham to prevent men going on relief works who are earning money in the docks for two or three days in the week, 1739–1746——Examination as to the increase or decrease of employment of various kinds, as in the sugar industry, gas works, docks, &c., 1747–1778. 1812——Limited extent to which there

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hilleary, Frederic Edward, LL.D. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

there has been any official action as regards migration of labour or employment on useful works in time of depression, 1779–1786.

Outdoor relief freely given in the union, the guardians, however, having no difficulty in dealing with all the cases that come before them, 1796–1801. 1818–1820——Comparatively few casuals and tramps, 1802–1808——View of the guardians that the severe weather mainly accounts for the excessive applications for relief in West Ham as elsewhere, 1809–1811.

Doubt as to any benefit resulting from conferences and concerted action between the various agencies in the locality, such as the guardians, town council, school board, trades unions, friendly societies, &c., 1812–1817.

[Second Examination.]—Explanation that the poor-rate throughout the West Ham Union may be taken at from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* in the £., whilst in some metropolitan parishes it is half as much again, 1821–1830——Loan obtained last year by the town council for relief works at Wanstead Flats and for other works; lapse of time before sanction was obtained from the Local Government Board, 1831–1841——Aggregate of about 450,000*l.* as the indebtedness of the council for public works, the rateable value on which raised being about 1,000,000*l.*; 1842–1851.

Belief that an inspector from the Central Board has not suggested that under certain circumstances relief should be taken by the relieving officers to the men's homes, 1852–1860——Further statement as to the extent of work available for the able-bodied when the weather improves, witness submitting that meanwhile those still unemployed and destitute through stress of weather might have their rents and rates paid for them and be provided with food, if a State grant be obtained, 1861–1877. 1885, 1886.

Large and increasing proportion of outdoor relief in West Ham, steps being taken to increase the workhouse accommodation, the house being over full, 1878–1882. 1958–1966——Expediency of a labour test for "loafers," and for all who will not work if they can avoid it; facility in this respect when there is more workhouse accommodation, 1881–1884. 1958–1967——Statement as to no action having been taken respecting any scheme of annual relief works, employment upon the land or roads not being feasible during hard frost; views of Mr. Will Thorne on this point, 1887–1905. 1944–1947——Deterrent effect of disfranchisement and the stigma of pauperism further adverted to, 1906–1908.

Further evidence as to the misapprehension created by the circular of the Local Government Board respecting the duties of town councils and other local authorities with reference to distress, witness repeating that Parliament should clearly lay down what is to be done, but objecting to the town council as the body to provide work for the unemployed, 1909–1917.

Conclusion as to the necessity of retaining the stone-yard test, 1921. 1950, 1951——Employment of the able-bodied men on wood-chopping and oakum-picking; degree of competition in the former case with outside employment, 1922. 1927–1942——Important difference if labour in the stone-yard were under the borough surveyor without entailing pauperism, 1923–1926.

Unsatisfactory operation of a central relief fund if only availed of in some localities, 1948, 1949——Decrease rather than increase of relief in West Ham in December and January 1894–95, until the severe weather set in, as compared with the same period in 1893–94; 1955–1957—— Varying practice, according to the stress of destitution, as to the application of the labour test, efficient inquiry being made by the relieving officers as to the circumstances of the applicants for relief, 1968–1973.

Explanation that the school-rate for last year was 1*s.* 11*d.* in the £., 1974, 1975.

Hilleary, F. E., LL.D. Bill, submitted by Dr. Hilleary, to provide for the economical administration of relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 497, 498.

Hills, A. F., M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Considerable experience of witness in connection with relief works in West Ham; he is chairman of the Thames Shipbuilding Company, and he represents the local relief committee, 2531–2533.

Constitution of the relief committee two years ago, partly of the town council and partly of the subscribers to a public charitable fund, the latter having provided about 1,000*l.* and the council agreed to find a similar sum, 2533, 2534——Institution by the committee last year of works upon about 180 acres of land at Wanstead Flats, men in want of work having been employed six hours daily, for four days a week, at 4*d.* an hour, 2533, 2534——Work carried on in Poplar under the same conditions as in West Ham, 2534.

Result of the foregoing experiment that in West Ham, and still more in Poplar, the work cost a great deal more than it would have done under ordinary conditions, 2534——Amended system proposed to the council, based upon piece work, with a minimum wage; approval thereof by the council in the first instance, whilst on the interference of Mr. Will Thorne (secretary of a local trade union) this approval was rescinded, 2535, 2536.

Hills, A. F., M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Eventual carrying out of the works on Wanstead Flats by the Relief Committee (without aid from the Town Council), employment having been given to from 120 to 180 men, 2536——Explanations in detail respecting the conditions and system of payment under which the men have been employed, the character of the work, the supervision exercised, and the financial results: success claimed notwithstanding that there was an organised trades union obstruction to the payment of 4*d.* instead of 6*d.* an hour, 2536–2566——Arrangements as regards food for the men, so that they show much physical improvement, 2557.

Authority given to witness by the West Ham Relief Committee to submit a scheme (now in the printer's hands) for dealing with the unemployed throughout the country, 2566.

[Second Examination.] Invitation to the present Committee to visit the relief works on Wanstead Flats, so that they may see for themselves the practical working of the system of employment, 2568——Conclusion that any State grant in aid of the unemployed would be objectionable and useless in the present season, there being no machinery ready for its administration and for the organisation of the necessary works, 2568. 2590, 2591. 2602–2614.

Explanation that the provisions of the scheme advocated by witness for the whole country have been hastily embodied in the draft Bill circulated among the members of the Committee, some revision being necessary, 2568——Grounds for justifying the proposition that the State, the local authority, and the individual (or charitable public) should co-operate in providing the money required for a system of works as a means of solving the problem of the unemployed question, 2568 *et seq.*

More harm than good through a system of indiscriminate almsgiving, whether by doles of money or of food; illustration in West Ham, 2568–2570—— Great advantage on the other hand of charitable aid properly administered and with careful safeguards against abuse; reference hereon to the very valuable operation of the Charity Organisation Society, 2570–2572.

Division of the poor and unemployed into two main classes, the worthy and the unworthy, these being again subdivisible into the competent and the incompetent, 2570——Proposed maintenance of the present Poor Law machinery, together with the existing disqualifications, as regards the incompetent unworthy poor, 2570. 2767–2769. 2795. 2797—— Suggestion that the able-bodied unworthy poor might be dealt with by a county machinery who might provide labour colonies where the men must work as a condition of their being fed, 2570.

Main objects of the proposed Bill to deal with the worthy poor, whether competent or incompetent, 2570——Proposal that the incompetent worthy poor be dealt with by joint committees of the Poor Law authorities and of charitable subscribers, the State contributing to the expense, 2572–2574.

Primary importance of the question of the able-bodied worthy poor who are willing to work, but for whom there is no employment, 2572—— Suggestion that this class be relieved by means of employment to be provided by a joint committee for each district, comprising the local authority and subscribers to charitable funds, 2572—— Proposal that the State shall contribute an amount equal to the aggregate subscriptions of the local authority and of charitable subscribers, but not exceeding 1*l.* per cent. of the population of the district, 2572, 2573—— Expediency of the administration being entirely local, 2572–2574.

Efficient means of investigation, on the system of the Charity Organisation Society, as regards the charitable part of the proposed scheme, 2573——Very careful administration required as regards relief works, this being a novel experiment on a national scale, and presenting many difficulties, 2573.

Evidence in explanation and support of the proposal that no person shall be employed on relief works for more than six days of six hours each in any week or at a rate of wages exceeding two-thirds of the current rate in the district, 2573, 2574. 2765, 2766—— Suggestions as to the work being pieced at market rates and measured up, and as to the way in which any profits are to be dealt with; facility in fixing the rates, 2573–2576——Important advantages claimed for the system of piecing the work, with a minimum wage, an incentive being thus given to industry, without introducing overtime, 2573, 2574.

Very satisfactory results of the experiments in West Ham not only as regards the improved condition of those employed by the Relief Committee but as regards their future employment elsewhere, 2574–2580. 2778–2790, 2798–2800——Shelter and food provided for the men at a very small charge, 2574. 2582-2584——Simple character of the work (principally digging) contemplated under the proposed national scheme; condition to be enforced, as at West Ham, that a certain minimum of labour must be performed, 2574–2580. 2647, 2648.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hills, A. F., M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Facility of conveying men to and from work near the metropolis by means of cheap trains, greatly to their moral and physical benefit from employment in the open air, 2580. 2651, 2652——Instances of the great abuse through able-bodied men cadging and begging about the streets instead of working for a living even at a reduced rate of wages, 2580, 2581.

Belief that the example set by West Ham at Wanstead Flats could be made applicable generally, witness being prepared to organise (at his own expense) the whole country by the end of November if the scheme advocated by him be sanctioned by Parliament, 2585–2589——Importance of a clear distinction between charitable relief (for which nothing is given back) and employment for wages paid, 2592–2615.

Convenience in the administration of the works being under the Borough Council or other local authority, whilst the charitable relief should come under the Poor Law authorities; official staff available in the former case, 2592. 2698——Little if any out-door relief if the proposed scheme be adopted, the rates being greatly lightened, 2592, 2593——Extent to which disability or disfranchisement should still continue when the Poor Law comes in, 2592. 2795-2797.

Checks upon maladministration of the joint fund by the local authority; contemplated power in the State to withhold contributions if not satisfied with the local administration, 2594–2598——Estimate of from 500,000*l.* to 800,000*l.* as the annual contribution by the State; belief that the present State advance of 2,500,000*l.* might be saved, 2598, 2599.

Decided objection to payment on the works at the full rate of wages for only three days a week, instead of at a reduced rate for the six days; ample opportunity of the men in the latter case to look out for other employment, 2616–2624——Further explanation as to the division of work and of profits among the men, 2625–2630——Statement to the effect that the fund available for any particular district would not be confined to the amount raised in such district, but might be supplemented out of the county or central fund, 2631–2646.

Importance of the principle of getting money's worth in work for the money paid, those not willing to work being eliminated from the scheme, 2650–2652——Approval of only two-thirds, or about 2*d.* an hour, being paid in agricultural districts where wages are very low, 2653-2657——Strong objection to removing disqualification on the temporary receipt of out-door relief, or otherwise modifying the strictness of the regulations on the subject, 2658–2662. 2795–2797.

Great advantage of the scheme as insuring that competent men may always obtain work and wages without resorting to the Poor Law for relief; nor would it lead to any lower wages in the summer, 2663-2666——Conclusion that the poor rates would be decreased by the scheme rather than increased, 2667, 2668——Main difficulty as regards unskilled labourers, it being proposed to acquire land for their employment and to convey them thereto and back again from the towns, 2669-2675.

Difficulty in at once discriminating between a worthy and an unworthy applicant for relief with a view to the former not being put under disqualification, 2676–2680——Concurrence in the view that indiscriminate charity in the East-end of London and in West Ham is very injurious and demoralising, 2681-2689——Demand for really good men in the shipbuilding business, competent workmen finding regular employment, 2690-2697.

Objection to large numbers of workmen being sent from a distance and located for any length of time upon such work as an extensive reclamation scheme, 2699, 2700——Varying rate of wages in different localities and industries it being proposed by witness that the rate under his scheme shall be about one-third less than the normal rate, 2701–2710——Necessity of falling back on the existing machinery in any district where there are no voluntary subscribers, 2711, 2712. 2763, 2764.

Further approval of employment being offered only on condition that the men who can work must work for their food and living, 2713–2717——Justification of the State being asked to provide funds to be administered by local authorities, 2718–2722——Denial that there would be competition with ordinary industrial employment, the reduced payment to be offered not inducing men to give up regular work if they can get it, 2725-2727. 2749-2752.

Very large amount of work which may be provided round the metropolis and throughout the country in the form of digging, trenching, planting potatoes, &c.; belief that market gardeners and others would not be injuriously affected on the score of competition, 2728-2748——Instance in the case of St. Pancras of the unnecessarily large expense now thrown upon the rates in order to find employment, 2745-2747.

Contention that the State is to some extent responsible as regards work for the unemployed and that the local authorities could never work the proposed scheme without the help of the State, 2753–2762——Arrangements for supervision at Wanstead Flats;

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hills, A. F., M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued*

Flats; maximum of 186 employed at any time, 2770–2773——Facility in applying the test of residence in connection with employment at Wanstead, 2774–2777.

Value of the scheme as a means of promoting regularity of employment and preventing deterioration of workmen, 2778-2790 ——Doubt as to any further powers being necessary in respect of the acquisition of land by the guardians or local authority, 2791–2794.

Hinckley (*Leicester*). Distress at Hinckley due to the severe weather; means of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 395——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 320.

Highworth and Swindon Rural District (*Wilts*). No exceptional distress in this district in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 431.

Hindley (*Lancaster*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 422.

Holborn. Summary of reports of relieving officers in Holborn testifying generally to the absence of any material increase of relief, Sir *H. Owen* 90, 91.

Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 375.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893-94 the number of indoor and outdoor paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of outdoor relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Holland (*Dutch Labour Colonies*):

Visit paid by witness to the Dutch labour colonies in 1888 and to the Belgian colonies in 1890, the results of his inquiries having been published in separate reports, which were subsequently submitted to and generally confirmed by the local authorities in Holland and Belgium, *Willink* 8735-8740.

Information respecting the origination of the Dutch free colonies, which were founded in 1818, the area under cultivation since 1821 consisting of about 4,000 acres; three different classes received, there being about 1,800 persons altogether, *Willink* 8741–8749 —— Explanation of the financial arrangements in the free colonies; reference especially to the practice as to the reception of families on payment by each district of 140*l.* per family, *ib.* 8742–8749.

Foundation of the first beggar colony in Holland in 1820, these colonies comprising in 1888 about 3,500 persons; several classes received, one class being able-bodied persons convicted of begging, there being also a class of old soldiers and of orphans, *Willink* 8750–8754 —— Financial difficulties of the two sets of colonies for many years past owing largely to the inefficient labour on the beggar colonies and the heavy cost, *ib.* 8750. 8755, 8756. 8851–8859.

Extracts from report by Count Arrivabene, who inspected the Dutch colonies in 1829, and from report by Sir John MacNeill, who visited them about thirty years later; unsatisfactory conclusions arrived at as to the working of the colonies and the bad financial results, *Willink* 8755–8760.

Original intention to make both the free and the beggar colonies agricultural, whereas the labour coming mainly from towns was found to be unsuitable, so that manufactures, schools, and model farms were established entailing great expense, *Willink* 8759–8761. 8820. 8830–8843.

Summary of the leading changes and improvements which have been made as regards the Dutch free colonies since 1859; conclusion as to the very limited extent to which the system deals with the question of poverty in Holland, though the administration is now very efficient, *Willink* 8760–8772. 8844. 8862. 8867–8870.

Limited opportunities of witness for observing the working of the beggar colonies; several respects in which they have not been a success, whilst they have been very costly, and are now a considerable burden on the State, *Willink* 8773–8780. 8784, 8785. 8792. 8856-8861. 8874–8881.

Opinion that neither the system of the free colonies or of the beggar colonies is applicable to this country; similar view of the director of the free colonies, *Willink* 8779. 8817-8820. 8844-8866—— Belief that as regards competition with outside producers the free colonies are not looked upon as any grievance; competition of the beggar colonies as regards manufactured articles, *ib.* 8781–8783.

Several causes which have led to the greater success of the free colonies than of the beggar colonies, though even in the former case the colonists seem unable to save anything, *Willink* 8786–8791. 8856——Compulsory constitution of the beggar colonies, beggars being now rarely seen about the streets, *ib.* 8793, 8794. 8905–8907.

Statement to the effect that the free and beggar colonies in Holland would hardly have been started if a Poor Law or workhouse system were in force there as in this

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Holland (*Dutch Labour Colonies*)—continued.

country, *Willink* 8824–8829——Examination as to the poor land used for the Dutch colonies, and the small yield in comparison with the superior land, and the larger yield in England, *ib.* 8830–8843.

Admission that in some respects the Dutch free colonies, as philanthropic institutions, have worked usefully, though neither this system nor that of the beggar colonies would answer in this country, *Willink* 8844-8882——Belief that the beggar colonies are conducted on total abstinence principles, *ib.* 8883–8887.

Examination with further reference to the operation of beggar colonies in Holland, and the extent to which they dispose of the whole class of tramps and beggars in the country, in the absence of a poor law system, *Willink* 8900–8934—— Statement as to the amount of accommodation in the penal colonies, the number of beggars and vagrants sent to them, and the duration of their stay, *ib.* 8915–8928——System of relief in Holland through the clergy, the funds coming from charitable and voluntary sources, *ib.* 8929–8934.

Detailed information, supplied by Mr. Moore, respecting the penal colony at Veenhuiran, in Holland, *3rd Rep. p.* 333——Also, respecting the settlement of small holders at Fredericksoord, *ib.* 335, 336.

Agreement of witness with Mr. Willink in regard to the failure of the Veenhuisan colony, *Moore* 9545, 9546. 9718.

Home Industries (*Auxiliary Employment*). See *Farm and Labour Colonies. Hadleigh Farm Colony.*

Horfield (*Gloucester*). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in this urban district in February 1895, and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 275.

Horncastle (*Lincoln*). Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district, no special steps having been deemed necessary by the local authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 247—— Amount of distress in this urban district in February; remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 349.

Hornsey, South, Urban District (*Middlesex*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 426.

Horwich (*Lancaster*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 198.

Hours of Labour. Recommendation that the powers of the Board of Trade as to the alteration of the hours of labour should be extended to omnibuses, trams, and mines, *Dodd* 7603, 7604——Evidence in favour of an eight hours day; several advantages anticipated, *Hunter* 8303–8308. 8357. 8490-8493. 8547–8562; *Thorne* 10799–10801. 10831–10834——Further advocacy of reduced hours of labour as of primary importance in decreasing the number of the unemployed, *Hunter* 8548–8562. 8573–8583.

Adverse conclusions of witness upon the question of an eight hours day, *Mather* 8975. 9061-9063——Strong approval generally of shorter hours of labour on the score of health and of recreation, *ib.* 8975——View of witness that every man, whether on a labour colony or not, ought to have the right to work as long as he wishes, *Moore* 9686-9688.

See also *Eight Hours Day. Overtime.*

Hoxne Rural District (*Suffolk*). Character of the distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 374.

Hoylake and West Kirby (*Chester*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 94.

Hoyland (*York*). Letter from the mayor in February explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 349.

Hucknall Torkard (*Nottingham*). Exceptional distress in this urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 276.

Huddersfield. Information supplied by the town clerk in February 1895, as to the amount and cause of the distress in the county borough, and as to the remedies applied, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 257.

Hull. Information received by the Local Government Board, on 6th February, as to the amount of distress in Kingston-upon-Hull, and the arrangements adopted for meeting the destitution, *Sir H. Owen* 23.

Letter from the mayor of Hull, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 61.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hungary. Statement showing the number of persons employed in mining, smelting, and salt works in each of the years 1882–92, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 510.

Hunt, Rev. W. H. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is secretary of the Social Department of the Church Army, the branch dealing with the procuring of work for the unemployed, 10143–10145. 10365–10367.

Proposition that any method dealing with the problem of the unemployed should aim at securing for every man self-respect and self-help, 10146——Description of the small labour homes established by the Church Army in various necessitous centres, with the object of creating the idea of home life and domestic happiness; explanation that in these homes charity is reduced to a minimum, 10147, 10148. 10154–10156. 10165. 10174, 10175. 10191, 10192. 10301——Practice to place before each applicant a real work test, usually the making and bundling of firewood, in order to discover ability and inclination, 10149–10152.

Desirability of enforcing more stringent laws against begging; instance showing the evils of indiscriminate charity, 10153, 10154. 10335–10339——Information as to the regulations enforced in the Church Army homes; the men are at work for eight or nine hours daily, 10157–10159. 10205, 10206. 10297–10299.

Examination regarding the wages paid; rule to give the men as far as possible the unionist rate of wages, out of which they have to pay six shillings per week for board and lodging, 10161, 10162. 10286–10296. 10363, 10364——Practice to provide help for sixteen weeks, after which period twelve months must elapse before another application from the same person can be entertained, 10162. 10200–10202. 10309–10311——Evidence respecting the means taken to assist men in getting employment, 10163–10165.

Explanation as to the evangelistic branch of the work; there is no interference with the particular form of any man's religion, 10166–10168——Statistics respecting the working expenses of the homes; usual practice for the vicar of a parish to pay the rent, rates, and taxes, and the superintending officer's salary, 10169, 10170. 10281–10285——Statement that the money received from the poor law guardians for the support of the first 1,250 people sent by them worked out at about six-sevenths of a penny per day, 10170. 10304–10308. 10391–10394.

Evidence respecting the small lodging homes where a man, by a certain payment, can obtain a night's lodging, 10171, 10172——Opinion that the very cheap lodgings and free shelters have helped to solidify and settle the army of loafers, 10172–10174.

Details as to the success attending the co-operation of the Church Army and the guardians of the poor; letter hereon, dated January 1892, from the chairman of the Paddington Board of Guardians, 10176–10180. 10301–10303. 10320–10328——Experience to the effect that the inmates of workhouses should be classified, and each class provided with a different home, 10179. 10270 10274——Disapproval of the system of keeping men in the workhouse who are able and willing to work, 10179. 10275.

Grounds for the opinion that men who could work, but will not, should be dealt with by law, 10179. 10225–10240. 10276–10280. 10329–10334——Three remedies suggested by witness as a means of providing work for the unemployed, 10181, 10182. 10241–10246——Suggestion that it is desirable to start small labour colonies for the unmarried, and to provide small holdings for married people on the land, 10182. 14346–10354. 10367, 10368——Statement as to the slight experience of witness in regard to farm colonies, 10183. 10207–10216. 10256–10269. 10369–10371.

Suggestion that a Minister of Labour should be appointed and a National Labour Bureau arranged, 10184–10188. 10247–10252. 10373–10376——Necessity for dealing first with the delinquent unemployed, 10189. 10354——Offer made by witness of two or more of the labour homes, together with a large farm, in order that experiments might be made on a small scale, a sum not exceeding 8½*d.* per day to be paid for each man sent; necessity for all experiments to be exhaustively investigated and recorded by impartial experts of the Labour Department, 10190. 10253–10255.

Statement that all the homes of the Church Army will accommodate 500 men, and that 2,000 pass through annually, 10193–10198——Belief that 50 per cent. of the men who have been in the homes obtain a fresh start in life, 10199. 10203, 10204. 10312–10319. 10356–10362. 10383–10386——Examination as to the manner in which the homes assist the employment of the truly necessitous; belief that the homes by receiving the delinquent unemployed increase the value of the labour of the real unemployed, 10217–10234. 10340–10345.

Probability that an enactment against overtime work would prove beneficial, 10243–10245——Question as to whether the inquiries made respecting applicants by the Church Army resemble in any way those made by the Charity Organisation Society; statement that careful inquiry is made, but that inconsistencies and falsifications do not prove deterrent to applicants receiving assistance, 10377–10382. 10387–10390.

Attention called to the small amount required by the Salvation Army from the charitable public, in order to make up the deficiency on their shelters, homes, &c.; explanation that they pay no wages but adopt the truck system, 10395–10400.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hunter, A. J. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Experience of witness for fifteen years as secretary of the Glasgow Trades Council; he is also a member of the Town Council, and was for upwards of twenty years secretary of the Co-operative Bakers' Society, 8260-8262.

Statement showing the large sums paid during the recent distress in Glasgow by different trade unions by way of aliment allowance, this largely accounting for the unemployed not applying for more relief from the Lord Provost's fund, 8263–8266——Very large number of meals provided out of monies collected by the management of the Gaiety and Scotia theatres, 8266-8269.

Great number of painters, masons, and others, engaged in the seasonal trades, who were thrown out of employment by the severe weather; comparatively few of these who applied for relief, as they supported themselves as long as possible on their own resources, 8269–8272——Exception taken to the term "loafers": limited number of these in Glasgow, the working men deeply resenting the evidence of Mr. Motion as to this class being very numerous, 8269. 8319–8322. 8333.

Vast numbers of idle men before the severe weather set in, there being still many trades in which the unemployed are numerous, there being a superfluity of labour in Glasgow; dissent from the Lord Provost's evidence on this point, 8269. 8272–8284. 8393. 8400–8410. 8415-8458——Impracticability of labourers saving much, if anything, out of their precarious earnings, 8272. 8332-8836——Effect of mining royalties in interference with competition with foreign manufacturers of steel and iron, and in thus augmenting the unemployed, 8284, 8285. 8474–8481.

Evidence in support of the proposition that large numbers of the unemployed might be absorbed in the cultivation of unreclaimed and cultivable land, and that the extensive influx of rural labour into the towns would thus be beneficially checked, 8287-8292. 8482-8488. 8502-8520. 8543–8546 8567–8572——Suggestion whether some measures might not be adopted for checking the immigration of aliens, many of them of the pauper class; prejudicial effect of these immigrants in Glasgow, 8293–8298.

Information as to the extremely disastrous effect of the Scotch coal strike of 1894, and of coal strikes generally, not only as regards the colliers themselves, but in throwing out of employment great numbers of workers in the steel and iron trades, 8298–8302. 8400–8404. 8540-8542——Strong feeling of witness and of numerous other representatives of the men that these strikes should never be allowed to take place at all, and that preventive steps should promptly be taken, as by the present Select Committee, for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation, 8301, 8302.

Great importance attached to an eight hours day; belief that not only would many more men thus be employed, but that wages would be increased rather than reduced, 8303–8308. 8357. 8490-8493. 8547-8562——Considerable value to be derived from complete and accurate statistics of the number of the unemployed; suggestion that this information might be obtained through the school boards and other bodies, 8308–8311——Approval of some experiments in the way of farm colonies, or of penal colonies for the idle and lazy class, though witness has not any strong opinion in their favour, 8311-8315. 8385-8392. 8565-8567.

Repugnance of the working classes to apply to the parochial authorities for relief, 8316–8318——Strong objections of the men to being subjected to the investigations of the Charity Organisation Society, 8316——Limited extent to which the liability to disfranchisement deters from applications for relief, 8318, 8319——Conclusion that not only in Glasgow but in most other Scotch towns sufficient funds can be raised locally for feeding the people in times of distress from want of employment, but that the proper course is to remove, if possible, the causes of the distress, 8323-8328. 8358-8364.

Rule of the trade unions in Glasgow as to the payment of "idle benefit," whereas the ordinary labourers have no such resource in time of distress, 8329-8336——Low wages in the rural districts in Scotland, in addition to want of employment; inaccuracy of a statement that in some localities ploughmen receive 22*s.* a week, with a house, 8337-8342.

Numerous trade unions represented on the Glasgow Trades Council, there being also two labourers' unions connected with the Council, 8343–8346——Bulk of the distress and of the want of employment among labourers, the number being swelled by the thriftless and idle, 8347–8356——Belief that during the distress there were many more than 10,000 out of employment, 8351-8353.

Partial extent to which the unemployed benefit given by trade unions in Glasgow meets the whole amount of the distress; doubt as to the actual contribution by the men for such benefit, 8365–8376——Powerlessness of the unions to solve the difficulty; question hereon whether it is not expedient for the State to facilitate a general system of weekly contributions to an unemployed benefit fund, 8377-8384.

Exception taken to a statement by Mr. Motion as to tippling at night frequently leading to an increase of unemployment, 8394–8396——Varying hours in the baking trade

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Hunter, A. J. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

trade in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, an eight hours day being needed in this trade, 8397-8399. 8550-8559——Considerable depression and want of employment in the Glasgow shipbuilding and engineering trades, this having been accentuated by the coal strike, 8400-8410——Approval of useful works for the unemployed, but not in the form of penal colonies, 8411-8414.

Examination with reference to the large immigration from the Highlands and other parts of Scotland into Glasgow, as well as from Ireland; various occupations of these men adverted to in connection with the question of their being usefully employed on the land, 8415-8458. 8502-8520. 8543-8546——Explanation as regards foreign immigrants, and, on the other hand, the still larger emigration from this country, that witness does not object to the former if able-bodied and not impoverished on arrival, 8459-8473. 8489.

Enormous development of Glasgow within the last fifty years, the sources of employment having greatly increased, 8494-8501——Valuable relief distributed during the recent distress under the plan of employment adopted by the Municipality, though there were thousands of unemployed who did not apply for this mode of relief, 8521-8528. 8563, 8564.

Conclusion that the working classes could make a better use of their own earnings by saving more, though this is not feasible to the extent contemplated by the Lord Provost, 8529-8533——Continued payment of idle aliment to trade unionists, irrespectively of the weather, there being a surplus of labour, and a legalised eight hours day being needed, 8534-8539. 8547-8562.

Further advocacy of reduced hours of labour as of primary importance in decreasing the number of the unemployed, 8548-8562. 8573-8583——Illustration in the case of carters throughout Scotland of the great advantage of a reduction in the hours of labour, 8573-8577——Great advantage of an abolition of overtime in the engineering and other trades, 8578-8583.

Huntingdon. Absence of exceptional distress in the Huntingdon urban district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 215——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 320.

Hurst Union District (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 94.

Hyde (*Chester*). Character and extent of the distress; steps taken by the local authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 73.

Hythe (*Kent*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 73.

I.

Ilford (*Essex*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 226.

Ilfracombe. Exceptional distress in the urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 276.

Ilkeston (*Derby*). Letter from the Mayor in February, explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 345, 346.

Ilkley (*York*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 163.

Immigration. See *Aliens. Jews* (*Metropolis*).

Imports. Monthly statements before the Board of Trade as to the amount of various dutiable articles retained for consumption, *Smith* 4730——Reference to a certain table as showing that the decrease of imports since 1889 has been less in London than in other parts, *ib.* 4730, 4731——Conclusion that the years in which employment is at its best are, as a rule, the maximum years of imports and exports, *ib.* 4821-4825.

Statement on the subject of the great lack of industry in the east end of London, caused by the importation of various goods from foreign countries, *C. Booth* 10675-10686.

Attention drawn, at one of the meetings of the unemployed, to the danger, in case of war, of this country being starved into submission; necessity of the Government taking up the land question even from that standpoint alone, *Morton* 11028.

Table submitted by Mr. Llewellyn Smith showing the value of the imports of foreign and colonial merchandise into the Port of London and at other ports of the United Kingdom, in each of the years 1889-93, *App* (*3rd Rep.*) 499——Table of above imports in which the figures in each column for 1889 are represented by 1,000, *ib.*

Ince-in-Makerfield (*Lancaster*). Amount of distress in this district in March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 404.

Industrial Homes. Detailed explanations in support of suggestions made by witness for the relief of future distress; advocacy of the public organisation of incompetent labour by means of the establishment of industrial homes for the inefficient unemployed, *C. Booth* 10543–10554. 10590–10601. 10658, 10659. 10663–10674.

See also *Farm and Labour Colonies.* *Hadleigh Farm Colony.*

Industries (*Generally*). Proposition that there should be collective ownership by the State of all industries, each industry being guided by the best men in it under the control of the central body of the country, the supervisors to be selected by the workers, *Morton* 11079–11097.

Inspectors (*Local Government Board*). See *Local Government Board.* *Out-door Relief.*

Interim Report. Grounds for urging (25th February) that an interim Report be promptly made by the Committtee, sufficient data being soon available, and delay being most prejudicial, *Keir-Hardie* 1175–1185.

Draft (Interim) Report, as proposed by the Chairman of the Committee (11th March), *First Rep.* x–xii——Adoption of the foregoing, subject to some amendment, *ib.* xii–xvi.

Inveresk (*Edinburgh*). Statement as to the amount of distress in this parish and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 678.

Inverness. Letter from the town clerk of Inverness respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 589, 590——Amount of distress in Inverness parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *ib.* 716.

Ipswich. Amount of distress in Ipswich County Borough previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 437.

Ireland. Letter from Mr. John Morley, dated 21st March 1895, explaining that the distress in Ireland has been mainly due to a partial failure of the potato crop, and that this has been specially dealt with by money obtained from Parliament for the purpose, *3rd Rep. p.* 242——View of Mr. Morley that no statistics could be collected in Ireland at the present time which would be of assistance to the Select Committee, *ib.*

Inability of the Committee to consider the special circumstances of Ireland, *3rd Rep.* v.

Iron and Steel Works. Chart showing the fluctuations in the estimated proportionate number of workpeople employed in pig-iron manufacture during each month from July 1893 to January 1895; *3rd Rep.* p. 52.

List of places, fifteen in number, making complaints respecting distress through stoppage of iron and steel works, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 807–812. 817.

Isle of Axholme (*Lincoln*). Sufficiency of voluntary relief for meeting the distress in the Isle of Axholme rural district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 295

Isle of Thanet. Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 295.

Isle of Wight. Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 247.

Islington. Statement from Islington on 2nd February to the effect that there has been no exceptional distress in the parish, *Sir H. Owen* 90–92.

Reduced rates in Islington since the Equalisation of Rates Act, this parish being very efficiently managed, *Benn* 3100–3104.

Explanation that the parish of Islington is the most populous in the United Kingdom, the present population being estimated at 323,853, whilst the rateable value is 1,717,571*l.*; very little vacant space for increase of houses, *Dewey* 3662–3672. 3677, 3678. 3833, 3834. 3847–3849——Total rates of 5*s.* 8½*d.* in the pound, including poor and county rates, and vestry and school board rates, &c., *ib.* 3673, 3674.

Receipt of about 10,000*l.* half-yearly under the Equalisation of Rates Act, on the score of population, *Dewey* 3675, 3676. 3831–3834——Large proportion of the residents in the parish who are engaged in the building trades and in connection with the railways; small rateable value of the great bulk of the houses, *ib.* 3679–3683. 3841–3843. 3850–3857.

Particulars respecting the operation of the labour bureau established at the beginning of last year; fair success thereof as regards the employment thereby, whilst there has been no surcharge in respect of the expenses, *Dewey* 3684–3693. 3709. 3864–3866——Belief that during the late winter there has been no abnormal distress or want of employment in Islington save during the four weeks of frost, *ib.* 3694. 3717.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Islington—continued.

3727–3732. 3753–3758. 3792–3798——Employment given to an average number of 904 additional street sweepers daily during ten days in February, the expenditure being about 1,500*l.*, and the rate of pay 4*d.* an hour; discontinuance of employment when there was no longer any snow to sweep, *Dewey* 3695–3721. 3772. 3858–3969.

Very moderate increase of out-door relief given during the severe weather, there having been no unusual pressure, *Dewey* 3722–3732. 3753–3758. 3829–3846——Limited extent to which the vestry of Islington would be likely to postpone till the winter months, when employment is slack, any work which could more profitably and effectually be done in the summer, *ib.* 3772–3791. 3814–3818. 3826–3828.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Italy. Recent establishment of a Chamber of Labour in Italy, *Smith* 4717.

Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain branches of industry in each of the years 1881-91; *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 510.

J.

Jarrow (*Durham*). Amount and cause of distress in Jarrow Municipal Borough; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 403.

Jews (*Metropolis*). Increasing number of Jews resorting to the Poor Law, the Jewish Board of Guardians experiencing more and more difficulty in dealing with the poor in the absence of a workhouse test; fear of the Board that if they established a workhouse for Jews a larger number than ever would be attracted from Russia and Poland, *Vallance* 11552–11556.

K.

Keighley (*York*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 138, 139.

Keir-Hardie, James (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Data submitted in detail in support of the conclusion that outside the official view of the situation (as represented by Sir Hugh Owen), there is a very large amount of distress and destitution of which the present Committee should take cognisance, 700 *et seq.*

Establishment of an unemployed committee in almost every industrial centre throughout the country, comprising, among other representatives, delegates from various trades unions, 700–702. 718–723——Circular recently sent by witness to these committees requesting information as to the extent and character of the distress and the local action taken, and inviting suggestions as to the remedial measures to be adopted by the locality or by the nation, 700.

Illustration in the case of Leeds of the much greater distress according to witness' information than according to that supplied by Sir Hugh Owen; examination hereon as to the precise data for witness' conclusions in this instance, the lowest estimate (as supplied to witness) of the absolutely destitute being 10,000; 703–723——Very large number of unemployed in Glasgow and of destitute families, 723–728——Evidence as to the great distress in Liverpool, it being computed that there are 50,000 labourers out of employment, 728–734.

Reference to a recent census of the unemployed in West Ham as showing that 6,176 persons were casually employed and 10,131 out of work, 736——Crowded state of the workhouse in West Ham, the guardians being unable to deal with the distress, 736, 737——Great reluctance of unemployed respectable working men, even when in great distress, to apply for relief, in view of their disfranchisement; suggestion hereon, 737. 740——Very general operation of special relief committees in the centres of industry; large sums subscribed, 737——Conclusion that much increase of mortality has resulted from the destitution, 737, 738——Apprehended continuance of a great amount of distress irrespectively of severe weather, 738.

Urgency of the present crisis so that local relief works would not avail by reason of the delay in their establishment, 738——Proposition that an interim Report should recommend that the Treasury should at once contribute, up to an aggregate of 100,000*l.*, an amount equal to that raised in each locality; that is for expenditure in charitable relief and in useful relief works, 738 *et seq.*——Suggestion that, as regards the proposed contributions, a residential test be prescribed and that recipients of parochial relief be excluded, 740. 791.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Keir-Hardie, James (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Explanation that the foregoing proposal is intended purely as a temporary expedient for the relief of existing starvation and should be followed up by permanent remedies to be recommended in the final Report of the Committee, 740–744——Contemplated combined action on the part of the unemployed for the breaking down of the present system of poor relief, if the Committee cannot recommend some temporary scheme for the prevention of starvation, 746, 747.

Examination as to the tests and precautions which ought to be adopted in order to deal with excessive applications to the Treasury from any locality, and to prevent abuse in the administration of the funds by the special local committees; suggested limits with reference to population, &c., 748 *et seq.*——Consideration of difficulties raised as to the sufficiency of a Treasury grant of only 100,000*l.*, in view of the immense number of the unemployed; admitted probability that further and much larger amounts may be necessary, 748 *et seq.*

Questions considered as to the very large number of unemployed in West Ham (and in populous districts generally), in connection with the degree of relief to be afforded under witness' scheme, and the number of meals which could be provided, 777 *et seq.* ——Expediency of greater expedition on the part of the Local Government Board in dealing with local applications for loans for works, 836——Contemplated expenditure of the first Treasury grant of 100,000*l.* and the corresponding local contributions, mainly in food; expected sufficiency thereof up to the end of March, 837–844.

[Second Examination.]—Further explanations respecting the great destitution at Leeds, witness submitting that the charitable relief now given, by means of local committees, cannot be relied upon after the severe weather, and that there has been great distress throughout the winter, 845-866. 876. 893, 894——Instances of much distress at Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, and various other towns through want of employment, 867–875——Admission that at Glasgow much has been done by relief committees and by the Corporation in aid of the distress, 877-889. 1144, 1145.

Summary of replies received by witness as to the special local causes which account for depression in trade, various causes irrespective of bad weather being frequently assigned, 890–895——Necessity of immediate relief, not only for those out of work through the frost, but for the large numbers who are unemployed through the general depression in trade, witness estimating the total from all causes at more than five millions, including the men's families, 895–913——Estimate of 1,750,000 out of employment from the frost, 895–897——Large increase in the estimate of 10,000 out of employment in West Ham, if those affected by the frost and their families be added, 898–910.

Examination as to the cost of one or two meals daily for the aggregate number of unemployed, witness admitting that a Treasury grant of 100,000*l.* or 200,000*l.* would not go very far, but that relief would also be given by trades unions and charitable associations, and that some casual employment would be obtained, 914 *et seq.*

Advocacy of a State grant not only as preventing disfranchisement, but as a remedy against the demoralising effect of work in the stone-yard, 941-945. 1228–1230—— Consideration of the extent to which the number of the unemployed in West Ham, as in the building trade, and in work at the docks and on the river, was influenced by the frost, at the time the census was taken; form of census paper handed in, 946–962. 1031–1034——Very rare application for relief by members of trades unions and friendly societies, 959–966.

Inability of the guardians and corporation of West Ham, aided by trades unions and friendly societies, to meet the present severe distress; witness further advocates temporary State help for this and other localities who can prove their need of it, 967 *et seq.* ——Extent of employment provided in West Ham on works as well as in the stone-yard; employment also by means of a sum of 1,000*l.*, given by Mr. Hills, which the town council eventually declined to accept, 983–986. 991–1006. 1087–1092——Very high rates in West Ham, all that is possible being already done, 987, 988.

Explanation that witness proposes not a loan from the State but a free grant, 1009–1011——Further statement as to the delay in connection with local applications for loans and in obtaining the sanction of the Local Government Board, 1012–1018—— Dissent from the view that the proposed State aid, in the case of West Ham, would cause an influx of unemployed from other districts; check by means of a residential test, 1020-1037. 1141.

Exceptional distress in West Ham, not only through some decaying industries, but through the agricultural depression in Essex, 1031–1033——Duty of the State to aid in providing work for the unemployed, if out of work through no fault of their own, 1040. 1150. 1217–1221——Suggestions as to the constitution of the local committees for the administration of a grant from the State; approval of this resting with the guardians alone if there be no disfranchisement, 1041–1052. 1224-1227.

Denial that the guardians and local authorities of West Ham are able to successfully

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Keir-Hardie, James (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

fully cope with severe distress, and to relieve all the unemployed from year to year, though some districts may be in a position to do so, 1053-1058. 1134-1136——Dissent from the view that dissatisfaction to other districts and demoralisation in West Ham would result from the proposed State aid in the latter case, 1059-1065.

Necessity of a very careful sifting out and of a residential test in the administration of the proposed scheme; accurate accounts desirable, 1066-1083. 1141. 1224, 1225——Approval of a suggestion that two equal amounts be provided locally, by voluntary contributions and by the rates, and that a third contribution be added by the Treasury, 1073-1078.

Great boon to respectable working men, when in temporary distress, if they could obtain relief by means of a loan to be repaid in more prosperous times, 1084-1086——Evidence to the effect that local committees in providing relief works for the unemployed should pay them the full rate of wages instead of only two-thirds, 1087-1129——Approval of relief being largely given in kind, 1130-1133.

Local inability to find sufficient work for the unemployed in the large centres of industry, 1134, 1135——Grounds for concluding that an extended application of the Allotments Act would largely meet the distress from non-employment in agricultural districts, and would check migration from such districts into West Ham and into the towns in search of work, 1136-1141. 1159-1168. 1231-1233.

Probability that some of the larger towns in Scotland would make application under a system of free grants, though local efforts have generally been sufficient in Scotch towns, 1142-1149——Explanation that witness does not contemplate any permanent system of State aid for the unemployed, though he advocates such aid in order to provide work on exceptional occasions, 1150-1158.

Extent of the personal experience of witness and character of the inquiries upon which he bases his proposal for a Treasury grant, in order to provide work when there is exceptional distress, 1169-1175——Grounds for urging that an interim Report be promptly made by the Committee, sufficient data being soon available and delay being most prejudicial, 1175-1185.

Further information as to the basis of witness' estimate (a very rough one) of 1,750,000 of unemployed persons in the United Kingdom, through the frost; estimate of about 1,000,000 permanently out of work throughout the summer, 1186-1204. 1234——Extent to which West Ham may be regarded as a typical case as regards local claim to a share of a Treasury grant; reference hereon to the case of Glasgow and other towns in Scotland, 1205-1222——Belief that local effort would be promoted, rather than checked, by a system of Treasury grants when there is exceptional distress, 1222, 1223.

Kendal (*Westmoreland*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 73.

Kennington. Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 25th February 1895, containing explanations respecting the amount and character of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted by the local authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 325.

Kensington. Increase of relief given in Kensington in the recent winter months as compared with the same months in the two previous years; considerable distress also among those not applying for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 93.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, showing for each of the years 1884-85 to to 1893-94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524. 533.

Kent. Particulars supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 52, 53.

Kettering Urban District (*Northampton*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 94, 95.

Keynsham (*Somerset*). Exceptional distress in this rural district in February through the severity of the weather; relief given by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 247.

Kidderminster. Letter from the mayor, in February, explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 328.

Kilmarnock (*Ayr*). Letter from the town clerk of Kilmarnock respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 591——Information supplied by the inspector of the poor as to the extent and character of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 642.

King's Lynn (*Norfolk*). Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the relief measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 213.

King's Norton (*Worcester*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 357.

Kingston-on-Thames. Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 139.

Kingswinford (*Stafford*). Considerable distress in this district; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 374.

Kinning Park (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 593.

Kirkby Lonsdale (*Westmorland*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district; extent to which want of employment prevails, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 95.

Kirkcaldy (*Fife*). Communication from the town clerk of Kirkcaldy respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 593.

Kirkintilloch (*Dumbarton*). Statement as to the amount of distress in this parish and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 665.

L.

Labour Bureaux. Opinion that a labour exchange might answer if applied to the whole of London, *Tagg* 3586.

Explanations and statistics relative to the operation of labour bureaux in this country, some of these being managed by local authorities and some by voluntary agencies, *Smith* 4696–4698——Apprehension in some quarters lest labour bureaux should operate in neutralising strikes and trade disputes, *ib.* 4718–4722.

Evidence to the effect that labour bureaux if unpopular, as interfering with trade disputes, would not be of much use as registries, whilst in any case their usefulness in time of general depression would be very limited, *Smith* 4857–4874——Doubt as to labour bureaux having been largely established on the initiation of trades unions; advantage in their being in the hands of the local authorities, *ib.* 5012–5015.

Satisfactory working of the labour bureau in Battersea, through which the unemployed are taken on to work, *Pilditch* 5034–5038——Result of the inquiries made by the vestry of St. George's that labour bureaux are of no use, *Mackay* 5810. 5865, 5866.

See also *Camberwell. Islington. Minister of Labour. Paris.*

Labour Colonies and Homes. See *Belgium. Church Army. Farm and Labour Colonies. Germany. Hadleigh Farm Colony. Holland. Land* (*Acquisition by Boards of Guardians*). *Relief Works. St. Olave's Union. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Labour Department (*Board of Trade*). Information obtainable from the Labour Department of the Board of Trade as to want of employment, irrespective of poor relief, *Sir H. Owen* 383.

Several sources from which information is obtained by the Labour Department as to the state of employment throughout the country, the result being published monthly in the "Labour Gazette," firstly, as to the condition of employment in particular districts, and secondly, in particular trades, *Smith* 4529–4533.

Explanation that the statistics of the Labour Department deal only with the state of employment as distinct from the state of distress, the latter coming under the scope of the Local Government Board, *Smith* 4534, 4535.

Excellent work done by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, *C. Booth* 10520, 10521.

See also *Charts, &c. Minister of Labour.*

Labour Test (*Stone-yard, &c.*):

Practice as to labour in stone-breaking, wood-chopping, &c., being imposed as a test of destitution; difficulties in finding suitable employment, *Sir H. Owen* 216–222——Obstacle to any remunerative return from stone-breaking, *ib.* 349, 350. 354.

Non-interference by the Central Borrd with the guardians as to the rate paid for work in labour test yards; reference hereon to the case of Leicester, *Sir H. Owen* 530–535. 545, 546——Claim of destitute men to relief through the stone-yards, though they may not have parted with their furniture. *ib.* 536, 537.

Inducement to improvidence if, on the occurrence of frost, applicants could be relieved by local authorities without any labour test, *Sir H. Owen* 580–587——Beneficial check through the out-door relief regulation Order and the modified workhouse

Labour Test (*Stone-yard, &c.*)—continued.

house test, though some abuse may arise in the operation of the labour yard system, *Sir H. Owen* 588–600. 648–651——Advantages of the workhouse test in the interest of the ratepayers, whilst it operates as an incentive to self-reliance, *ib.* 598–605.

Reference to oakum-picking, wood-chopping, and stone-breaking as the three kinds of test work by which the guardians are able to deal with the distress of the able-bodied, *Hilleary* 1685–1693. 1724, 1725——Expediency of a labour test in West Ham for "loafers," and for all who will not work if they can avoid it; facility in this respect when there is more workhouse accommodation, *ib.* 1881–1884. 1958-1967——Important difference if labour in the stone-yard were under the borough surveyors, as in the case of West Ham, without entailing pauperism, *ib.* 1923–1926.

Exception taken to the present labour tests as too obnoxious, *Alden* 2031, 2032——Improvement if work in the stone-yard in St. Olave's were placed entirely under the vestry and the surveyor, and were transferred from the workhouse officials, *Fenton* 3043–3061——Concurrence in suggestion of Mr. John Burns that the stone-yard should be placed under the local authority, *Benn* 3110.

Disapproval of the stone-yard test, as there is no reformatory action in it, the same men coming back to the stone-yard year after year, *Mackay* 5780–5785. 5815–5818——Objection to the stone-yard work on the ground that it is costly, and that it is demoralising to the better class of men who are subjected to it, *Mulligan* 5892 *et seq.*; 5901–5903——Suggestion that there should be a central stone-yard to supply all London with stones for mending roads, and that a fair day's wage should be given for a fair day's work, thus removing the stigma of relief and pauperism, *ib.* 5894–5904. 5909.

Experience of witness that the stone-yard work is very demoralising to the men, and a very great deterrent to their getting work, *Shand* 6147–6153——Explanation that it is necessary to get the sanction of the Local Government Board before a stone-yard can be opened, *Fenton* 6174, 6175.

Evidence in support of the contention that the useful employment of the poor is the true principle of the Poor Law, and that the useless picking of oakum and the profitless breakage of stones are equally pernicious, *Dodd* 7532 *et seq.*——Doubt as to any better return from other modes of employment than from stone-breaking, *Bell* 7885–7887.

Necessary resort to a labour test if the workhouse accommodation be insufficient, *Willink* 8706, 8707——Approval also of the workhouse test in towns, with a labour test, and out-door relief under certain conditions, *ib.* 8714–8726.

Orders of the Poor Law Board and Local Government Board upon the subject of out-door relief to the able-bodied, and the tests to be applied, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 7–12.

Views of the several inspectors upon the question of modification of the regulations respecting out-door relief; disapproval generally of any alteration, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 20–56.

See also *Out-door Relief. Pauperism. Poplar. St. Olave's Union*, 3. *Tramps and Vagrants. Wandsworth and Clapham Union*, 3. *West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Lambeth. Large increase of relief in Lambeth as compared with previous winters, there being also more distress than usual among those not applying for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 93.

Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 28th March 1895, to the effect that the local distress was not exceptional save during the frost; considerable employment given by the vestry, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 456.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533——Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 5455.

Lancaster. Sufficiency of voluntary agencies for the relief of the distress in Lancaster Municipal Borough, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 139——Sufficiency, also, of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *ib.* 443.

Land (*Acquisition by Boards of Guardians and by Municipalities*):

Explanations upon the question of land being hired by guardians in order to give employment; action of the central board in such cases, *Sir H. Owen* 288–297——Reference to certain legislative provisions as having remained on the statute book since the Act of Elizabeth in 1601, under which guardians may provide land for employment, subject to the approval of the central board; probable requirement of Parliamentary sanction before any enforcement of these provisions, *ib.* 397–399.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

LAND (ACQUISITION BY BOARDS OF GUARDIANS, &c.)—continued.

Information respecting a recent movement on the part of certain metropolitan unions in favour of legalised facilities for acquiring land and providing workshops as a means of employment, with a view to poor relief being obviated; view of witness' board adverse to proposed scheme, *Sir H. Owen* 400–405.

Examination to the effect that guardians apply work as a test and not for wages; question hereon whether under certain Acts of William IV. and George III. the central board might not make orders sanctioning the acquisition of land by guardians to be worked for wages by destitute persons, *Sir H. Owen* 457–481. 488, 489——Discretion to be exercised by the central board as to the distance from the parish at which land might be acquired, *ib.* 482–487.

Advantage not only if guardians had power to give relief without disfranchisement but if they were empowered to acquire land for employment thereon, in lieu of the stone-yard test, *Alden* 2106. 2178–2181. 2453.——Beneficial results anticipated in West Ham if the guardians had power to acquire land and to use it as a test instead of the stone-yard; difficulty, however, in severe frosts, *ib.* 2489–2495——Doubt as to any further powers being necessary in respect of the acquisition of land by the guardians or local authority, *Hills* 2791–2794.

Suggestion that the municipal authority should be the proprietor of the land and let it to the men on conditions of perpetual tenure, fair rent, free sale, and as much land as the men want, *Tuckwell* 7061–7064. 7281 *et seq.*——Considerable doubt as to its being an easy matter to purchase small quantities of land at a reasonable price in or near villages, *ib.* 7081–7085.

Suggestion that more power should be given to municipalities, and that they should be allowed to hold land whenever they purchase it, instead of having to sell it within a certain time, as at present, *Dodd* 7604–7610——Proposal that an Act of Parliament should be passed providing a simple uniform method for the compulsory purchase of land by local bodies for all public purposes, similar to that under the Parish Councils Act, *ib.* 7584, 7585. 7678–7690. 7719–7727——Submission of copies of resolutions passed by the conference on the unemployed and by other bodies in regard to acquiring land under the old statutes, *ib.* 7613.

Conclusion that the last word cannot have been spoken upon the question of the unemployed so long as any large quantity of land remains out of cultivation, *Vallance* 11551.

Report of the committee of guardians of the Whitechapel Union appointed in January 1888 to consider certain proposals of the Rev. S. A. Barrett for the acquisition of land and for training able-bodied men in country pursuits by means of the Poor Law, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 548, 549.

Report of committee appointed at a meeting of metropolitan Poor Law guardians on 23rd July 1888 to inquire into the practicability of applying the surplus labour of the metropolis to the unproductive land at home and in the colonies, and the desirability of carrying out a scheme for this purpose under the direction of the Poor Law, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 549–552.

Draft report submitted at a meeting of the Agricultural Training Homes Committee of the guardians of Whitechapel on 13th June 1893, with reference to the question of acquiring land and of establishing agricultural homes for the unemployed, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 552–554.

Report of committee of guardians of Whitechapel Union, adopted by the board in October 1893, respecting the proposed English land colonisation scheme, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 554, 555.

Conclusions and suggestions by the general purposes committee of the guardians of Whitechapel on the subject of the acquisition of, and employment upon, land, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 555, 556.

See also *Abbey Mills. Agriculture. Allotments. Boards of Guardians. Farm and Labour Colonies. Relief Works. Wanstead Flats. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Land Nationalisation. Conviction that land nationalisation would be absolutely just, ethically, as the community has the right to redistribute the land; contention that the landowners ought to think themselves overpaid with forty years' fair rent, *Tuckwell* 7110, 7111. 7356 *et seq.*; 7396–7400. 7477–7483——Proposal that all land that is at present individual property shall become State property and be revalued, *ib.* 7408–7414.

Decided opinion that the only permanent solution of the unemployed difficulty is to bring the land and the people together again, the State taking over the collective ownership of the land; contention that the inheritance of the people should be returned

to

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Land Nationalisation—continued.

to the people without compensation to the landlords, *Morton* 11041, 11042. 11049 *et seq.*; 11077 *et seq.*; 11120–11127. 11150–11156.

Land Tenure. Decided opinion that the present system of land tenure, apart from its effects on agriculture, is detrimental to the interests of the community; no doubt that the system increases the land values for the proprietors at the expense of those who create the increased value, *Tuckwell* 7097–7104.

Landowners. Suggestion that urban landowners should be taxed in aid of local burdens, *Dodd* 7585–7587. 7734–7739.

Langley Farm (*Labourers from Whitechapel Union*). Information respecting six men sent by the Whitechapel guardians to a small farm at Langley, started by Mr. Hazell, for the relief of the unemployed, five of whom reached the farm and obtained satisfactory reports, two of them emigrating to New Zealand; explanation that no more men were sent to the farm because there were only eight men who were suitable and willing to go, and of these seven took their discharge, *Vallance* 11546–11548. 11561–11567.

Langport (*Somerset*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 191.

Lansbury, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been a member of the Poplar Board of Guardians for two years, 10401.

Experience to the effect that distress in Poplar is not merely a question of seasons, although in the winter it becomes more acute, 10401, 10402. 10414——Information in regard to the great distress of last February; particulars as to the ages of the 1,939 men who worked in the stone-yards during the six weeks they were opened, 10402–10404——Statement showing that by the opening of the stone-yards the union has spent 2,720*l.*, on which there will be no return whatever, 10404.

Reference to the crowded state of the workhouse, which, at the present time, has 125 inmates over the statutory number, 10404–10408——Co-operation of the guardians with the Board of Works during the winter to relieve the distress; experience that at the depôts men fought to obtain tickets to go to work, 10408.

Evidence respecting the large number of youths from eighteen to twenty-one who are out of work in Poplar, 10408. 10447, 10448——Difficulty in obtaining employment experienced by men whose ages range from thirty to sixty, 10408——Displacement of men from the gasworks owing to the introduction of machinery, 10408——Statement as to the large number of dock labourers out of employment, 10408.

Reference to the large number of widows to whom out-door relief is given, 10408——Opinion that the question of the unemployed cannot be dealt with without a complete reorganization of our industrial system, 10408. 10453–10458. 10497. 10510. 10513–10517.

Suggestion that the President of the Local Government Board should exercise his power and group the unions of London in one district, so as to hire land where the unemployed could raise food for their own sustenance and manufacture their boots, clothes, &c., 10408. 10415–10438. 10459. 10469–10473. 10484–10488.

Undesirability of taking off the register people who have been relieved by the parish, 10408–10413——Disapproval of out-door relief; opinion that men should be relieved by useful work being provided for them, 10413——Examination as to whether the failure of the large expenditure to meet the wants of the unemployed does not raise a distrust of the principle on which relief is administered, 10439. 10449–10453.

Contention that the Poor Law Union of Poplar is not supporting a higher average of paupers than is the case in other adjoining unions, 10439–10446——Consideration of the question of the people of England being unable to grow food at a profit, 10460–10468.

Discussion as to the distribution of cost if the unions of London were grouped in one district, as proposed by witness with a view to employment on land, 10474–10483——Question as to how the money should be raised to support the proposed farm colony; opinion that an Imperial grant should be allowed either by a graduated income-tax or a tax on landlords, 10489–10496——Necessity that any scheme for the unemployed should be dealt with nationally if it is to be successful, 10495. 10498–10512.

Lasswade (*Edinburgh*). Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 679.

Launceston (*Cornwall and Devon*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 470.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Leamington. Letter from the mayor in February, explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress and showing the measures and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 328, 329.

Lee (*Kent*). Limited distress in the Lee District; extra employment provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 340.

Leeds. Letter from the clerk of the Leeds Union, received on 2nd February, submitting details as to the amount of distress, it not being deemed necessary to make any exceptional arrangements, *Sir H. Owen* 25.

Illustration in the case of Leeds of the much greater distress according to witness' information than according to that supplied by Sir Hugh Owen; examination hereon as to the precise data for witness' conclusions in this instance, the lowest estimate (as supplied to witness) of the absolutely destitute being 10,000, *Keir-Hardie* 703–723.

Further explanations respecting the great destitution at Leeds, witness submitting that charitable relief now given by means of local committees cannot be relied upon after the severe weather, and that there has been great distress throughout the winter, *Keir-Hardie* 845–866. 893, 894. 876.

Information supplied to the Local Government Board in Report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 36–40. 43, 44. 47, 48.

Letter from the mayor on 26th February, explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided; further information to be supplied, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 325, 326.

Letter of 27th February, submitting additional information in detail, and showing the working of the labour bureau in each ward during certain periods in 1892–93, and in 1893-94, and in 1894–95; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 341–344.

Summary of expenditure by the Corporation, in wages, on the unemployed from 14th December 1892 to 20th February 1895; total of 28,189*l.*; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 344.

Leek Urban District (*Stafford*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 95.

Legislation (*Poor Relief*). Bill proposed by Mr. F. E. Hilleary for the economical administration of relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 497, 498.

Leicester. Details supplied in letter received from Leicester on 7th February as to the increase of distress and of relief, the number of shoe hands and hosiery hands out of employment, the aid given by the Leicester Trades Council; exceptional arrangements not contemplated by the guardians, *Sir H. Owen* 26–39.

Explanations with further reference to proceedings of the Leicester guardians as regards the modes of out-door relief, and to the action of the Local Government Board in the matter as to certain conditions being observed; denial that there has been undue delay on the part of the Board, *Sir H. Owen* 554–568.

Letter from the mayor, dated 21st February 1895, with respect to the amount and character of the distress in the county borough and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 128, 129.

Leighton (*Essex*) *Mutual Aid Society.* Particulars respecting the operation of the Leighton Mutual Labour Aid Society, *Smith* 4683–4685.

Leith. Letter from the town clerk of the Burgh respecting the amount of distress, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 596——Information in connection with the distress in the parishes of North Leith and South Leith, respectively, *ib.* 679.

Leominster (*Hereford.*) Absence of exceptional distress in the urban or the rural district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 139. 295.

Lewes (*Sussex*). Distress in March due to the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 401.

Lewisham. Material increase of applications for relief, both out-door and in-door, in Lewisham; employment provided in the labour yard, *Sir H. Owen* 93.

Considerable employment provided by the District Board during the severe weather; absence of exceptional distress on 25th March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 436.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Leyton (*Essex*). Amount of distress in this district previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 422.—*See* also *West Ham.*

Lichfield (*Stafford*). Absence of exceptional distress in the municipal borough; charitable relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 140—Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in the rural district, *ib.* 383.

"*Life and Labour of the People.*" Information respecting the analysis, covering over 900,000 people, made by witness when preparing "Life and Labour of the People," *C. Booth* 10624–10642.

Light Railways. Advantage if the unemployed were put to work in the construction of light railways in the neighbourhood of Swansea, *Edwards* 4349–4361. 4442–4444.

Lincoln County Borough. Amount of distress previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 444.

Linthwaite (*York*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 398, 399.

LIVERPOOL:

Letter from Liverpool, received by the Local Government Board on 4th February, showing that the applications for relief were not of an exceptional character, though many persons have been suffering great privations from want of employment, *Sir H. Owen* 40–42—Decrease rather than increase in the applications for relief in Toxteth Park (Liverpool); arrangements for offering employment to the able-bodied, *ib.* 58.

Evidence as to the great distress in Liverpool, it being computed that there are 50,000 labourers out of employment, *Keir-Hardie* 728–734.

Division of the unemployed into two classes by the Commission of Inquiry in Liverpool, namely: Class A., consisting of those steady and capable men and women who would do work if they could get it, and Class B., consisting of those who from one cause or another cannot or will not do work of an average standard in quality and quantity, *Cox* 6177 *et seq.*; 6277–6279.

Enumeration of the causes of want of work on the part of Class A., the principal being the general depression in trade, and the attraction to Liverpool, from various motives, of a large number of strangers, who often permanently displace the residential workers, *Cox* 6183–6185. 6254–6258. 6348 *et seq.*; 6448–6451. 6601–6604—Statement that the most important remedy suggested to the Commission to improve the condition of Class A., was a better organisation of labour in seasonal trades with a view to making it more permanent, *ib.* 6186 *et seq.*; 6441–6443.

Explanation as to the labour clearing-house scheme recommended in the Report of the Commission, under which an association would guarantee continuous employment to a certain number of men at something less than the standard rate, *Cox* 6189 *et seq.*; 6247–6253. 6302–6315. 6373 *et seq.*; 6463–6470. 6543 *et seq.*

Preference of some of the employers and men for the existing system, the former because they get the pick of the best men, and the latter, especially the young and active, because it enables them to earn large amounts of money which they can enjoy during slack periods, *Cox* 6194. 6226 *et seq.*—Sufferings of the elderly and weaker men, many steady and fairly capable porters not earning on an average more than 13*s.* per week, *ib.* 6194, 6195. 6427–6436.

Opinion that the actual distress arising from want of employment in the skilled trades is minimised by the out-of-work allowances provided by the trade unions, *Cox* 6196. 6259, 6260.

Recommendation that the vast amount of child-life which is running to waste in Class B. should be dealt with and turned to some useful purpose, the boys being trained as seamen and the girls as domestic servants, *Cox* 6201–6205. 6280–6283. 6335–6340. 6480–6484. 6627–6634.

Chief causes of want of employment among Class B. are ill-health, intemperance, restlessness, hereditary incapacity, overwhelming misfortune, &c., one of the most powerful factors in the problem being injudicious and indiscriminate charity, *Cox* 6200, 6201. 6487 *et seq.*; 6522–6525.

Enlistment of the services of the police by the public authorities in Liverpool when dealing with the distress during the past winter; sympathy of the Corporation for the unemployed, *Cox* 6219, 6220. 6584–6587.

Evidence to the effect that a proposal to form a strong permanent committee to deal with distress due to want of employment was debated by the Liverpool Town Council, but that unfortunately nothing was done in the matter, *Cox* 6221–6225. 6284–6287. 6316–6325. 6341, 6342. 6495–6507.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

LIVERPOOL—continued.

High rate of wages paid to unskilled workmen in Liverpool, the result being that the men have to work at high pressure to enable their employers to recoup themselves; displacement of industries due to a certain extent to the trades unions requiring such high wages, *Cox* 6261 *et seq.*; 6296–6301. 6343–6372. 6377 *et seq.*; 6437–6446. 6452–6462. 6571–6583——Opinion that it is the overtime coming immediately on top of the daytime that uses the dock labourers up so quickly in Liverpool; absence of necessity for the men to work such long hours, *ib.* 6452–6462. 6515. 6532–6556.

Belief that the Charity Organisation Society or the Central Relief Society has done a great deal of very excellent work in Liverpool, *Cox* 6477–6479——Considerable success of the Liverpool guardians in their endeavours to move girls to better districts; great difficulty, however, in inducing the people to go, *ib.* 6516, 6517.

Statement that there is a great deal of favoritism in engaging the men in the docks at Liverpool; general impression among the men that they must give a certain proportion of their wages to the ganger master porter who employs them, *Cox* 6564–6570.

Agreement with the suggestion that the unemployed exist because wealth is badly distributed and labour is intermittently employed; doubt, however, as to the disappearance of the unemployed problem in Liverpool if the total work were averaged and regulated, *Cox* 6615–6623.

Information supplied in report by Poor Law inspector as to the amount of local distress the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 54, 55.

Particulars supplied by the Lord Mayor, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment and the relief provided by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, respectively, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 129.

Liversedge (*York*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 423.

Llandilofawr (*Carmarthen*). Statement that there is no exceptional distress from want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 454.

Llandovery (*Carmarthen and Brecknock*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 432.

Llandudno Urban District (*Carnarvon*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 96.

Llanelly (*Carmarthen*). Very little distress in the rural district of Llanelly in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 320——Amount of distress in the urban district in February; remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 350.

Llangyfelach (*Glamorgan*). Amount of distress in this rural district in February; relief measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 337.

"*Loafers.*" Sufficiency of the present Poor Law machinery for dealing with "loafers" and others who refuse to go upon relief works, *Benn* 3209.* 3248–3251——Stringent measures suggested for the suppression of the loafing class and of vagrancy and begging, as by committal to institutions where they can be kept steadily at work; penal treatment advocated in dealing with this class, as at Glasgow, where they are numerous, *Nathan* 8151–8157. 8244, 8245——Subsidised labour of these people in competition with honest labour, *ib.* 8152, 8153.

Exception taken to the term "loafers"; limited number of these in Glasgow, the working men deeply resenting the evidence of Mr. Nathan as to this class being very numerous, *Hunter* 8269. 8319–8322. 8333.

See also *Casual Paupers. Labour Test. Penal Treatment. Tramps and Vagrants.*

Loan Societies. Great boon to respectable working men, when in temporary distress, if they could obtain relief by means of a loan, to be repaid in more prosperous times, *Keir-Hardie* 1084–1086——Operation of loan societies in the East-end of London, the men being thus helped in winter, *Alden* 2404–2409.

Paper handed in by Mr. Llewellyn Smith containing summary of return relating to loan societies for the year ended 31st December 1892; increase as compared with previous year, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 501.

Loans (*Relief Works*). Rule of the Central Board as to holding a local inquiry before sanctioning loans for work in order to give employment, *Sir H. Owen* 249——Varying periods allowed for the repayment of loans, according to the class of work, *ib.* 250.

Explanation of the action of the Central Board as regards works loans and the precautions taken when their sanction is applied for; condition that the works must be of

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Loans (*Relief Works*)—continued.

of a substantial and permanent character, though their cost may sometimes be excessive in times of distress through the unskilled labour employed, *Sir H. Owen* 619–631. 639–641.

Expediency of greater expedition on the part of the Local Government Board in dealing with local applications for loans for works, *Keir-Hardie* 836——Further statement as to the delay in connection with local applications for loans and in obtaining the sanction of the Local Government Board, *ib.* 1012–1018.

Suggestion that the Local Government Board might encourage the local authorities to provide useful work by reducing the interest on loans and extending the time for repayment, *Dodd* 7574-7578. 7789–7791.

Official explanations with regard to the arrangements and regulations of the Central Board in reference to the sanction of loans; steps taken to provide against undue delay, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 561, 562.

Local Authorities:

Quotation of several of the replies received to the Circular of the Local Government Board of 11th February 1895, showing the action taken or proposed to be taken by the various local bodies as regards the provision of employment, with particulars as to the extent and character of the distress in each locality, *Sir H. Owen* 181–200.

Suggestion on the subject of employment (in times of distress) by the municipal authorities in cleansing the streets, road-making, &c.; sufficient statutory powers for this purpose, *Sir H. Owen* 300–310.

Consideration of the course to be adopted as regards printing for the use of the Committee condensed information from the replies to the Circular issued at their request to the different local authorities; suggestions on the subject, *Sir H. Owen* 361–369.

Entire discretion in local authorities as to the provision of works for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 388——Conclusion that work undertaken by local authorities should be of a necessary or useful character, *ib.* 543, 544.

Opinion that, while there should be some control by the central authority, the town councils should be allowed to carry out their own affairs in their own way; also, that the powers given to parish councils should be given to all urban councils who ask for them, *Dodd* 7578–7584. 7663–7668. 7792–7799——Concurrence in the suggestion that the local authorities as well as the boards of guardians should have the power of providing work for the unemployed, *ib.* 7705–7708.

Explanation that in contending that local or municipal authorities (as at Glasgow) should not be responsible for finding work for the unemployed, witness does not refer to the Poor Law authorities, and is not well conversant with their powers in the matter, *Bell* 7977-7990. 8052, 8053. 8065, 8066.

Suggestion that a general extension of municipal enterprise might relieve future distress, *C. Booth* 10539. 10582–10589. 10724——Discussion as to whether an expenditure of taxation for municipal enterprise will not, by increasing the value of the land, tend to keep the people down, *ib.* 10724–10741.

Communications from the various local authorities in response to the inquiry whether they have any suggestions to make for relieving the distress, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Letters from various local authorities showing whether in each locality any register of unemployed is kept, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Paper (handed in by Sir Hugh Owen) containing detailed explanations respecting constructive and other works in the execution of which labour may be employed by the various local authorities, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 563, 564.

Conclusion of the Committee that, with a view to continuity of employment, orders for indoor repair work and for new work, where feasible, should be given out by public bodies with reference to what are now the slack months (generally January and February), in so far as this course is consistent with efficiency of execution and with reasonable economy, *3rd Rep.* v.

See also *Boards of Guardians. Farm and Labour Colonies. Land* (*Acquisition by Boards of Guardians*). *Relief Works. State Aid. Vestries. West Ham.*

Local Government Board:

Circular issued by the Local Government Board on 11th February, to vestries and district boards in the metropolis, and to town councils and district councils generally, suggesting three different classes of work for the unemployed and making several recommendations on the subject, *Sir H. Owen* 175–180.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Local Government Board—continued.

Limitation of the jurisdiction of the Local Government Board to England and Wales, its inquiries not having extended to Scotland or Ireland, *Sir H. Owen* 370–372. 384, 385.

Explanation that any opinions expressed by witness in reply to questions of the Committee have been given in his individual capacity, and not as representing his Department, *Sir H. Owen* 699.

Contention that the Local Government Board ought to be fully acquainted with the statutes which it has to administer, and that it should have issued rules, when they were urgently applied for, for the guidance of guardians in giving useful employment to the poor, *Dodd* 7546 *et seq.*——Instances of the way in which the Local Government Board have rather sharpened the Poor Law against the poor, and discouraged out-relief to an excessive degree, *ib.* 7597–7599. 7656–7659. 7698–7701.

View of witness that the circulars issued by the Local Government Board have been very useful, but that in future different circulars should be issued to different authorities, clearly explaining their several duties and powers, *Dodd* 7571. 7676, 7677. 7778–7785.

Very full information in the reports furnished to the Committee by the Board, as obtained from the Poor Law Inspectors throughout the country, 1*st Rep.* iii.

Circular letter of 13th February 1895 to the several Inspectors requesting information as to the extent of local destitution amongst able-bodied men, the means adopted for dealing with the same, and whether any modification is desirable as regards the rules respecting out-door relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 20——List of Inspectors for the several counties of England, *ib.*

Replies from the several Inspectors, in response to the foregoing circular; detailed information therein, with suggestions on certain points, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 20–56.

Paper submitted by Sir Hugh Owen, explanatory in detail of the powers and duties of guardians, and of their officers as to relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 557–562.

See also *Amount and Causes of Distress. Boards of Guardians. Farm and Labour Colonies*, I., 5., V., VII. *Land* (*Acquisition by Boards of Guardians*). *Loans. Local Authorities. Metropolis. Out-door Relief. Poor Law System. West Ham.*

London. See *Abbey Mills. Battersea. Camberwell. Dock Labour. Farm and Labour Colonies. Islington. Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed. Metropolis. Poplar. Relief Works. St. George's-in-the-East. St. Olave's Union. Wandsworth and Clapham Union. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

London County Council. Additional powers possessed by the London County Council, as compared with other county councils, under various heads, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 563.

See also *Abbey Mills.*

Long Ashton Rural District (*Somerset*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 451.

Long Eaton (*Derby*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 227.

Longton (*Stafford*). Letter from the Mayor of Longton, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 73.

Loughborough (*Leicester*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 262.

Louth (*Lincoln*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 415.

Lowestoft. Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 370.

Ludlow (*Salop*). Limited amount of distress in Ludlow rural district; voluntary relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 337.

Lunacy. Reference to the increase of lunacy in Scotland as mainly due to drink and heredity, *Matran*, 8191–8195.

Luton (*Beds*). Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 140.

Lutterworth Rural District (*Leicester*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 432.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Luxembourg. Explanation respecting a system of labour registration in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, through the medium of the post office, *Smith* 4699.

Lymington (Hants). Information respecting the distress in Lymington rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 296——Exceptional distress in the Municipal Borough through the prolonged frost; relief provided, *ib.* 359.

M.

Macclesfield. Letter from the mayor of Macclesfield, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 74——Distress in the rural district due entirely to the severe weather, *ib.* 290.

Machinery. Increased number of unemployed through the increasing use of machinery, *Alden* 2322, 2323 2382——Effect of increased introduction of machinery, as in the printing and book trades, in causing increased displacement of manual labour, *Smith* 4750–4755——Doubt whether on the whole employment is lessened by the increasing introduction of machinery, *ib.* 4815–4818.

Conclusion that the effect of the introduction of machinery into any trade, although at first it displaces a certain amount of labour, is ultimately to increase the number of persons employed in the trade, *Mackay* 5357–5362.

Belief that the rapid introduction of machinery, the benefits of which are all absorbed by capitalists, is the main cause of the scarcity of employment; particulars respecting several new developments in machinery now in use in the gas, coal, and other industries, *Thorne* 10810–10830. 10852–10856.

Mackay, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Witness has been for many years one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Charity Organisation Society in St. George's-in-the-East, 5326.

Detailed explanation of the exceptional system pursued by the Charity Organisation Society, in co-operation with the Poor Law in St. George's-in-the-East (where there is no labour yard), for the relief of the unemployed, 5327 *et seq.*——Statement that of the twenty applicants who came to the Society for relief during the last three months, three were relieved unconditionally, being clubmen, eight accepted the Society's conditions, and went into the workhouse, and nine refused the conditions, 5329–5342.

Arguments in support of the contention that in a union where out-relief is freely given the first resource of a poor person in any crisis is the rates, but that in a union where no out-relief is given the man himself is responsible for the maintenance of himself and family, and there is comparatively little pressure upon the public authority during a crisis, 5343 *et seq.*——Submission by witness of tables illustrating the variation in the amount of pauperism in strict and lax unions, and showing the reduction of pauperism brought about by the system pursued in the Tower Hamlets Unions, 5345–5353.

Concurrence in the view that persons who are reduced to want through the decay of their trade must be maintained by the Poor Law and charity; necessity, however, in such cases, of safeguards that will prevent them from being congested in the same place and looking out for work where it cannot be found, 5354 *et seq.*——Decided opinion that to start relief works for wages in cases of destitution due to decay of trade only tends to aggravate the congestion and to do more harm than good; citation of the relief works at Nottingham in support of this opinion, 5354–5362. 5367–5374.

Conclusion that labour can, and does to a large extent, avoid a falling market, it having largely gone away from agriculture and become distributed among a great variety of other employments; importance of increasing the mobility of labour as much as possible, 5354 *et seq.*——Belief that the effect of the introduction of machinery into a trade, although at first it displaces a certain amount of labour, is ultimately to increase the number of persons employed in the trade, 5357–5362.

Disapproval of the proposal to establish farm colonies in order to relieve the distress due to want of employment as it would be a continuous financial failure; objections, moreover, on several other grounds, 5364–5366.

[Second Examination.]—Evidence to the effect that the reason why so few of the unemployed applied to the Charity Organisation Society in St. George's during the recent frost was because of the large amount of charitable relief given throughout the parish; belief that where there is extra depression there will be extra charity, 5375–5378. 5518–5541. 5608 *et seq.*; 5643–5647. 5765——Doubt as to the practicability of profitably employing the unemployed in reclaiming the land on the low parts of the river Thames near London; adherence of witness to his opinion that putting the unemployed upon the land for the purpose of giving them relief would be a failure, 5379 *et seq.*; 5574–5581.

Possibility of there being some method by which a greater population than at present can be employed upon the land; decided objection, however, to the State introducing

Mackay, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

protection in order to try and bolster up a failing industry, 5398–5411. 5428 *et seq.*; 5758–5761——Deliberate opinion of all competent authorities on the subject, including the Poor Law Commission of 1834, that out-door relief is an evil in itself; contention hereon that there are only two means of coping with the difficulties due to want of employment, namely, the more perfect administration of the Poor Law and the extension throughout the country of charity organisation societies, 5412–5427. 5631 *et seq.*; 5725 *et seq.*

View of witness that while it is perfectly easy to start as many relief works as can be paid for, and by so doing getting a large number of paupers, the crux of the matter is to get these paupers back into the ranks of industry again, 5419–5427——Certainty that if every authority in London were to make it known that a certain sum of money had been set aside to spend upon relief works in winter many people would depend upon that prospect, and so aggravate the conditions of distress, 5432 *et seq.*

Main object of the Charity Organisation Society in St. George's to make the people more self-reliant; opinion that although the system may appear to be harsh, it ultimately, and perhaps rapidly, lessens the sufferings of the poor, 5436 *et seq.*; 5640 *et seq.*; 5680 *et seq.*; 5727 *et seq.*

No doubt that if it were known that men in seasonal trades would be relieved when they had no work the tendency would be to decrease the wages in those trades; contention that the most humane treatment is to continue as rigidly as may be the system laid down in the Report of the Poor Law Commission of 1834; 5444–5455. 5754–5757——Opinion that the circular from the Local Government Board has in some places re-introduced the bad state of things that existed before 1834; dangerous fallacy of the idea that because the condition of the working classes has considerably improved the law may be relaxed, 5444–5455.

Physical unfitness and utter incapacity of large numbers of the unemployed in the East End of London for working on the land in farming and market-garden operations, 5456–5465. 5544–5548——Absence of necessity for organising an efficient charity committee in every local area throughout England; decided objection to the proposal to establish an almoner of charitable relief in each district, as being unnecessary and an incentive to pauperism, 5466 *et seq.*

Experience of witness that the various boards of guardians do voluntarily co-operate with the charitable organisations of their districts in regard to administering relief to the unemployed, 5498–5515——No doubt that the recent severe frost increased the sufferings of the poor more than usual this year, 5516, 5517.

Argument that trade unions, by trying to set up a monopoly of employment for people belonging to the unions, do not always promote their own interests; opinion that they ought to allow labour to flow more easily, 5549–5559——Explanation that witness' society helps any person, when out of work, who can show that he has seriously tried to make some provision for himself in time of sickness, 5560–5573. 5586 *et seq.*

Success of the Charity Organisation Society in St. George's due to the fact that every case is personally investigated, 5582–5584——Decided opinion that all administration of out-door relief should be in private hands, and that those guardians who possess the power of giving out-door relief should use their discretion and refuse to give it, 5589–5607. 5716 *et seq.*; 5736–5753.

Inclination of witness to think that there are fewer sporadic relief works in St. George's-in-the-East than elsewhere, 5616–5620——Denial of the suggestion that the effect of witness' system in St. George's is to retain the self-supporting people and to drive the residuum from the district, 5621–5631.

Disapproval, on principle, of any question of employing unemployed labour being allowed to influence the vestry in carrying out their duties as to re-paving streets and remedying sanitary defects, 5647–5661——Grounds of objection to the suggestion that the wealthy might help the poor by placing money at the disposal of the local authority to be administered in relief works; contention that the want of economical employment should not be concealed, 5661, 5662.

Approval of the policy which prevents the exercise of political right by paupers; witness is not aware of any complaint by the poor on losing their vote, 5663–5668——Opinion that the comparison made by witness between Whitechapel and other districts in regard to the effect of out-relief on pauperism still stands good, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the relief given by the Jewish Board of Guardians in Whitechapel, 5669–5674.

View of witness that the Charity Organisation Society would not be doing its duty if it were not to a certain extent unpopular with the working classes of the East End of London, 5675 *et seq.*——Contention that those applicants who refuse the society's conditions do not go into the workhouse, but get along somehow on their own resources; statement that although some of the London workhouses were extremely overcrowded this

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Mackay, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

this winter, St. George's Workhouse was not among the number, 5681–5698. 5762–5765.

Possibility that the deaths from starvation in St. George's amount to about one-tenth of the total for London, although the population is only one-eightieth of the whole population; particulars of a case where out-relief was applied for at St. George's Union and refused, 5699–5705——Doubt as to the refusal of out-relief throwing a very heavy burden on the poorest part of the community, 5706–5712.

Tendency of the rigid administration of the Poor Law as regards out-relief to make the men disposed to demand higher wages in depressed times, 5713–5715——Undue facilities given by the public authorities, as by means of shelters, for people to go upon tramp; demoralising effect of encouraging the poor to be dependent on the rates and upon other people, 5718–5724.

[Third Examination.]—Explanation with reference to former evidence (Question 5564), as regards assistance to men in receipt of out-of-work relief, 5766–5768——Explanation that a man taken into the infirmary and staying there would be disfranchised, 5768–5773.

Statement that as co-operative farming in England has not been very successful, it has not extended much, 5774–5779——Disapproval of the stoneyard test, as there is no reformatory action in it, the same men coming back to the stoneyard year after year, 5780–5785. 5815–5818.

No doubt that the principle and practice of inquiry before relief is the main cause of the lack of appreciation of the Charity Organisation Society; kinder feeling towards the society on the part of the better class of working people, 5786-5788——Evidence to the effect that while the strict unions have restricted out-relief, they have initiated the policy of improved schools and infirmaries, 5789.

Opinion that greater facilities for poor relief do undoubtedly prompt more numerous applications for it, and cause people to rely upon it, 5790. 5825–5831. 5843–5861——Grounds for the conclusion that there is no connection between the death-rate and the administration of out-door relief; absolute worthlessness of starvation cases for statistical purposes, 5791–5794. 5862–5864.

Disagreement with the statement that the poor have been largely forced into the workhouses; inaccuracy of Dr. Hunter's figures so far as St. George's Union is concerned, 5795–5798——View of witness that there should be only one Poor Law authority, and that it would be a mistake to have the vestries giving relief as well as the Poor Law guardians, 5799–5802. 5819 *et seq.*

Institution of many municipal works in Australia for the purpose of relief, these resulting in great congestion in the towns, 5803——Difficulty as regards State aid to a declining trade in that the State would neither know the exact psychological moment to step in with its special aid, nor when to stop it, 5804 *et seq.*

Belief that no workman with any self-respect will work in the relief works and labour yards, which are very largely monopolised by loafers, 5807–5810. 5866-5868. ——Result of the inquiries made by the Vestry of St. George's that labour bureaux are of no use, 5810. 5865, 5866.

Opinion that it would be an extremely dangerous experiment to extend the common poor fund so as to cover the whole system of relief in London, 5811——Self-evident proposition, with regard to disfranchising persons who apply for relief, that the condition of paupers ought to be less eligible than that of the independent labourer, 5812, 5813.

Doubt as to the strict unions, while saving their own position, driving people into the lax unions and vitiating the comparison between the two systems, 5814——Contention that the poor in St. George's-in-the-East are more independent than they were fifteen years ago, and that on the whole there is less poverty there, 5832–5838.

Non-realisation sufficiently by either trade unionists or the Legislature of the necessity of allowing a free market to distribute labour and capital, 5838–5842—— Opposition of witness to any form of municipal relief work to meet the "unemployed" difficulty, except work which arises in the natural development of the industry of the country, 5869–5881.

Maidenhead. Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 214.

Maidstone. Information respecting the extent of the local distress in Maidstone municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 74——Local information as to the amount of distress in the Maidstone rural district in February and as to the remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 248.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Maldon (*Essex*). Extent and character of the distress in the Municipal Borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 263.

Malling (*Kent*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 192.

Manchester. Reply received fram Manchester, in response to Circular from the Local Government Board on 7th February to the effect that no exceptional poor relief had been granted; considerable distress among persons who had not applied for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 43 — Official explanations in February as to the extent of the distress in the county borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 207-209.

Mansell, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness was foreman of the relief works carried out under a committee on Wanstead Flats, 11431, 11432.

Information respecting the men employed in the levelling and digging operations on Wanstead Flats, most of whom were country-born, the number, which averaged about 100, having risen to 180 at the busiest time; statement that the work paid better after the gangs were reduced from twenty-five men to ten men, as the superintendence was better, 11433–11450. 11478 *et seq.*——Evidence to the effect that on the conclusion of the work on the Flats most of the intelligent and willing workmen were provided with situations in the Thames Ironworks and elsewhere; belief, however, that a few of the men, who had served their time at a trade and were "past forty," are still out of work, 11451–11461.

Willingness of the majority of the men employed to do the work allotted them, those who were not quite fit for the work, physically, doing their best; care taken to make the gangs as equal as possible, 11462–11466——Statement that the minimum rate of pay was 4*d.* per hour, with 1*s.* per rod for double digging, the amount earned by each gang beyond the 4*d.* per hour being given at the end of the week as a bonus, 11467–11470. 11490.

Uncertainty as to whether the Wanstead experiment can be considered a paying transaction from a business point of view; no doubt that if witness had not had to take all comers, but could have picked his men, he could have made it pay, 11471 *et seq.*——Opinion that in addition to the absolute relief given at the moment the Wanstead operations cured some of the men and made them more permanent workers, 11491–11501.

Suggestion that continuous land cultivation should be found for the unemployed, the men being mostly able and willing to work; desire of some of them to go back into the country again if they could find work there, 11502–11531.

Mansfield (*Nottingham*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 74.

Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed:

Brief outline of the origin and continuation of the scheme carried out by the Mansion House Committee, which was specially formed in 1893 to deal with the dock labour question, *Smart* 11197 *et seq.*——Production by witness of a form upon which the case of the applicant for help was taken down, a necessary condition being that the man must have been at the least a waterside labourer; thorough inquiry, including visitation of the home, made into each case before help was granted, *ib.* 11199–11201.

Details in connection with the Abbey Mills scheme, thirty acres of waste land having been used as an official test of work for the casual class, *Smart* 11199. 11202 *et seq.*——Particulars of the 372 applicants for help, 228 of them having been born in London, and only two in the country; conclusion that the country-born man gets a good position when he comes to London and pushes out a town man, *ib.* 11211–11216. 11400 *et seq.*

Statistics showing that 189 of the applicants were or had been members of trade societies; confirmation of the well-known fact that casual docking is resorted to by every kind of worker who happens to be thrown out of his own employment, *Smart* 11217–11226——Evidence to the effect that 158 out of the 372 applicants stated that they were or had been members of a club or benefit society, seventy of them having run out, *ib.* 11223.

Admission that the committee failed so far as their main purpose was concerned, one-third of the total number of cases receiving no permanent assistance after they had been dealt with; attainment, however, of the subsidiary object of giving relief work to the unemployed, *Smart* 11227–11229.

Detailed information as to the position of the men who had been helped by the committee, the sixteen who emigrated to Canada doing well, as a rule, and only a very small proportion of those who remained in this country having to apply subsequently for relief; decided opinion that a large proportion of those settled in one way or another have been permanently assisted by the committee work, *Smart* 11230-11238.

Statement

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed—continued.

Statement that, in 1894, 141 cases were entertained out of 414 applications, and that stronger confirmation was obtained of the fact that the kind of poverty dealt with is largely a town product; certainty that many men were deterred from applying by the stringent methods of inquiry and by objection to emigration, *Smart* 11247 *et seq.*; 11400–11430.

Information respecting the 141 cases dealt with in 1894, sixteen of which, representing 115 persons in all, were sent to Canada, the number of those which failed to receive any benefit from the committee being 92; comparatively small proportion permanently helped in that year, *Smart* 11255–11270.

Approximate cost of the scheme in 1894, 1,102 *l.* 19 *s.* 1½ *d.*, a larger number of cases being emigrated at less cost than in the previous year, emigration offices having assisted from their own funds; variation of the period of work from a fortnight to two months, *Smart* 11271–11275——Enumeration of the difficulties with which the committee were confronted in dealing with the applicants for help; brief statement of certain facts and principles which appear to be demonstrated by the work of the committee, *ib.* 11280, 11281.

Explanation that the committee did not intend to do anything last winter, but recommenced in response to urgent appeals from various quarters; particulars of the 85 cases entertained, the men being set to work at Lower Sydenham to convert brickfields into allotments, *Smart*, 11290–11296. 11376–11381.

See also *Abbey Mills.*

Mansion House Relief Fund (1886-87). Disposal by witness in out-door relief of 2,000 *l.* from the Mansion House Relief Fund in 1886-87; fear that it did as much harm as good, *Martineau* 6827, 6828.

Manufactures (*Trade Depression*). See *Trade Depression.*

Margam Urban District (*Glamorgan*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress through the stoppage of tinplate works, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 165.

Margate. Distress due to the severe weather; sufficiency of voluntary agency for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 360.

Market Bosworth (*Leicester*). Explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the Rural District and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 320, 321.

Martineau, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has had a large and varied experience of the poor of the East-end of London, having for many years acted as justice of the peace and guardian of the poor; enumeration of the various responsible positions which he has held, 6798-6814.

Opinion that the poor of St. George's-in-the-East did not suffer more than usual this winter until the frost came, when the exceptional distress was due to the exceptional severity of the weather, 6815, 6816 ---Belief that the ways and means of relieving those in distress in St. George's were sufficient, help having been given by the Charity Organisation Society and by both the Church of England and dissenting clergy, 6817–6820.

View of witness that out-door relief would have had very little effect in St. George's, and might have done harm; reduction in pauperism in the district since out-door relief was given up, 6821 *et seq.*——Doubt as to any real starvation cases occurring in the parish; personal inquiries of witness as to whether the children in the board school have had breakfast before they come to school, 6823. 6896–6899.

Increase of frugality and independence in St. George's since the cessation of out-door relief; certainty that there is as much or more poverty in Bethnal Green, where out-door relief is given, 6824–6826. 6847, 6848. 6876. *et seq.*——Disposal by witness in out-door relief of 2,000*l.* from the Mansion House Relief Fund in 1886-87; fear that it did as much harm as good, 6827, 6828.

Opinion that out-door relief should never be given in St. George's, all forms of relief works being mistaken methods of helping the poor; disposition of witness to rely on the Charity Organisation Society and the local charities, to meet exceptional distress, 6828–6836. 6860 *et seq.*; 6885–6893. 6922–6932.——Arrears of rent due to the East End Dwellings Company scarcely larger this winter than they have been in previous winters, 6837–6840.

Strong disapproval of any proposal that the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, or any other public subventions should be extended to out-door relief; probability that East London gets a little too much charity, 6841–6846. 6866–6875.——Desirability of making the poor more independent, thrifty, and careful, and of discouraging early marriages, 6849–6852. 6880–6884.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Martineau, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Advisability of improving the status and pay of the working man as much as possible, of bringing the children up to some skilled work, and of not allowing them to shirk their schools as they do now, 6849–6851. 6894–6919. 6933-6940.——Belief that the poor have not sufferred on account of the refusal to excuse their rates, 6853–6856.

Absence of necessity for giving boards of guardians any extension of power for dealing with distress, their present powers being sufficient to deal with positive destitution, 6857-6859. 6928.——Approval of the proposal that persons in receipt of relief should not lose the Parliamentary vote, so far as infirmary relief is concerned, 6920, 6921.——Concurrence in the suggestion that work done by public bodies should be so distributed that the greatest possible number of men would be employed, without overtime, 6941–6946.

Marylebone. Increased applications for relief in Marylebone, much distress being also reported among non-applicants, *Sir H. Owen* 93.

Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 5th March, as to the additional distress in the district and the employment given by the vestry, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 388.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884-85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Maryport (*Cumberland*). Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in the Maryport urban district in February 1895 and as to the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 278, 279.

Mather, William (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Preliminary statement with reference to witness' scheme of farm colonies, showing the close relationship between the questions of agricultural employment and manufacturing employment, 8975——Proposition that farm colonies be of two classes, affording employment of a temporary character and of a permanent character respectively, 8975.

Review of the general conditions of employment in the staple manufacturing industries of this country showing that there are several causes, not preventible, which render such employment of an exceedingly fluctuating and changeable character, there being an increasing tendency to the displacement and curtailment of labour, 8975.

Mischievous operation of the system by which, when industrious and well-conducted artizans are thrown out of employment (as by the introduction of improved machinery), they live for a time in enforced idleness upon their savings and upon the help received from friendly societies and trade unions, 8975.

Displacement of labour in the manufacturing districts not only through the increased use of machinery but through many men not readily adapting themselves to new methods of work, as well as through changes of fashion in the world's garments, 8975——Reference to Bradford and Coventry in illustration of the large loss of employment through discontinuance of special manufactures; value of farm colonies in such cases, 8975. 9001.

Strong comment upon the decay of agricultural industry and upon the steady immigration of rural labourers into the towns, where labour is already far in excess of the demand; great aggravation thereby of the growing difficulties of the labour problem, 8975.

Grounds for the conclusion that a general eight hours' day would not give any permanent relief for the want of employment in the manufacturing districts, 8975. 9061–9063——Full day's work obtained by witness upon the eight hours principle, as carried out at his works, 8975. 9061–9063——Strong approval generally of shorter hours of labour on the score of health and of recreation 8975.

Unnatural character of the accumulation of rural labour in the manufacturing districts, this resulting (in witness' view) from the imperfect development of the agricultural industries, 8975——Contrast between the highly organised condition of the manufacturing industries and the undeveloped and declining condition of agriculture, 8975.

Distinct feature of witness' scheme of farm colonies that it involves the employment of a selected class of unemployed superior to the pauper class or casual workers, 8975——Explanation that benevolence and philanthropy have no part in the scheme; nor is it left to the initiative of speculative investors, 8975.

Argument in justification of the proposition that the State shall take the initial steps, as for the common weal, provided that the security for its capital or loans be reasonably guaranteed against loss, 8975.

Immense expenditure by Poor Law Authorities out of the rates in support of the poor and destitute, which would indirectly be reduced under the operation of witness' scheme,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Mather, William (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

scheme, 8975. 8995——Conclusion that, if necessary, any deficiency incurred by the State in respect of its invested capital might well be made good by the Poor Law authorities in view of the benefits conferred upon the destitute class, 8975.

Grounds upon which it is proposed that the establishment and control of the farm colonies shall vest in the county councils, there being also the co-operation of the State and of the Poor Law authorities, 8975——Great improvement anticipated in agriculture under witness' scheme jointly with a large increase of employment, 8975——Enormous import of farm products from abroad, whilst land at home is lying unproductive and labour is languishing in the absence of a proper system of land tillage in lieu of big farms and grain crops, 8975. 8987–8992.

Explanation that the proposed farm training colony should in the first instance be occupied by the respectable and well-conducted working classes, temporarily unemployed, but desirous of work, 8976–8982——Contemplated control of the land by a committee of the county council, the direct management being in the hands of a skilled agriculturist and practical farmer, 8982——Proposal that each farm shall consist partly of cultivated and partly of uncultivated land, the unskilled labour being employed upon the latter; sustenance of the whole colony out of the produce of the former, 8982–8984.

Statement as to the conditions under which the Poor Law authorities might send men of the unemployed class to work on the proposed training colonies, it being stipulated that they must remain for at least a month, 8985. 8999, 9000——Special importance attached to the scheme as not being intended for the pauper class or the depraved or drunken, but as providing free-will temporary employment for those who really want to work for a livelihood, rather than accept Poor Law relief or apply for help from charities, 8986. 8999.

Intention that the training colonies shall mainly supply products requiring more or less of hand labour after production, and which are now imported from abroad, such as flax, seeds, straw-plaiting, &c.; very extensive auxiliary employment thereby, 8987–8994——Suggestions as to the large amount of auxiliary work which may be provided in the cottages and homes of the workers in connection with the products of each training colony, 8992–8994.

Belief that with the aid of auxiliary industries, labour on the training colonies might be made self-supporting, and that the initial capital expenditure would probably be met by the increased value of the land through hand tillage, 8993–8998——Intention that the men who go to the training colonies should be employed from month to month, after which, when acquainted with farming occupations, they might go abroad to an English colony or might take up settlements created out of the training colonies, 8999, 9000.

Little, if any, difficulty apprehended in respect of the local employment of men sent to a distance from their homes and families, 9001——Conclusion that arrangements can easily be adopted for preventing the herding of the men together on the barrack system; provision contemplated for some families on the colonies, 9002–9004.

Expediency of Part I. and Part II. of witness' scheme being separately dealt with by the Committee, as either Part can be carried out independently of the other, 9005, 9006——Reference to letters received by witness in approval of his draft scheme from Professor Sheldon, Professor Wright, and several other eminent agricultural authorities, 9006–9009.

Examination to the effect that the Poor Law authorities should not only take the initiative in sending men to the proposed colonies, but should be liable for any pecuniary deficit in working whilst the administration should rest entirely with the county council, or the guardians might take part in the management, 9010–9021——Expectation that a large number of the men sent to the colonies, through the displacement of industries on which previously employed, would eventually obtain a permanent footing upon the farm settlements, 9022, 9023. 9041.

Grounds for the contention that the experiment at Wanstead Flats proves that the sum earned in kind, an equivalent of 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a day, and that their labour did not entail any loss whatever, 9024–9032——Important feature of witness' scheme, that portion of each colony or farm shall consist of uncultivated or half cultivated land, for the employment of unskilled men; belief that there would be no difficulty in finding such farms, 9033–9041.

Prospect, under witness' scheme, of the whole of the unfertile land of the country being gradually brought under cultivation, and of the scheme being taken up eventually by landowners in their own interests, 9042–9050——Much better results anticipated from the land being under skilled managers, than under the present class of farmers, 9043–9051.

Considerations as to the extent to which unskilled men, employed for a month or so could

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Mather, William (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

could be usefully engaged on certain auxiliary industries, 9052–9054——Doubt as to the colonies labouring under any practical disadvantage if they did not compete with local produce, but only with imported products, 9055-9060.

Adoption by witness of a minimum wage (as well as an eight hours' day); statement hereon as to men not being often thrown out of work because of age, and the competition of younger men, 9061–9069——Limited sense in which employment of an increased number of men would result from an abolition of overtime, 9070, 9071.

Explanation in connection with the proposal that the family of each man sent to a training colony shall receive 4*s.* a week from the guardians, it being contended that the man will earn by his own labour not only the cost of his own maintenance, but, probably, something in reduction of the guardians' payments, 9072–9077——Statement as to the proposed purchase of the land by the State, in the first instance, or, it might be leased in perpetuity, 9078–9082.

Belief that only a small proportion of men temporarily employed would be excluded from witness' scheme by reason of physical incapacity, 9083——Mode of appropriation of any profits from the scheme, the managing authority having nothing to do with profit or loss, 9084–9086.

Examination in further defence of the proposition that the expenses of the scheme should be provided by the Poor Law authorities, whilst the administration and management should rest with the County Council; or, there might be a combination of the former authorities to undertake the management, 9085–9089——Necessary initiation of each colony by local Poor Law bodies, before the State advances the money for the purchase of the land, due investigation being made before any advance, 9090, 9091.

Supply of men for each colony by the unions which contribute to its maintenance, though men from other unions might also be received on payment being made 9092–9095——Necessity of each man applying to his own union for admission to the colony, 9096——Arrangements for always maintaining skilled labour on the cultivated portion of each colony, the fluctuation of the supply on the uncultivated land not entailing injurious results, 9096–9098.

Explanation that certain work required as regards each colony, such as tailoring, boot-making, building repairs, &c., should be executed by the occupants, but that it is not proposed to compete with village industries outside, 9100–9108——Several kinds of work now done in the homes of the people, such as ornamental iron work, art weaving, &c., which might be carried on in the colonies, 9109.

Argument in further support of the proposition that, in contrast with manufactures, agriculture in this country has not been conducted with proper enterprise and skill, that the growing of grain crops cannot be continued profitably, that hand tillage should be more extensively employed, and more valuable and profitable products cultivated, 9110–9126——Reference especially to flax as admitting of extensive and profitable cultivation, though for special reasons the cultivation in Ireland has been largely given up, 9118-9124——Conclusion that beet-root may be grown in this country and its saccharine properties developed as successfully as abroad, 9125, 9126.

[Second Examination.]—Discussion upon the grounds for witness' assertion that under his scheme of training colonies men unaccustomed to ordinary farm work would be able to earn their maintenance and, after a time, more than their maintenance, 9127 *et seq.*——Reiteration of the view that a large quantity of land is now cultivated for crops which could not possibly yield a profit, which land may be made to pay, 9139–9143. 9165–9171——Illustration, in Essex, of the profit derivable from dairy-farming, 9143. 9294-9301.

Very favourable opportunity now presented for the acquisition of land at an average of about 10*l.* an acre, as in Essex, and for the application thereto of hand tillage out of the redundant supply of labour in the towns, so as to bring it into profitable cultivation, 9139-9143. 9165–9171. 9190. 9293–9332. 9361–9364. 9402——Further evidence respecting the changes of industries and the displacement of skilled labour in the cases of Bradford and Coventry, in connection with the question of employment of a portion of such labour on farm colonies, 9144-9156.

Consideration of objections as regards the large areas or colonies necessary for supplying employment to the numerous unemployed in large towns, in times of exceptional distress, 9146–9160——Extent and character of the permanent employment to be afforded by the cultivated portion of each colony in the form of farm settlements; contention as to the profitable and self-supporting character of the latter, 9161–9171.

Explanations in reply to certain objections raised with respect to the proposed contribution by the men (whilst employed on the colonies) of 4*s.* a week for the maintenance of their families; that is, out of piecework earnings on the land, 9172–9175——Facility in selecting well-conducted men for the colonies, this being done by the local Poor Law authorities but not involving any taint of pauperism, 9176–9179——More economical and efficient arrangements as regards labour on the colonies than are feasible

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Mather, William (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

feasible on ordinary farms for the production of flax, &c., at a profit, 9180-9182. 9204-9206.

Contention that the money advanced by the State under witness' scheme would be a fair investment, though there might be no return from the colonies for the first five years, 9183-9188. 9214. 9236-9240. 9346-9350 ——Consideration of calculations as to the enormous capital as well as the immense area required if many thousand men suddenly came under witness' scheme; tentative character of the experiment in the first instance, it being proposed to begin with only six colonies at a cost of about 120,000*l.* loaned by the State, 9189-9200, 9214, 9215——Importance of the scheme as retarding the displacement of labour from the land, 9198.

Entire dissent from the view that 9*l.*, or even 10*l.*, per acre is an excessive value to be derived from the land, 9201-9203——Indirect intention and effect of the scheme that agricultural labour will be improved and increased, the main object, however, being entirely practicable as a means of giving employment and relieving distress, 9207-9216.

Concurrence in the proposition that the obstacles which hinder the successful cultivation of land should at once be removed, irrespectively of the adoption of witness' scheme, 9217-9219 ——Doubt whether the removal of all the rates and taxes on land would be effectual in bringing about profitable farming, 9220.

Success anticipated for the training colonies in so far as they would be profitable to those occupied on the farms, though they might not pay in a financial sense, 9221-9223 ——Indirect rather than direct effect of the training colonies in relieving the rates, as they would not touch the existing class or number of in-door or out-door paupers, 9224-9234.

Further explanation that though it is proposed to vest the supervision in the county council this is not essential, and the poor law authorities might combine to form a management committee, 9235. 9241-9243. 9344, 9345——Information with further reference to the proposals as to the earnings and maintenance of the colonists, and as to their contributing 4*s.* a week to the support of their families; computed earnings (including piece-work) equal to 16*s.* 6*d.* a week, provided the men work very hard, 9244-9263.

Intention that the more necessitous cases would first be dealt with, there being no legal claim to employment, 9264-9269——Expediency of the unmarried men contributing something out of their earnings to the general well-being of the colony, 9270, 9271.

Admission that the labour upon the uncultivated portion of each colony would probably be intermittent and irregular; due allowance made for stoppage of work in bad weather, 9272-9279. 9315-9321——Consideration of the question whether difficulties would not probably arise in obtaining from the uncultivated land the extra labour required at harvest-time upon the cultivated land; fallacy of the idea that the uncultivated land might at times be without any men upon it, 9280-9292. 9357.

Examination as to witness' grounds for the conclusion that arable dairying may be worked at a profit in connection with witness' scheme, certain products now imported being also cultivated, 9293-9331——Explanation that hand tillage is to be largely employed in potato cultivation, but that horse labour would also be probably used, 9307-9314.

Calculation that the men on the training colonies would be employed on auxiliary industries for from forty to sixty days in the year; sufficient qualifications available for the purpose, 9315-9332——Intention that men shall be sent to the colonies, not only from the unions acting in combination, but, if there be room for more labour, from outside unions having unemployed men on hand, 9333-9335.

Summary of the financial arrangements for starting and working the scheme, no return being expected from the training colonies (or uncultivated land) for the first five years; ample security to the State in the increased value of the land, 9335-9350. 9359, 9360——Maximum deficit calculated at 1*s.* 3*d.* per head per week, which is far less than the allowance to the man out of the rates, 9335. 9342——Degree of control and supervision to be exercised by the State, through the Local Government Board, 9347-9350.

Reiteration of the contention that the State could not possibly be a loser, nor the security for the loans be insufficient, even though the uncultivated land were deprived of labour for a considerable time through revival of trade and demand for employment therein, 9351-9357——Value of the scheme in preventing rural labour from drifting into the towns, 9358. 9374——Sufficiency of an estimate of 10*l.* an acre for the purchase of the required land, 9361-9364. 9403——Successful competition anticipated on the part of the farm settlements with small owners on the Continent who now send produce to this country, 9365-9372.

Explanation that there would be fixity of tenure on the farm settlements, and that these holdings would be obtainable, not only by men who have passed through a training

Mather, William (Member of the Committee). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

colony, but by agriculturists from outside, 9367–9374——Proposition that small settlements be established with State aid, not only in connection with training colonies, but irrespectively thereof, as a means of retaining rural labour upon the land, and of bringing it into more profitable cultivation, 9373–9402.

Explanations in further support of witness' scheme of farm settlements, the initiative to be taken, voluntarily, by the county council and loans to be obtained from the State for the purchase of the land or the provision of buildings; expected concert on the part of landowners, 9373–9402——Contention that the State would have ample security for advances for buildings or for purchase of the land; or the County Council might share in the liability, 9374. 9392–9401——Co-operative element in working the farm settlements, so that there would be every prospect of success, 9374.

Probability that landowners would readily co-operate in promoting small farm settlements on witness' plan, so that the initative of the county council might not be necessary, 9374–9376. 9401——Broad distinction drawn between the farm settlements in connection with the training colonies and those to be created for direct acquisition by agriculturists; stipulation as to the necessity of some capital in the latter case, 9380–9391.

Advocacy of the proposed scheme of State loans for a national system of small farm settlements, in the interests of increased agricultural employment and improved cultivation, rather than of State loans at low interest to landowners for improvements in drainage, buildings, &c., 9401, 9402.

Mather, W. (Member of the House). Paper handed in by Mr. Mather, explanatory (in detail) of his scheme, under the separate heads of Farm Training Colonies and Small Farm Settlements, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 535–542.

Special thanks of the Committee due to Mr. Mather for his explanations respecting the proposed institution of farm colonies, *3rd Rep.* iv.

Melbourn Rural District (*Cambridge and Essex*). Absence of distress in this district from want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 451.

Melford Rural District (*Suffolk*). Considerable distress during the severe weather; also, through the depression in agriculture, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 464.

Melton Mowbray (*Lincoln*). Exceptional distress in this rural district in February through the severity of the weather; relief given by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 249.

Merthyr Tydfil. Severe distress in Merthyr in 1875 through the coal strike; large voluntary fund raised on that occasion, *Griffith* 4145–4149.

Amount and cause of the distress in this district during the late winter; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 398.

METROPOLIS:

1. *Returns and Statistics as to Pauperism and Relief.*
2. *Operation of the Equalisation of Rates Act and the Common Poor Fund.*
3. *Increase of Distress during the past Winter; great variation between different Parishes and Districts in the Charge for Relief.*
4. *Growing want of Employment in the East End.*
5. *Proposals by Mr. Benn; Scheme for utilising the Common Poor Fund in connection with Relief Works.*
6. *Incidence of the Cost of Out-door Relief.*
7. *Amended System proposed as regards Labour Colonies, &c.*
8. *Recommendation by the Committee respecting the Cost of Employment by the Sanitary Authorities.*

1. *Returns and Statistics as to Pauperism and Relief:*

Issue of Local Government Board Circular of 24th January to the thirty unions in the metropolis, replies having been received from twenty-five; summary of the information received, *Sir H. Owen* 60–63. 90–98——Reference to the returns for the metropolis for the several weeks in January (except the first), and for the first week in February, as showing an increasing amount of relief in comparison with previous years; very large numbers relieved in the first week in February, *ib.* 170–174. 223–247.

Statistics in detail respecting pauperism in the metropolis, with reference to population, in each of the years 1857–95; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 14, 15.

Return respecting the number of paupers on the last day of the fifth week of January 1895, and the total of corresponding week in 1894; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 16——Similar return for the last day of the first week of February 1895, and total of corresponding week in 1894, *ib.* 18, 19.

Statement

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

METROPOLIS—continued.

1. *Returns and Statistics as to Pauperism and Relief*—continued.

Statement showing the sums received and paid in respect of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, the Indoor Pauper Grant, and the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894, Equalisation Fund, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 471.

Paper handed in by Sir Hugh Owen containing details for each district and union or parish respecting the number of indoor and outdoor paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of outdoor relief in each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Table showing the extent of distress reported as existing in metropolitan parishes and districts in February 1895, and the causes to which due, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 803.

2. *Operation of the Equalisation of Rates Act and the Common Poor Fund:*

Very large contributions under the Equalisation of Rates Act in lightening the charge upon the poorer parishes for street cleaning, &c., *Sir H. Owen* 425. 430–435. 438——Information respecting the objects and operation of the Common Poor Fund, the various items charged upon it; objections to outdoor relief being a charge upon the fund, *ib.* 426–439. 516–529——Large sums contributed by the richer parishes in aid of the poorer; that is, under the Equalisation Fund and the Common Fund, *ib.* 427. 430–439.

Statement showing the sums received and paid in respect of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, the Indoor Pauper Grant, and the Equalisation Fund, *1st Rep., p.* 57.

Information as to the constitution and working of the Common Poor Fund, the several services thrown upon the fund, and the expenditure under different heads of service, *Benn* 3108–3110. 3130–3138. 3143–3146——Insufficiency of the funds received by localities under the Equalisation of Rates Act as a means of providing the required works in the poorer districts, *ib.* 3192–3195.

Limited extent to which the receipts under the Equalisation of Rates Act have been devoted to finding employment; relief of the local rates out of the amount received, *Tag* 3614–3618.

Opinion that it would be an extremely dangerous experiment to extend the Common Poor Fund so as to cover the whole system of relief, *Mackay* 5811——Strong disapproval of the Common Poor Fund being extended to out-relief, *Martineau* 6841-6846. 6866-6875.

Statement showing for each union in the metropolis the sums received and paid in respect of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund for the year 1892–93, the Labour Pauper Grant for the year 1893–94, and the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894, for the year 1894–95, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 47.

3. *Increase of Distress during the past Winter; great variation between different Parishes and Districts in the Charge for Relief:*

Great variation in the per-centage of increased relief in the first week of February in the several metropolitan districts, five in number, *Sir H. Owen* 223–226——Question considered whether certain districts in London are not getting gradually poorer, and other districts gradually richer, as indicated by the returns of pauperism in each case, *ib.* 416-420——Increasing charge for the poor, this being largely due to the indoor poor; return to be submitted hereon, *ib.* 663–670.

Examination to the effect that distress and want of employment are not exceptional in West Ham as compared with other parts of the metropolis, witness submitting that the State could interfere and could provide relief works, *Hilleary* 1381–1405. 1451–1455.

Inability of many parishes to adopt the recommendations in the circular of 1892 by reason of their poverty and high rates, some districts, as in the East-end, becoming gradually poorer, whilst others seem to be getting richer, *Benn* 3082–3106——Illustrations purporting to show that in spite of the Equalisation of Rates Act the poorer parishes are still unfairly burdened, *ib.* 3083–3105. 3196–3209——Contrast between the total rates in the parishes of Bow and St. James's, Westminster, before and since the Equalisation of Rates Act, the rating in the former still being the highest in London, and in the latter the lowest, *ib.* 3089–3093.

Physical unfitness and utter incapacity of large numbers of the unemployed in the East-end of London for working on the land in farming and market garden operations, *Mackay* 5456-5465. 5544–5548——No doubt that the recent severe frost increased the sufferings of the poor more than usual this year, *ib.* 5516, 5517——Doubt as to the strict unions, while saving their own position, driving people into the lax unions and vitiating the comparison between the two systems, *ib.* 5814.

4. *Growing want of Employment in the East End:*

Impossibility of old men, however efficient, respectable, and sober they may be, getting any work in the East End, the competition there being so keen; statement

METROPOLIS—continued.

4. *Growing want of Employment in the East End*—continued.

that even engineers, clerks, and men from all classes of the skilled trades are flocking to the ranks of the labourers, *Morton* 11024.

5. *Proposals by Mr. Benn; Scheme for Utilising the Common Poor Fund in connection with Relief Works:*

Proposition that practical effect be given to certain clauses in circulars of the Local Government Board since 1886 as the best mode of dealing with exceptional distress in the metropolis through want of employment; reference especially to the circular of 1892, and to the suggestions therein as regards special works for the unemployed, *Benn* 3081, 3082.

Evidence in explanation and support of the conclusion that the unemployed difficulty in London might be largely met if the Common Poor Fund were available, through the guardians, in aid of works to be instituted by the local authorities in times of exceptional distress, *Benn* 3106 *et seq.*——Very unsatisfactory attitude of the local authorities towards the circular of 1892, *ib.* 3106.

Importance of co-operation between the guardians and local authorities, and between different parishes in the provision of works, *Benn* 3106. 3239. 3266-3269——Suggestion as to districts going in some instances outside their own area in order to provide the required works, *ib.* 3106. 3266–3269.

Summary of conditions which might be enforced, to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board, before any district obtains special aid; contemplated aid per head when there is a certain percentage of unemployed, *Benn* 3106. 3157–3179. 3265——Belief that in most cases the parishes could provide sufficient work in street-clearing, &c., without going outside their own area, *ib.* 3110.

Large expenditure charged upon the Common Poor Fund in respect of indoor relief; belief that much of this would be saved if there were an appropriation from the fund for relief works when there is exceptional depression, and that a very small increase in the amount per head levied for the fund would suffice, *Benn* 3132–3138. 3252–3263——Difficulties in the poorer parishes undertaking the necessary street-cleaning and other required works unless they be aided from the Common Fund, *ib.* 3139, 3140. 3155.

Suggestion that there be some official supervision in order to secure that the action in the various districts as regards expenditure from the Common Poor Fund is uniform, *Benn* 3141, 3142——Expediency of the money required being taken from the fund rather than from Imperial sources, *ib.* 3154-3156. 3220.

Opinion that the current rate of wages for the work should be paid rather than a reduced rate; limitations to be applied, however, as to the number of days' work to be given weekly, and the number of hours per day, *Benn* 3165–3179. 3210, 3211. 3264——Great improbability of any such failure of the scheme of work advocated by witness, as in the case of the Paris scheme, *ib.* 3179–3187——Objection to some voluntary contribution from the locality being a condition of aid from the Common Poor Fund, *ib.* 3212–3214.

Opinion that the scheme advocated by witness should rest upon the assumption that London, as a county, is responsible for dealing with the difficulty in question, and should be fully empowered to do so, without resort to State aid; facility in putting the scheme in operation, *Benn* 3214–3227. 3239–3245.

Grounds for justifying resort to a Poor Law fund for the money required in poor districts for relief works which cannot be regarded as ordinary improvement works; expediency of the Common Poor Fund being availed of rather than the fund provided by the Equalisation of Rates Act, *Benn* 3228–3238. 3252–3263.

6. *Incidence of the Cost of Out door Relief:*

Strong disapproval of the cost of out-door relief being spread equally over the whole metropolis, *Sir H. Owen* 426.

7. *Amended System proposed as regards Labour Colonies, &c.:*

Conference of metropolitan vestries and guardians convened by Camberwell in 1893, when a resolution was passed that the London County Council should apply for further powers for dealing with the unemployed, and for establishing labour colonies, &c., *Tagg* 3344. 3346. 3359, 3360. 3596, 3597. 3627. 3646–3648.

Contention that the cost of relief works should be charged to the whole of London; hardship upon Camberwell in having to provide work for many men who live in the parish, but are employed in various other parishes, *Tagg* 3389–3394. 3421, 3422. 3424–3429. 3478–3492.

Conclusion

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

METROPOLIS—continued.

8. *Recommendation by the Committee respecting the Cost of Employment by the Sanitary Authorities:*

Conclusion of the Committee that the guardians of any metropolitan union should be empowered, with the sanction of the London County Council, to agree with any sanitary authority within their union that, in consideration of the latter employing such number of persons, and during such period as may be agreed upon, the guardians will make a contribution to the sanitary authority of an amount not exceeding one-half of the cost incurred in the employment of such persons, such contribution to be a charge on the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, *3rd Rep.* v.

See also *Abbey Mills. Battersea. Camberwell. Dock Labour. Farm and Labour Colonies. Islington. Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed. Relief Works. St. George's-in-the-East. St. Olave's Union. Vestries. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Middlesbrough. Particulars supplied by the mayor, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 129, 130.

Middlesex. Information supplied in report by Inspectors as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 30–32.

Middleton (*Lancaster*). Official explanation in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 214.

Migration of Labour. Effect of enhanced rates of labour payments in London districts in inducing immigration from urban and rural districts generally, *Sir H. Owen* 632–638; *Alden* 2524, 2525.

Information with reference to the migration of agricultural labour to the towns, *Smith* 4899–4906——Conclusion that labour can and does, to a large extent, avoid a falling market, it having largely gone away from agriculture and become distributed among a great variety of other employments; importance of increasing the mobility of labour as much as possible, *Mackay* 5354 *et seq.*——Non-realisation sufficiently by either trade unionists or the Legislature of the necessity of allowing a free market as regards the distribution of labour and capital, *ib.* 5838–5842.

Certainty that the able-bodied members of the village community have invariably been the first to go to the towns, *Tuckwell* 6951——Opinion that nothing less than a gradual and merciful extinction of landlordism and the nationalisation of the land will arrest the depopulation of the rural districts; necessity of making the villages attractive as well as lucrative, *ib.* 6981–6988. 7097 *et seq.*; 7273–7276. 7456–7462.

Doubt as to there being any individual repugnance on the part of labourers to village and agricultural life; belief that they would stay in the country if life were possible there, *Tuckwell* 6999–7009——Opinion that if witness' proposals as to allotments, &c., were taken *en bloc* they would begin at once to reverse the migration from the country to the towns, *ib.* 7395.

Examination as to the decrease in the rural population owing to the men going to the towns; grounds for believing that, to a large extent, men leave the country in order to take places in towns by direct invitation, *C. Booth* 10652–10757. 10698–10709.

See also *Agriculture. Allotments. Farm and Labour Colonies. Glasgow*, 8. *West Ham.*

Mile End Old Town. Detailed information supplied from Mile End Old Town as to the excessive privation and misery through want of employment; several suggestions on the subject by a committee of the guardians, *Sir H. Owen* 93–98——Extensive privation in Mile End Old Town in February, though the applications for relief had not largely increased by that time, *ib.* 337, 338.

Official statement as to the amount and cause of the distress; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 445.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893-94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Militia. Proposition as to the Militia being called out, at any time of the year, in localities where distress exists, *Edwards* 4341–4348. 4463–4466.

Milligan, Duncan, F.R.A.S. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is chairman of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union Board of Guardians, 5882.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Milligan, Duncan, F.R.A.S. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Evidence to the effect that the relief operations of the board of guardians are not restricted to the poor people who apply for relief, but that all known deserving cases are relieved either by the board or by charity societies with which the guardians are in touch, 5883–5886. 5895–5900.

View of witness that it is not his duty to go outside his board and seek out cases of poverty; statement that the work involved in doing so would be too great, as he already deals with something like 6,000 cases of distress per year, 5884–5887.

Explanation that the resolution of the board calling upon the Government to find means of employment for the unemployed, and condemning the stone-yard system, was passed by twelve to ten; belief that the whole of the guardians agreed to the latter part of the resolution, 5888–5891——Objection to the stone-yard work on the ground that it is costly, and that it is demoralising to the better class of men who are subjected to it, 5892 *et seq.*; 5901–5903.

Suggestion that there should be a central stone-yard to supply all London with stones for mending roads, and that a fair day's wage should be given for a fair day's work, thus removing the stigma of poor relief, 5894. 5904–5909——Approval by witness, as a Poor Law guardian, of the disfranchisement of men who accept relief, although personally he disagrees with it, 5910-5916.

Mines and Miners. See *Collieries and Quarries.*

Minister of Labour. Suggestion that a Minister of Labour should be appointed, and a national labour bureau arranged, *Hunt* 10184–10188. 10247–10252. 10373–10376.

Mirfield (*York*). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 363.

Mitford and Launditch (*Norfolk*). Amount of local distress; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 193.

Monifieth (*Forfar*). Information respecting the distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 706.

Monmouthshire. Report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 32.——*See* also *Pontypool. Tin Plate Trade.*

Montrose (*Forfar*). Letter from the town clerk of Montrose respecting the amount of distress in the burgh, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 600.——Amount of distress in Montrose parish, through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 706.

Moore, Harold Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is a fellow of the Surveyors' Institute, and of the Royal Horticultural Society, has had considerable experience in connection with agriculture, and has studied the working of convict farm colonies and free labour colonies on the Continent as well as in England, 9403–9411.

Paper submitted, containing sundry details in connection with penal and voluntary colonies in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, and France, 9410, 9411.

[Second Examination.]—Deduction by witness of four conclusions from his examination of voluntary farm colonies in Germany, the first being that no colony can be used for the accommodation of both vagrants and the unemployed working classes; confirmation of this view by the Belgian experience, 9532, 9533. 9547. 9689–9692——Second conclusion that where a man unaccustomed to agricultural work has to be employed on a farm the proper course is to employ him upon the reclamation of uncultivated land, 9534-9536. 9693–9698.

Third conclusion that a willing worker employed upon the reclamation of uncultivated land can give such value as will more than provide for his maintenance, 9537——Fourth conclusion that side by side with the uncultivated land there ought to be some land of a better quality, otherwise there will be no produce to maintain the men on that particular colony, 9538.

Explanation that the sudden stoppage of the reclamation of a piece of waste land, through the men engaged on it happily finding their own natural work again, would have no financial effect, except perhaps in somewhat increasing the cost of supervision, on account of the work being extended over a longer period, 9539-9543——Opinion that the system of voluntary labour colonies might be adopted with advantage in England, in view of the favourable conditions that could now be obtained in this country, 9544, 9545.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Moore, Harold Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Concurrence with Mr. Willink in regard to the cause of failure of the Veenhuisan colony (Holland), 9545, 9546. 9718—Belief that the Swiss colony referred to in witness' paper was founded upon the only principles likely to be satisfactory in the case of colonies, 9548. 9699 *et seq.*

Entire success of the French experiment, which conformed to the ideas suggested by witness as most likely to produce a good result, 9549–9551. 9628–9632. 9692 *et seq.*——Material difference between the scheme before the Committee and the principles upon which the Continental colonies are based, the nearest approach being the French colony; there is no necessity, however, for relying upon Continental experience, 9552, 9553.

Information respecting the Salvation Army colony at Hadleigh, in connection with which witness was professionally engaged in 1891, having been largely instrumental in laying out the system on which it was worked during the first year, 9554 *et seq.*——Publication of the first balance sheet of the Hadleigh colony at the end of 1891, showing a profit of 53*l.* on the first year's working, on an expenditure of 6,819*l.*, disregarding the charge for interest on capital; non-inclusion of the general costs of administration in this expenditure, 9555 *et seq.*; 9730–9753.

Great variation in the class of men put upon the colony, most of them having passed some time in the Salvation Army shelters; the best and most willing workers were the Army Reserve men, who had been drifting about London without any occupation, 9558 *et seq.*——Dissatisfaction of the men with the requirement that they shall work in the gravel pit on arrival, thirty out of the first 160 leaving on this account; great difficulty in dealing with men of education, 9558 *et seq.*

Failure of the attempt to convert the whole colony into a workshop for manufacturing goods for the market, the balance sheets for 1892 and 1893 showing deficiencies; profit of 532*l.* made by the colony on farming work in 1894, when the men had been put back on to the land again, 9575–9583. 9802, 9803——Capital of the colony last year 94,000*l.*, on a total acreage of about 1,150 acres in possession, and a few farms not worked by the Salvation Army; present number of men employed about 300; 9584 *et seq.*; 9644, 9645

Evidence to the effect that all the men who come to the colony have, more or less, lost their characters, and that the colony was established for saving souls, not for reclaiming the land; claim of the Salvation Army to have reclaimed a large proportion of the 1,600 men that have passed through the colony, 9590–9592——Experience gained from Hadleigh colony chiefly useful on account of the detailed evidence it affords as to the ability of unskilled men when directed in the early stages of the work; no doubt that the whole expenditure on the land improvement work was of a profitable character, and that the labour was cheaper than ordinary labour, 9593–9597. 9754–9787. 9815–9818.

Certainty that, in some cases, men arriving at the colony without any knowledge of the cultivation of the soil become, after a certain time, capable of cultivating an allotment; desirability of the Salvation Army trying the allotment experiment on a larger scale, 9598–9606——Opinion that the first work that should have been undertaken at the colony was the reclamation of the marsh land, which, when reclaimed later on, yielded an extraordinarily good crop of wheat, 9600. 9784–9791. 9804.

Explanation that witness left Hadleigh colony because an elaborate expenditure out of the Darkest England Fund was contemplated on buildings, brickworks, a railway, organising industries, &c., of which he disapproved, and because there was no competent agricultural expert in control of the agricultural work of the colony, 9605–9611——Attention drawn to the fact that although last year a profit of 532*l.* was made in the farming department, there was an admitted loss of about 1,700*l.* in the industrial department, in addition to the cost of administration, 9612–9614.

Statement that witness strongly objected to the Salvation Army building dwelling-houses, farm buildings, &c., outside the Hadleigh colony; certainty that some thirty or forty market gardeners have been thrown out of work owing to the competition of the Army in the limited market of Southend, 9615–9623.

Experience of witness in regard to the Wanstead Flats and Abbey Mills experiments that sober and steady unemployed men do resort to the labour colonies when out of work, at all events as a temporary means of maintenance; doubt, however, as to their breaking up their homes to go to such colonies, 9624–9638. 9795–9801.

Doubt as to a colony of single men necessarily involving any moral degradation; desirability, however, of there being married men and women on a colony, as proposed in Mr. Mather's scheme, 9639–9643. 9714–9717——Possibility that it would be more profitable, though somewhat difficult, to give an average of 40,000*l.* a year to the Essex farmers to employ a certain portion of the men out of work, than to have a separate colony for the submerged tenth alone, 9646–9649.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Moore, Harold Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Usefulness of labour colonies on the voluntary system in offering a man a very easy medium of getting back to his regular employment again; necessity, however, of keeping the colony for the respectable members of the working class, and of approving each man before admission, 9650–9657. 9689–9692. 9719–9729. 9791 *et seq.*——Opinion that labour colonies could, under good management, be so directed as to prevent the products entering into competition with the free labour outside; recommendation that only such crops should be grown for sale as would not compete with the home products, 9658–9682.

Possibility of unskilled labour in labour colonies successfully competing with skilled labour without protection, in view of the fact that the colonies can employ the most improved systems, machinery, &c., 9683-9685——View of witness that every man, whether on a labour colony or not, ought to have the right to work as long as he wishes, 9686–9688.

Statement to the effect that it is perfectly possible to build a cottage suitable for eight acres for 140*l.*, and the outbuildings for 30*l.*, 9705-9713——No doubt that there would be some difficulty in dealing with a number of labourers in the country during a prolonged frost; belief, however, that the suggestions made in Clauses 22 to 26 of Mr. Mather's scheme would partly meet the case, 9805, 9806.

Explanation that the estimate of 4,900*l.* for the current expenses of the cultivated land, as at Hadleigh, was calculated for ordinary crops, and includes the cost of horses and of harvest labour, 9807-9814.

Morley, The Right Honourable John. Letter from Mr. Morley, dated 21st March 1895, with reference to the distress in Ireland, and the non-production of statistics on the subject, 3*rd Rep. p.* 242.

Morley (*York*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 462.

Mortality. Conclusion that much increase of mortality has resulted from the destitution; reference hereon to the large increase of the death rate in Glasgow, *Keir-Hardie* 737, 738.——*See* also *Death Rate.*

Morton, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is Chairman of the Unemployed Executive Committee of West Ham, which has been in existence since last November; he represents the views of the unemployed in West Ham, 11005–11007. 11043–11048. 11070. 11182–11186.

Evidence to the effect that the Poor Law guardians did all they could for the unemployed in West Ham during the winter, and were prevented from doing more by the Local Government Board; opinion, however, that the work carried out did not touch the fringe of the unemployed question, 11008–11018——Unanimous opinion of a meeting of the unemployed that, in view of the large number of people starving, the Government ought to insist upon all the land now lying idle being brought into cultivation, or else depute various bodies to take possession of it and cultivate it, 11018 *et seq.*

Willingness of some 20 to 30 per cent. of the unemployed to go back to the land, even under present conditions, if it were possible to get work in the country, 11021 *et seq.*——Proposal of the Unemployed Committee that the whole country should be divided into districts and that each district should have a farm or colony to deal with the unemployed and be responsible to Government for its management, so that the unemployed could produce food for themselves, for the institutions supported by the rates, and for the Army and Navy, 11022 *et seq.*; 11049 *et seq.*; 11071–11076. 11102–11110. 11128–11143.

Certainty that the establishment of national farms would relieve the congestion and competition in industrial centres, the labouring section in all the large industrial concerns being composed chiefly of farm workers, who, in consequence of their being strong and robust, are more keenly sought after than the town men, 11023 *et seq.*; 11192, 11193——Impossibility of old men, however efficient, respectable, and sober they may be, getting any work in the East End, the competition there being so keen; statement that even engineers, clerks, and men from all classes of the skilled trades are flocking to the ranks of the labourers, 11024.

Upwards of 10,000 unemployed altogether in West Ham, according to the census taken by trades council of the borough, 11024. 11028——Unreliability of the statistics as to the unemployed given by the Poor Law guardians, as a large number of the respectable working class would rather suffer than apply to the guardians for relief, 11024.

Evidence in support of the contention that the proposed national farms could produce the necessaries of life in this country cheaper than can be done on the Continent, provided the present restrictions upon the agricultural community were removed; opinion

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Morton, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

opinion that farms have gone out of cultivation because the scientific side of farming is not studied, the object now being to get as much as possible out of the land at the cheapest possible rate, 11024–11028. 11111–11119. 11156–11181. 11184–11191.——Attention drawn at one of the meetings of the unemployed to the danger, in case of war, of this country being starved into submission; necessity of the Government taking up the land question even from that standpoint alone, 11028.

Opinion that those people who are compelled to seek Poor Law relief are not themselves responsible, in any case, for their misfortune, and ought not therefore to be deprived of their right to vote, 11029–11037. 11097–11101——Desirability of amending the Poor Law of Scotland, under which no relief is given to able-bodied persons, and people have to inflict some wound upon themselves to get it; disapproval of the Poor Law system altogether, 11038–11040.

Decided opinion that the only permanent solution of the unemployed difficulty is to bring the land and the people together again, the State taking over the collective ownership of the land; contention that the inheritance of the people should be returned to the people, without compensation to the landlords, 11041, 11042. 11049 *et seq.*; 11077 *et seq.*; 11120–11127. 11150–11156.

Condemnation of the work done on Wanstead Flats under Mr. Hill's scheme as useless and in no way remunerative, elevating, or productive; no doubt that it was done at a lower price than if it had been put out under contract, but not so low as the rate at which the borough council could have done it, 11064–11069. 11144–11149.

View of witness that there should be collective ownership by the State of all industries, each industry being guided by the best men in it under the control of the central body of the country, the supervisors to be selected by the workers, 11079–11097.

Mossley (*Lancaster*). Letter from the town clerk, in February, explanatory of the extent and causes of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 346.

Motherwell (*Lanark*). Information supplied by the town clerk of Motherwell respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 600.

Motion, James Russell. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Considerable official experience of witness in Barony parish, Glasgow, he having been collector of poor rates and being now inspector of poor and clerk of the parish council, 8073-8078.

Statistics submitted as to the population and area of Barony parish, and as to the comparative pauperism in February 1885 and February 1895; large increase of lunacy, 8079–8090. 8175–8193. 8246–8249——Different provisions and conditions as to out-door and in-door relief in Scotland as compared with England; practically, destitution is the test of admission on the in-door roll or out-door roll in Scotland, 8093–8101. 8175-8190.

Absence of any unusual distress in Glasgow during the past winter till the exceptionally severe frost set in; frequent instances of unemployment through the fault of the men themselves, drunk over-night being often the cause of idleness, 8102–8107. 8196——Very slight inquiry or investigation before relief was given when the pressure was at its height, there having doubtless been much abuse; numerous "loafers" relieved, 8108–8115——Exceedingly pernicious and immoral operation of the model lodging-houses in Glasgow, as evidenced by the admissions to the poor-house, 8115-8129. 8204–8206.

Statement showing the great number of discharged prisoners who find their way into Glasgow, 8130–8136. 8197, 8198——Large sums raised in Glasgow for the relief of the unemployed on former occasions of severe distress; complaints in 1862 as to most of the unemployed being "loafers," 8137–8139——Suggestions made by witness to the Lord Provost, during the recent distress, for ascertaining what classes of persons were chiefly employed on the relief works; nothing has been done in this direction, 8140–8143.

Absence of obligation upon the Scotch Poor Law authorities to provide employment for those in distress, destitution being the test of relief, 8144–8146——Grounds for the conclusion that the question of dealing with the able-bodied or unemployed poor in large parishes in Scotland should be under the control of the Poor Law authorities, the parish councils taking the initiative by applying to the Local Government Board for authority and directions as regards exceptional relief, 8147-8151. 8237-8243. 8250, 8251. 8256-8259——Contemplated provision of work, shelter and food on farm colonies when there is exceptional distress; expediency of the land being adjacent to the poor-houses, 8148. 8158–8163. 8216–8236. 8252–8255.

Stringent measures suggested for the suppression of vagrancy and begging, as by committal

Motion, James Russell. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

committal of tramps and vagrants of the loafing class, who are numerous at Glasgow, to institutions where they can be kept steadily at work, 8151–8157. 8244, 8245——Explanation relative to the system of labour colonies in Germany, and the severe penalties attached to vagrancy, &c., 8161–8163. 8216–8221——Opinion that the respectable unemployed in Scotland would not feel degraded by employment on relief works; assistance given privately to many of these during the distress, 8164–8167. 8199–8203.

Very close and full collection of the rates in Barony parish throughout the period of distress, 8168——Data for the conclusion that the distress in the parish was felt chiefly among the class verging upon pauperism, 8169, 8170——Very bad and worthless class of men who availed themselves of the shelter organised by the Charity Organisation Society, 8171–8173.

Application of out-door relief not only to those unable to work but to those who are partially able to work, 8175, 8176——Large proportion of out-door as compared with in-door paupers, 8177, 8178. 8246–8249——Considerable number of weakly or infirm persons, without friends, who should be permanently in the poorhouse-infirmary, 8179–8185——Reference to the increase of lunacy as mainly due to drink and heredity, 8191–8195.

Suggestions as regards casual labourers, who work only a day now and then, being taken in charge by the Poor Law authorities, 8207–8210——Several causes of the destitution which prevails in some parts of Scotland, drunkenness being one cause and early and indiscriminate marriages another, 8211–8215.

Mountain Ash Urban District (*Glamorgan*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 448, 449.

Municipal Authorities. See *Local Authorities.*

Municipal Franchise. Strong feeling on the part of witness that persons who receive Poor Law relief should not be allowed to vote for Poor Law guardians, *Vallance* 11595, 11596.

Mutford and Lothingland Rural District (*Suffolk*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 432.

N.

Nantwich (*Chester*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 338.

Nanty glo and Blaina Urban District (*Monmouth*). Explanation in 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided; reference to the stoppage of tinplate works in the district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 167.

Neath (*Glamorgan*). Limited distress in the rural district; character of the employment to be provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 195——Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *ib.* 263.

Neilston (*Renfrew*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 771.

Nelson Municipal Borough (*Lancaster*). Explanation, in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 141.

New Forest Rural District. Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 321.

New Monkland (*Lanark*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 739.

New Zealand. Operation of the Labour Department in New Zealand in finding places for the unemployed, as in making roads through the bush, *Smith* 4711–4713——System of co-operative contracts upon which the unemployed in New Zealand are engaged to work on railways and roads; arrangement as to the rate of wages, according to piece-work, *ib.* 4725–4727.

Newbury (*Berks*). Distress due to the severe weather; means of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 395.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Newcastle-under-Lyme (*Stafford*). Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 141.

Newcastle-on-Tyne. Letter from the guardians of Newcastle-on-Tyne on 16th February to the effect that the distress is of a temporary character, and will largely disappear when the weather improves, *Sir H. Owen* 148, 149.

Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 22.

Official explanations in February as to the extent of the distress in the county borough and the relief measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 209.

Newent Rural District (*Gloucester and Worcester*). Amount and cause of distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 451.

Newport (*Isle of Wight*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App* (*2nd Rep.*) 263.

Newport (*Monmouth*). Increased applications for relief in Newport (Monmouth), though the guardians do not anticipate any difficulty in meeting the destitution which may arise, *Sir H. Owen* 44.

Letter from the Mayor in February explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 344.

Newport Pagnell (*Bucks*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 321.

Newton Abbot (*Devon*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 194.

Newtown and Lanidloes Rural District (*Montgomery*). Information respecting the distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 338.

North Leith (*Edinburgh*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 679.

Northampton County Borough. Explanations in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 130.

Northleach (*Gloucester*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 298.

Northwich (*Chester*). Information respecting the extent of the distress in the urban district, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 100——Limited amount of distress in Northwich Rural District in February, *ib.* 298.

Norway. Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain industries in each of the years 1875, 1879, 1885, and 1890, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 511.

Norwich. Increased relief in Norwich in January 1895, as compared with previous years, though it is not contemplated that exceptional arrangements will be necessary, *Sir H. Owen* 45.

Letter from the Mayor of Norwich dated 23rd February 1895, respecting the extent and cause of exceptional distress in the county borough and the remedial measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 257.

Nottingham. Letter received from Nottingham on 16th February showing the amount of relief given at different periods, the extent to which want of employment exists, and the steps taken for limiting the amount of out-door relief and for closing the labour yards, *Sir H. Owen* 46.

Doubt as to the extent to which men formerly engaged in textile fabrics at Nottingham have since been employed in working in brass and iron, *Smith* 4772–4775.

Information supplied in report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 55, 56.

Letter from the Mayor of Nottingham dated 23rd February 1895, respecting the extent and cause of the exceptional distress in the county borough, and the means of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 257, 258.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Number and Classification of Unemployed:

Necessity of immediate relief not only for those out of work through the frost but for the large numbers who are unemployed through the general depresssion in trade, witness estimating the total from all causes at more that five millions, including the men's families, *Keir-Hardie* 895–913.

Minimum of about 2 per cent. of unemployed at the best of times, exclusive of sickness and strikes, *Smith* 4585–4594——Tendency in trades generally to a concentration of unemployment among a smaller number of employés of the less steady and skilful class, *ib.* 4733–4735. 4740. 4875–4880. 4927-4930——Inability of witness to supply statistics as to the total number of the working classes in the United Kingdom, *ib.* 4785–4789.

Statement as to certain returns, showing the per-centage of unemployed dating only from 1887, in which year the average per-centage was higher than in 1894, *Smith* 4829–4834——Doubt as to the per-centage of unemployed being greater among non-unionists than unionists, *ib.* 4923–4926——Result of certain statistics as showing that there is a residuum of men constantly out of work, *ib.* 5018, 5019.

Considerable value to be derived from complete and accurate statistics of the number of the unemployed; suggestion that this information might be obtained through the school boards and other bodies, *Hunter* 8308–8311.

Division of the unemployed in the past winter, roughly, into three classes; the first, comprising the efficient workers of good character who were occasionally thrown out of employment from various causes; the second, consisting of those who were sinking down, and were getting into a state bordering on destitution; and the third, made up chiefly of the homeless, the idle, the vicious, and the criminal, *B. Booth* 9823, 9824. 9935 *et seq.* 10020 *et seq.*

Belief that by very careful use of statistics it may be possible to ascertain the times at which the necessitous unemployed are more than usually numerous: suggestion that the best test would be the total volume of trade, *C. Booth* 10520. 10555. 10561. 10643–10649. 10717–10719——Probability that the larger number of the unemployed have only themselves to thank for their irregular employment, *ib.* 10562–10573.

Grounds for the opinion that there are quite one million of people out of work in different parts of the country at the present time (14th June), *Thorne* 10794–10798——Belief that independently of the frost there were more unemployed in the past winter than in previous winters; great and increasing dearth of employment among general labourers, *ib.* 10795–10798.

Unreliability of the statistics as to the unemployed given by the Poor Law Guardians, as a large number of the respectable working class would rather suffer than apply to the guardians for relief, *Morton* 11024.

Statements by the various local bodies in reply to inquiry whether an unemployed register is kept, and with what result, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Table, submitted by Mr. Llewellyn Smith, showing the per-centage number of members of the trade societies in the United Kingdom, rendering Returns to the Board of Trade who were returned as unemployed at the close of each month in the years 1888 to 1894. inclusive, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 547.

See also *Agriculture. Amount and Causes of Distress. Census of Unemployed. Dock Labour. Glasgow. Liverpool. Metropolis. Tin-plate Trade. Trade Depression. Trade Unions. Weather. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton Urban District (*Warwick*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 100.

O.

Ogmore and Garw (*Glamorgan*). Absence of exceptional distress in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 441.

Ohio (*United States*). Information respecting the public employment offices in different towns in the State of Ohio; situations found chiefly for women, *Smith* 4714–4716.

Old Kilpatrick (*Dumbarton*). Statement as to the amount of distress in this parish and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 665.

Old Machar (*Aberdeen*). Information supplied by the Inspector of the Poor as to the extent and character of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 623.

Old Monkland (*Lanark*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 739, 740.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Oldbury (*Worcester*). Information respecting the distress in this district and the steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 441.

Oldham. Absence of any material increase of applications for relief at Oldham, the distress among non-applicants not being exceptional, *Sir H. Owen* 47.

Particulars supplied by the town clerk in February 1895 respecting the distress in the county borough and the remedies applied, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 258.

Ormskirk (*Lancaster*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 375.

Orsett (*Essex*). Amount of distress in this rural district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 338.

Ossett (*York*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 438.

Oswestry (*Salop*). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 375.

Ottery St. Mary (*Devon*). Particulars supplied by Rev. G. M. L. Reade, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 101.

Oundle Rural District (*Northampton and Huntingdon*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 444.

Out-door Trades and Occupations. See *Agriculture. Building Trade. Glasgow. Liverpool. Metropolis. St. Olave's Union. West Ham.*

OUT-DOOR RELIEF:

1. *Orders and Regulations of the Poor Law Board and Local Government Board, with Official Explanations as to the Powers of Boards of Guardians.*
2. *Views of the several Inspectors upon the Question of Modification of the existing Regulations.*
3. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally as to the Administration and Operation of Out-door Relief.*

1. *Orders and Regulations of the Poor Law Board and Local Government Board, with Official Explanations as to the Powers of Boards of Guardians:*

Explanation of certain provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, under which the Local Government Board are authorised to issue orders respecting out-door relief to the able-bodied, *Sir H. Owen* 210——Summary of the regulations as regards able-bodied out-door relief under the Out-door Relief Regulation Order of December 1852, and under the Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order and Labour Test Order, *ib.* 211–215.

Explanations upon the question of the legality of out-door relief to destitute able-bodied persons, witness submitting that a labour test should be provided, *Sir H. Owen* 440–458——Occasional relaxation by the Central Board of the restrictions as to out-door relief to able-bodied men, *ib.* 538–540.

Necessity of out-door relief to the able-bodied being half in kind, such as food and fuel, and half in money; that is, unless alteration be sanctioned by the Board, *Sir H. Owen* 560, 561. 570. 594, 595. 690——Non-interference by the Board as to the actual amount of out-door relief, *ib.* 560–562. 569–575. 690–694.

Orders of the Poor Law Board, dated 21st December 1844 and 14th December 1852, laying down revised regulations on the subject of out-door relief; also, lists of unions and of parishes to which such Orders apply, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 7–12.

Circular letter from the Poor Law Board, dated 14th December 1852, respecting the administration of relief to the out-door poor; Order issued on the subject, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 7, 8.

Order issued by the Poor Law Board, dated 21st December 1844, on the subject of out-door relief to able-bodied; list of unions to which this Order applied, *App.* 9–12.

Paper submitted by Sir Hugh Owen explanatory in detail of the powers of guardians and officials as to out-door relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 557–562.

Provisions of the Out-door Relief Regulation Order of 14th December 1852, and of the Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order, as still in force in the metropolis, and in many provincial unions, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 558–560.

Administration of relief in numerous agricultural districts and in towns with a small population under the Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 559——

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

OUT-DOOR RELIEF—continued.

1. *Orders and Regulations of the Poor Law Board, &c.*—continued.

Provisions of the Out-door Labour Test Order, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 560——Full powers in the guardians as to out-relief to aged poor, *ib.* 560.

Provisions and regulations as to relief on loan and its recovery, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 560, 561.

Necessary approval by the Local Government Board in certain cases before application of the labour test, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 560.

2. *Views of the several Inspectors upon the Question of Modification of the existing Regulations:*

Letters explanatory of the views of the several Inspectors (Local Government Board) upon the question whether there should be any temporary modifications of the regulations of the Board with regard to out-door relief in the case of able-bodied men out of work; disapproval generally of any alteration, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 20 *et seq.*

3. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally as to the Administration and Operation of Out-door Relief:*

Approval of relief being largely given in kind, *Keir-Hardie* 1130–1133——Little, if any, out-door relief if the proposed scheme of State-aided relief works proposed by witness be adopted, the rates being greatly lightened thereby, *Hills* 2592, 2593.

Arguments in support of the contention that in a union where out-relief is freely given the first resource of a poor person in any crisis is the rates, but that in a union where no out-relief is given the man himself is responsible for the maintenance of himself and family, and there is comparatively little pressure upon the public authority during a crisis, *Mackay* 5343 *et seq.*

Submission by witness of tables illustrating the variation in the amount of pauperism in strict and lax unions, and showing the reduction of pauperism brought about by the system pursued in the Tower Hamlets Union, *Mackay* 5345–5353.

Concurrence of opinion among all competent authorities upon the subject, including the Poor Law Commission of 1834, that out-door relief is an evil in itself, *Mackay* 5412 *et seq.*——Decided opinion that all administration of out-door relief should be in private hands, and that those guardians who possess the power of giving out-door relief should use their discretion and refuse to give it, *ib.* 5589–5607. 5716 *et seq.*; 5736–5753.

Doubt as to the refusal of out-relief throwing a very heavy burden on the poorish part of the community, *Mackay* 5706–5712——Evidence to the effect that while the strict unions have restricted out-relief, they have initiated the policy of improved schools and infirmaries, *ib.* 5789.

Argument as to the desirability of guardians having the power to distribute out-door relief to a greater extent than at present, and to relieve persons without putting them to the test and humiliation of stone-breaking, *Phillips* 6677 *et seq.*

Suggestion that the guardians be empowered to give temporary out-door relief, if they have not the power already to do so, and that the prohibitory suggestions made by the Local Government Board in a circular of 1871 be rescinded, *Dodd* 7593, 7594——Grounds for the opinion that the resuscitation of the powers given under the Act of the 43rd Elizabeth should allow the guardians to give both temporary and permanent relief, *ib.* 7709 *et seq.*

Very salutary repugnance of the lower classes to in-door relief, witness strongly objecting to any relaxation as regards out-door relief, *Willink* 8715–8726.

Disapproval generally of out-door relief; opinion that in times of distress men should be relieved by useful work being provided for them, *Lansbury* 10413.

See also *Battersea. Boards of Guardians. Camberwell. Death-rate. Franchise. Labour Test. Pauperism. Relief Works. St. George's-in-the-East. St. Olave's Union. Scotland. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Overtime (*Hours of Labour*). Obstacles to any statistics of overtime, *Smith* 5016——Result of experience at Liverpool that overtime in the case of dock labourers is very objectionable, *Cox* 6452–6462. 6515. 6532–6556.

Great advantage of an abolition of overtime in the engineering and other trades, *Hunter* 8578–8583——Limited sense in which employment of an increased number of men would result from an abolition of overtime, *Mather* 9070, 9071.

Probability that an enactment against overtime work would prove beneficial, *Hunt* 10243–10245——Opposition of witness to overtime work except on occasions of great pressure, *Thorne* 10857–10863.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Owen, Sir Hugh, K.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Experience of witness at the Local Government Board since 1876, he having been Secretary since 1882 ; 1.

View of the Board previously to the severe weather that the conditions generally as regards the prevalence of distress were more favourable than at the corresponding period of last year; tendency, however, to an increase of distress in some districts towards the end of January, 2.

Circular issued by the Board, on 24th January, to the guardians of the several metropolitan unions and of ninety-three provincial unions requesting information as to the extent and character of the distress during the winter of 1894–95, as compared with recent years, and the arrangements contemplated by the guardians on the subject, 2–6——Replies received from seventy provincial boards ; general purport of these, in about fifty cases, that there was no material increase of distress, and that the guardians did not anticipate any difficulty in dealing with the destitution, 6 *et seq.*

Reply received, on 6th February, from the Ashton-under-Lyne Union ; prejudicial effect of the severe weather as regards out-door workers, though the guardians do not anticipate that any exceptional arrangements for dealing with the distress will be necessary, 9——Letter received from the Barnsley Union on 5th February, there being no exceptional distress at that period, 9.

Reply from the Barrow-in-Furness Union on 7th February ; absence of any material increase of relief during the winter months, the distress not being exceptional, 9–11——Result of the inquiry in the case of the Barton-upon-Irwell Union that up to the 6th February there was no exceptional distress in consequence of the severity of the weather, 12.

Letter from Bath Union, on 31st January, that there was no exceptional distress at that date, 12——Reply received from Birmingham, on the 29th January, to the effect that the applications for relief up to that date were about the same as usual, 12——Result of the reply from Blackburn, on 11th February, that there was a great increase of poverty and destitution as compared with several recent years, and that, should the severe weather continue, exceptional measures would probably be necessary, 12.

Reply from Bradford, received on 6th February, to the effect that distress of an acute and exceptional character was prevalent, the amount of relief and of pauperism having largely increased as compared with corresponding periods in previous years ; special measures adopted for providing employment, 12——Reply from Brighton, on 31st January, showing that there was no exceptional amount of distress, 12.

Result of the reply from Bristol, on 28th January, that there has been a considerable increase of non-employment and of relief, 12——Letter from Burnley, received on 5th February, to the effect that the distress was not of an exceptional character, 12.

Result of the reply from Burton-upon-Trent, received on 15th February, that there had not been any material increase of applications for relief, and that temporary help was being given through voluntary agency, 12——Reply from the Bury Union, on 16th February, that the distress was not exceptional, and that special arrangements were not likely to be required, 12.

Absence of any material increase in the applications for relief at Cambridge up to 14th February ; employment given by the town council at fair wages by opening a stone-yard, 12——Information supplied by the Cardiff Board as to the out-door and in-door relief at different periods ; steps taken for opening a labour yard for able-bodied applicants, 12.

Reference to the foregoing cases (taken in alphabetical order) as fair samples of the whole of the provincial replies received by the Local Government Board, 13, 14——Large centres of population comprised in the ninety unions to which circulars have been sent, 15, 16.

Reply from Charlton Union, Lancashire, on 28th January, to the effect that there had been no material increase of distress, 19——Detailed information supplied by Croydon Union as to the applications for relief in the several districts ; temporary employment given to able-bodied men in the stone-yard, 20.

Letter from Darlington, on 16th February, respecting the distress in the union and the employment given in the stone-yards, 21——Information received on 6th February as to the amount of distress in Kingston-upon-Hull, and the arrangements adopted for meeting the destitution, 23.

Slight increase at Great Yarmouth in the number of applications for relief ; work proposed for the able-bodied cases, 24——Letter from the clerk of the Leeds Union, received on 2nd February, submitting details as to the amount of distress, it not being deemed necessary to make any exceptional arrangements, 25.

Details supplied in letter received from Leicester, on 7th February, as to the increase of distress and of relief, the number of shoe hands and hosiery hands out of employment, the aid given by the Leicester Trades Council ; exceptional arrangements not contemplated by the guardians, 26–39.

Letter from Liverpool, received on 4th February, showing that the applications for

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Owen, Sir Hugh, K.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

relief were not of an exceptional character, though many persons have been suffering great privations from want of employment, 40–42.

Reply received from Manchester, on 7th February, to the effect that no exceptional poor relief had been granted; considerable distress among persons who had not applied for relief, 43.

Increased applications for relief in Newport (Monmouth), though the guardians do not anticipate any difficulty in meeting the destitution which may arise, 44——Increased relief in Norwich, in January 1895, as compared with previous years, though it is not contemplated that exceptional arrangements will be necessary, 45.

Letter received from Nottingham, on 16th February, showing the amount of relief given at different periods, the extent to which want of employment exists, and the steps taken for limiting the amount of out-door relief, and for closing the labour yards, 46.

Absence of any material increase of applications for relief at Oldham, the distress among non-applicants not being exceptional, 47——Reply similar to the foregoing received from Pontypridd, 48——Very large increase of relief at Stockport for some time previously to the end of January, 51, 52.

Report received from Swansea, on 15th February, testifying to a very large increase of destitution and relief, and the prevalence of distress among those who do not apply for relief; steps taken for providing employment, 53–57——Decrease rather than increase in the applications for relief in Toxteth Park (Liverpool); arrangements for offering employment to the able-bodied, 58.

Issue of the circular of 24th January to the thirty unions in the metropolis, replies having been received from twenty-five, 60-63——Issue of a further circular by the Local Government Board (on the day the Select Committee was appointed) to their Inspectors in the thirteen provincial districts, asking for immediate information on several points; reports received in reply, 64–69.

Explanation of the delay on the part of the Bethnal Green Board in supplying information in response to the circular of 24th January, 72-74——Reply received from the Camberwell guardians, on 9th February, showing that there has recently been an enormous increase of relief to the able-bodied class, chiefly to those in the building trades, and explaining the action taken in respect of out-door relief and the provision of employment, 75–89.

Letter from Chelsea, on 4th February, to the effect that the distress in the district is not of an exceptional character, and that no special arrangements are contemplated by the guardians, 90.

Statement on the part of Fulham Union, dated 4th February, that the distress among the poor is not greater than usual at this season of the year, and that there has been no undue pressure by offering the workhouse; exceptional arrangements not contemplated, 90.

Satisfactory reply from St. George's-in-the-East, on 6th February, virtual discontinuance of out-door relief in this parish, 90——Absence of any exceptional distress during the recent winter months in St. Giles-in-the-Fields and St. George, Bloomsbury, 90.

Large increase of distress and of relief in Greenwich, previously to 15th February, chiefly through able-bodied men being out of employment, 90——Statement from Hackney, on 4th February, to the effect that there has been no material increase of distress, 90.

Letter from Hampstead, dated 14th February, showing that the guardians do not anticipate any difficulty in meeting the destitution, and that the vestry are co-operating with them in finding work, 90——Summary of reports of relieving officers in Holborn, testifying generally to the absence of any material increase of relief, 90, 91.

Statement from Islington, on 2nd February, to the effect that there has been no exceptional distress in the parish, 90–92——Increased relief given in Kensington in the recent winter months as compared with the same months in the two previous years; considerable distress also among those not applying for relief, 93.

Large increase of relief in Lambeth, as compared with previous winters, there being also more distress than usual among those not applying for relief, 93——Material increase of applications for relief, both out-door and in-door, in Lewisham; employment provided in the labour yard, 93.

Increased applications in Marylebone, much distress being also reported among non-applicants, 93——Detailed information supplied from Mile End Old Town as to the excessive privation and misery through want of employment; several suggestions on the subject by a committee of the guardians, 93–98.

Letter from St. Olave's, dated 1st February, together with reports from relieving officers

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Owen, Sir Hugh, K.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

officers, as to the extent and causes of local distress; very much larger increase of applications since that date than in any other union in London, 100–108——Information as to the operation of a stone-yard in St. Olave's, the pay being at the rate of 6*d.* an hour, exclusive, after a time, of men from outside parishes, 104–128.

Statement, dated 8th February, as regards Paddington, there being no exceptional increase of relief; suggestions by the guardians upon the subject of the able-bodied unemployed, 128.

Considerable difficulty in St. Pancras through the numerous applications for help on the part of the unemployed; co-operation with other boards of guardians in order to urge Government to take steps to deal with the unemployed question, 128–130.

Growing difficulty in Poplar as regards employment, though up to 15th February the applications for relief were less than in previous years, 130——Absence of exceptional distress in Shoreditch and Hoxton up to 1st February, 130–132.

Information supplied by Stepney as to the amount of relief in the winter months for the last four years; considerable distress at present among the working classes who have not applied for relief, 132–135.

Facility of dealing with the distress in the Strand Union without exceptional arrangements; increasing applications from persons not settled in the union, 135——Suggestion on the part of Wandsworth and Clapham that a census be taken of the unemployed, 136.

Reports from relieving officers in Battersea as to the number of applications for relief, and the distress through want of employment in the building and other trades, though not followed by applications for relief, 136, 137.

Absence of exeptional distress in Putney, 137——Decrease rather than increase of relief in Streatham, 137–139——Very slight increase of relief in Tooting, 139.

Considerable distress reported from Wandsworth, largely through stoppage of employment in the building trade, 139, 140——Non-increase of relief and distress in Westminster, 141.

Statistics supplied from Whitechapel as to the increase of relief and the extent to which due to want of employment through the severity of the weather; reference especially to the number of able-bodied in the workhouse, 141——Normal amount of relief and of distress in Woolwich Union, 141.

Conclusion that the foregoing information as to the condition of the unemployed and the amount of relief and of distress in the different unions is based upon the reports of the relieving officers, and that there has been no methodical or systematic inquiry by the latter or by the guardians on the subject, 142–145.

[Second Examination.]—Letter from the guardians of Newcastle-on-Tyne on 16th February to the effect that the distress is of a temporary character and will largely disappear when the weather improves, 148, 149——Desire expressed by the guardians of Lincoln and of several other places that a census of the unemployed throughout the country should speedily be obtained, 152. 157.

Explanations in connection with statistics of the amount of pauperism in England and Wales and in the metropolis, respectively, in December and in January last as compared with the same months in previous years, 161–174——Reference to the returns for the metropolis for the several weeks in January (except the first), and for the first week in February as showing an increasing amount of relief in comparison with previous years; very large numbers relieved in the first week of February, 170-174. 223–247.

Circular issued by the Local Government Board on 11th February to vestries and district boards in the metropolis, and to town councils and district councils generally, suggesting three different classes of work for the unemployed, and making several recommendations on the subject, 175–180——Quotation of several of the replies received to the foregoing circular, showing the action taken or proposed to be taken by the various local bodies as regards the provision of employment, 181–200.

Circular sent by the Central Board to the thirteen Inspectors of districts, asking for information as regards distress among able-bodied men; varying character of the reports in reply respecting agricultural labourers and others, 201–209.

Explanation of certain provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1884 under which the Local Government Board are authorised to issue orders respecting out-door relief to the able-bodied, 210——Summary of the regulations as regards able-bodied out-door relief under the Out-door Relief Regulation Order of December 1852, and under the Out-door Relief Prohibitory Order and Labour Test Order, 211–215——Practice as to labour in stone-breaking, wood chopping, &c., being imposed as a test of destitution; difficulties in finding suitable employment, 216-222.

Great variation in the per-centage of increased relief in the first week of February, in the several metropolitan districts, five in number, 223–226——Abnormal increase in

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Owen, Sir Hugh, K.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

St. Olave's Union, careful inquiry being now made into all cases; special causes to which the distress is owing, 226–234. 237–245. 344–348——Excessive increase in Camberwell, 226, 227. 235, 236——Very large increase also in Greenwich, 210.

Large mitigation of distress anticipated when the frost goes, though this does not equally apply to all districts, 248——Rule of the central board as to holding a local inquiry before sanctioning loans for work in order to give employment, 249——Varying periods allowed for the repayment of loans, according to the class of work, 250.

Relative number of in-door poor and out-door poor in England and Wales and in the metropolis, respectively, at different periods, the in-door poor showing a large increase, and the out-door a much larger decrease, 251–261——Impression that England has, relatively, less pauperism than Scotland, though there is no out-door relief in the latter country, 263–267.

Means of arriving at an average of the number of times during the year for which relief is given to the same persons, 268–271——Obligation upon the guardians to be guided by the test of destitution as a condition of relief; opinion adverse to the removal of this limitation, 272–277. 298, 299.

Satisfactory co-operation in some instances between charitable associations and boards of guardians so as to prevent the stigma of pauperism, 278–284——Reference to an application from West Ham for some aid from the Local Government Board, to be handed over to the Corporation, 285.

Absence of any proposals for opening workshops, 286, 287——Explanations upon the question of land being hired by guardians in order to give employment; action of the central board in such cases, 288–297——Belief that guardians already have sufficient powers for giving adequate relief, 298, 299.

Suggestions on the subject of employment (in times of distress) by the municipal authorities in cleansing the streets, road making, &c.; sufficient statutory powers for this purpose, 300–310——Decided objection to Imperial grants in aid of municipal expenditure on employment works in times of distress, 311–315.

Further explanation with reference to the Circular of 24th January, and the general tenour of the replies as regards the question of increased pauperism, 316–320——Increasing distress and want of employment in Poplar by the middle of February, 321–326.

Considerable distress in St. George's-in-the-East, though up to a recent date there was no material increase in the applications for relief; beneficial operation of some charity agencies, 327–336——Extensive privation in Mile End Old Town early in February, though the applications for relief had not largely increased, 337, 338.

Several causes of the distress in Stepney, 339——Duty of the guardians to give relief to any destitute person in the parish, 340–343——Difficulty as to any remunerative return from stone breaking, 349, 350. 354.

Careful inquiry by relieving officers with reference to applications for relief, 351–353——Reference to the report from Auckland Union as not alluding to any large number of unemployed men who were kept off the rates by receiving 10*s.* a week from their trades union, 357–359.

[Third Examination.]—Consideration of the course to be adopted as regards printing for the use of the Committee condensed information from the replies to the Circular issued at their request to the different local authorities; suggestions on the subject, 361–369——Limitation of the jurisdiction of witness' Board to England and Wales, its inquiries not having extended to Scotland or Ireland, 370–372. 384, 385.

Further statement as to the ample powers of the guardians, and as to their responsibility for the relief of destitution when application is made, 373–375. 384, 385. 388. 397. 421——Case of St. Olave's Union further adverted to in connection with the employment and rate of payment given for a time to outsiders, the increase of relief being very startling, 374, 375. 406. 410.

Reliable character of the information supplied by the guardians as to the number of applications for relief and the amount of pauperism, this not applying to their replies as to the extent of distress among non-applicants for relief, 376–389——Information obtainable from the Labour Department of the Board of Trade as to want of employment, irrespective of poor relief, 383.

Grounds for objecting to the guardians taking the initiative and seeking out destitution (as by means of a house-to-house visitation), in order to relieve it without application being made; expected denial by many destitute persons that they needed relief, 385–387——Entire discretion in local authorities as to the provision of works for the unemployed, 388.

Conclusions adverse to its being the duty of any public department to provide work for the unemployed in times of distress, so as to save them from applying for poor relief, 389–396——Explanation that certain provisions have remained on the Statute book since the Act of Elizabeth in 1601, under which guardians may provide land for employment

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Owen, Sir Hugh, K.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

employment, subject to the approval of the Central Board; probable requirement of Parliamentary sanction before any enforcement of these provisions, 397–399.

Information respecting a recent movement on the part of certain metropolitan unions in favour of legalised facilities for acquiring land and providing workshops as a means of employment with a view to poor relief being obviated; view of witness' Board adverse to the proposed scheme, 400–405.

Different practice respecting out-door relief in St. George's-in-the-East as compared with St. Olave's and Camberwell; strict administration of the poor law in the former union, charitable organisations being also in operation, 406–415——Question considered whether certain districts in London are not getting gradually poorer and other districts gradually richer, as indicated by the returns of pauperism in each case, 416–420.

Explanation of the circumstances and conditions under which the Local Government Board have favoured co-operation between the guardians and the sanitary authorities as regards work for the deserving unemployed; benefits anticipated in some cases, 422–425. 491–515.

Very large contributions under the Equalisation of Rates Bill in lightening the charge upon the poorer parishes for street cleaning, &c., 425. 430–435. 438——Strong disapproval of the cost of out-door relief being spread over the whole metropolis, 426.

Information respecting the objects and operation of the common poor fund, the various items charged upon it, and the checks upon extravagance; objections to out-door relief being a charge upon the fund, 426–439. 516–529——Large sums contributed by the richer parishes in aid of the poorer; that is, under the equalisation fund and the common fund, 427. 430–439.

Explanations upon the questions of the legality of out-door relief to destitute able-bodied persons, witness submitting that a labour test should be provided, 440–458——Examination to the effect that guardians apply work as a test and not for wages; question hereon whether under certain Acts of William IV. and George III. the Central Board might not make orders sanctioning the acquisition of land by guardians to be worked for wages by destitute persons, 457–481. 488, 489.

Discretion to be exercised by the Board as to the distance from the parish at which land might be acquired, 482–487——Practical obstacles to the beneficial working of schemes for employment on land in times of distress, 485–490.

Amount of the poor rate in Poplar and other East End parishes adverted to in connection with the question of employment on sanitary and other useful works, 493–515——Non-interference by the Central Board with the guardians as to the rate paid for work in labour-test yards; reference hereon to the case of Leicester, 530–535. 545, 546.

Claim of destitute men to relief through the stoneyards, though they may not have parted with their furniture, 536, 537——Occasional relaxation by the Central Board of the restrictions as to out-door relief to able-bodied men, 538–540.

Individual view of witness (not as representing his Department) adverse to any Imperial grant in aid of the unemployed, 541, 542. 547, 548——Conclusion that work undertaken by local authorities should be of a necessary or useful character, 543, 544——Expediency of its still resting with the guardians to decide as to the mode of relief of destitution, 548.

[Fourth Examination.] Total of 540 replies now received in response to the circular issued at the request of the Committee, 549–551——Explanations with further reference to proceedings of the Leicester guardians, as regards the modes of out-door relief, and to the action of the Local Government Board in the matter as to certain conditions being observed; denial that there has been undue delay on the part of the Board, 554–568.

Necessity of out-door relief to the able-bodied being half in kind, such as food and fuel, and half in money; that is, unless alteration be sanctioned by the Board, 560, 561. 570. 594, 595. 690——Non-interference by the Board as to the actual amount of out-door relief, 560–562. 569–575. 690–694.

Inducement to improvidence if, on the occurrence of frosts, applicants could be relieved by local authorities without any labour test, 580–587——Beneficial check through the Out-door Relief Regulation Order and the modified workhouse test, though some abuse may arise in the operation of the labour-yard system, 588–600. 648–651.

Advantages of the workhouse test in the interest of the ratepayers, whilst it operates as an incentive to self-reliance, 598–605——Reference to the returns of pauperism as not being an absolute test of the extent of destitution amongst the class who always endeavour to avoid applying for relief, 606–611.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Owen, Sir Hugh, K.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Consideration of the extent to which the labour recently employed upon relief works by the local authorities has been inefficient and costly; instances at Glasgow, Cardiff, and Swansea, 612–618.

Explanation of the action of the Central Board as regards works loans, and the precautions taken when their sanction is applied for; condition that the works must be of a substantial and permanent character, though their cost may sometimes be excessive in times of distress, through the unskilled labour employed, 619–631. 639–641.

Effect of enhanced rates of labour payments in London districts in inducing immigration from urban and rural districts generally, 632–638——Degree of inquiry before men are employed on local relief works, 642–645.

Objection to a dual authority for the administration of relief, 647——Definition of the term "able-bodied" for poor law purposes; limit of age usually applied, 651–655.

Conclusion that the present powers of the guardians and the regulations in force, if exercised promptly and efficiently, are sufficient to meet any exceptional distress now existing, 656, 657——Inference from the returns submitted by witness that through the almost entire stoppage of work in certain districts, and the depression of industries, there is extensive destitution among the classes who have not applied for relief, 658, 659.

Doubt whether any modifications can be made in the regulations of the Central Board as regards the unemployed without the risk of affecting the independence of the numerous class repugnant to accept relief, 660–662.

Increasing charge for the poor in London, this being largely due to the additional comforts given to the indoor poor; return to be submitted hereon, 663–670—— Very exceptional and strict administration of poor relief in St. George's-in-the-East; valuable co-operation on the part of charitable organisations, 671–674.

Consideration of complaints on the part of Accrington as to the undue delay of the Central Board in dealing with applications for sanction of loans for certain works; unavoidable delay in many of these cases, whilst in others very prompt action is taken, 675–689——Non-interference with the localities respecting the rate of wages paid in the case of loan works, 695–698.

Explanation that any opinions expressed by witness in reply to questions of the Committee have been given in his individual capacity, and not as representing his department, 699.

Oxford (*County Borough*). Official explanations, in February, as to the extent of the distress in the county borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 210.

Oxfordshire. Information supplied in report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, and the steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 30, 31.

P.

Paddington. Statement, dated 8th February, as regards Paddington, there being no exceptional increase of relief; suggestion by the guardians upon the subject of the able-bodied unemployed, *Sir H. Owen*, 128.

Particulars supplied by the vestry clerk, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884-85 to 1893-94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Paisley. Letter from the town clerk of Paisley respecting the amount of distress in the burgh and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 603——Information as to the amount of distress in Paisley parish, through the severe weather, and the steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 771.

Paris. Information to be supplied respecting the Bureau de Travail of Paris, which has been closed, *Smith* 4702–4707.

Paper handed in by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith containing particulars respecting the Paris Labour Exchange, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 500.

Parker, Rev. C. L. E. Letter from Mr. Parker, dated Stockton Rectory, 14th June 1895, submitting explanations in reply to certain statements by Mr. Tuckwell upon the allotments question, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 546.——*See* also *Allotments.*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Partick (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk of Partick Burgh respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 603.

PAUPERISM :

Explanations in connection with statistics of the amount of pauperism in England and Wales and in the metropolis, respectively, in December and in January last, as compared with the same months in previous years, *Sir H. Owen* 161–174.

Relative number of in-door poor and out-door poor in England and Wales and in the metropolis, respectively, at different periods, the in-door poor showing a large increase and the out-door a much larger decrease, *Sir H. Owen* 251–261——Means of arriving at an average of the number of times during the year for which relief is given to the same persons, *ib.* 268–271.

Obligation upon the guardians to be guided by the test of destitution as a condition of relief; opinion adverse to the removal of this limitation, *Sir H. Owen* 272–277. 298, 299—— Satisfactory co-operation in some instances between charitable institutions and boards of guardians so as to prevent the stigma of pauperism, *ib.* 278–284.

Reference to the returns of pauperism as not being an absolute test of the extent of destitution amongst the class who always endeavour to avoid applying for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 606–611.

Great facility to the guardians in dealing with distress if employment and relief could be given without disqualifications being entailed, *Hilleary* 1285–1293. 1366–1372 ——Probability that a great many of the unemployed, as in West Ham, have been deterred from applying for relief on account of the pauperising effect, *ib.* 1348–1353 ——Probability, moreover, that the stigma of pauperism is more operative than disfranchisement in preventing applications for relief, *ib.* 1502–1509. 1660–1663.

Opinion that greater facilities for poor relief do undoubtedly prompt more numerous applications for it and cause people to rely upon it, *Mackay* 5790. 5825–5831. 5843–5861.

Great reluctance on the part of the unemployed in the tinplate trade to apply for poor relief due, no doubt, to the fear of being deprived of the franchise and to the stigma of pauperism, *Phillips* 9464–9466.

Table showing for England and Wales the number of persons relieved on the corresponding days of January during the last thirty-nine years, together with the population of the country, and the number of paupers in every 1,000 of the population on the last day of the fifth week of the month in each year, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 13.

Table showing for the metropolis the number of persons relieved on corresponding days of January and February during the last thirty-nine years, together with the population, and the number of paupers in every 1,000 of the population on a certain day in January and February in each year, *App.* (*2nd. Rep.*) 14, 15.

Number of paupers in each district of the metropolis and in each union (exclusive of lunatics in asylums, and vagrants), on the last day of the fifth week of January 1895, and total of corresponding week in 1894, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 16, 17——Similar return for the last day of first week of February 1895 and the corresponding week in 1894, *ib.* 18, 19.

View of Mr. W. H. Bosanquet (Bromley) as to the expediency of the stigma of pauperism being removed from work provided by the guardians, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 361.

See also *Amount and Causes of Distress. Franchise. Labour Test. Metropolis. Out-door Relief. Poor Law System. Scotland.*

Pemberton (*Lancaster*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 333.

Pembroke Municipal Borough. Absence of exceptional distress in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 438.

Penal Treatment. Grounds for the opinion that men who can work but will not should be dealt with by law, *Hunt* 10179. 10235–10240. 10276–10280. 10329–10334—— Necessity for dealing first with the delinquent unemployed, *ib.* 10189. 10354.

See also *Labour Test. Loafers. Relief Works. Tramps and Vagrants.*

Penarth (*Glamorgan*). Explanations in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the distress and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 169.

Penrith (*Cumberland*). Absence of exceptional distress in Penrith Rural District, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 194——Letter from the mayor in February explanatory of the extent and character of the distress in the urban district, and showing the measures of relief provided, *ib.* 333.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Penzance Municipal Borough. Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 75.

Perth. Letter from the town clerk of the burgh respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 604——Amount of distress in the parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *ib.* 765.

Peterhead. Letter from the town clerk of Peterhead respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures provided, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 604.

Information supplied by the inspector of the poor as to the extent and character of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 625.

Petersfield (*Sussex*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 339.

Pewsey Rural District (*Wilts*). Full employment provided in this union during the past winter, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 433.

Phillips, Edward James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is a justice of the peace for the county of Monmouth, and chairman of the Pontypool Board of Guardians, 6635–6637. 6763.

Evidence to the effect that there are twenty-four parishes in the Pontypool Union, the total rateable value being 155,921*l.*, and the population, 39,791 in 1891; 6638–6640——Coal, tin, iron, and steel works the principal industries of the Pontypool district; large number of men employed at the locomotive establishment of the Great Western Railway Company at Pontypool-road, 6641.

Occurrence of distress at times in the union due generally to the stoppage of individual works; very severe distress in 1874, when there was a strike in the coal trade, 6642, 6643——Statement that in order to meet the distress in 1874 the guardians opened a stoneyard and had a great deal of stone cut and broken, which they found very difficult to dispose of afterwards; failure of the stoneyard financially, 6644–6647.

Great distress in the Pontypool district since the tinplate trade became disorganised, although the board of guardians have not had much difficulty in connection with it, 6648–6650. 6719–6730. 6786, 6787. 6793–6796——Particulars of the stoppage of the Glyn Colliery in 1894, which threw about 600 men out of work; absorption of nearly all these men in the other collieries of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, the old men only being left in the Pontypool district, 6651–6654. 6759–6786.

Institution in the early part of this year of three organisations, independent of the guardians, to cope with the distress caused by the stoppage of the Glyn Colliery and Pontymoile Tinworks, 6655 *et seq.*——Information respecting the Pontypool organisation, which was worked by a relief committee presided over by the vicar of Trevethin; table handed in, showing the number of people relieved by the committee from the 25th January until the 15th April 1895; 6656–6660.

Particulars as to the second organisation, which was at Pontnewyndd, where it established a soup kitchen on the 15th January, 6661–6663——No doubt that the men out of employment in the early part of this year obtained assistance from their friends and, in very many cases, disposed of their goods, rather than apply to the board of guardians; great reluctance on the part of both skilled and unskilled artizans to ask for relief, 6664. 6676. 6703–6708.

Promotion of the third organisation by the Undenominational Christian Mission, who have done a great deal of good in the way of charity, having given 100,000 meals at their different stations between August 1893 and December 1894; 6665, 6666. 6725–6728——Evidence to the effect that during the recent distress the urban district councils of Pontypool, Abersychan, and Panteg employed men to break stones and cinders at 1*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* 4*d.* per yard, respectively, some men breaking from five to nine yards, and one or two as many as twelve yards, in the week, 6667-6670.

Belief that, although some discretion was used in employing the men to break the stones and cinders, any men who applied were given work provided they belonged to the district, 6670——Explanation that at the commencement of the distress witness' board of guardians directed their two relieving officers to grant relief to persons applying for it, and that relief was given, without any test, in every case where it was found, on inquiry, that the man deserved it, 6672–6674.

Expenditure by the board of 4,399*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* in out-relief in 1892–93; 4,719*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* in 1893–94; and 5,056*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* in 1894-95; 6675——Argument as to the desirability of the guardians having the power to distribute out-door relief to a greater extent than at present, and to relieve persons without putting them to the test and humiliation of stone-breaking, 6677 *et seq.*

Opinion that the municipal authorities should have charge of relief works that are started to meet exceptional distress, rather than the poor law authorities, as the former

Phillips, Edward James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

former have better means of disposing of the stone, &c., broken, and as the stigma of pauperism would not be felt so strongly by the men employed, 6678 *et seq.*; 6693–6702. 6731–6750. 6788–6790——View of witness that the Poor Law should be more elastic, so that persons who are not quite destitute could be helped by the guardians, as under the Scotch Poor Law; desirability of helping the thrifty man without taking him off the register, 6678 *et seq.*; 6708–6718. 6791, 6792.

Suggestion that a portion of the Exchequer Contribution Account should be utilised in meeting cases of exceptional distress, 6678, 6679. 6751–6758—— Statement that although there were twenty degrees of frost in January and February last, and the sufferings of the unemployed were very severe, not a single person from the Pontypool district was brought before the court for breaking the law, 6797.

Phillips, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is secretary of the South Wales, Monmouth, and Gloucestershire Tinplate Workers' Union, 9412–9414.

Evidence to the effect that owing to the general depression in trade and to competition in America and on the Continent, the tinplate trade is in a very crippled condition, and the people have suffered severely from want of employment, 9415–9419. 9453–9457. 9497 *et seq.*——Statistics showing that there have been 6,550 persons, principally men, totally idle, and nearly 6,000 partially idle, since the beginning of 1893, in the tinplate trade in Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire, against a total of about 13,500 in full work during that time, 9420–9452. 9505–9511.

Belief that the present bad state of affairs was brought about by the price of tinplates having been forced up in the autumn of 1890 and in 1891 in anticipation of the Tariff Bill coming into operation in July 1891, the over-production at that time having caused the depression that has existed ever since, 9453 *et seq.*——Statement that hundreds of the unemployed tinplate workers in witness' district are quite destitute, those who owned houses having either sold or mortgaged them, and the thrifty having exhausted all their savings, 9458–9463. 9496.

Great reluctance on the part of the unemployed to apply for poor relief, due, no doubt, to the fear of being deprived of the franchise and to the stigma of pauperism, 9464–9466——Distribution of 10,000*l.* by witness' union among the unemployed tinworkers between December 1892 and December 1894; inability of the union to render the men any assistance this year, the funds having been exhausted, 9468–9472.

Decided opinion that some exceptional remedy ought to be found to meet the present extraordinary distress in the tin-plate trade, which is becoming more acute every week; approval of aid being given from the Exchequer, 9473-9476. 9488-9504. 9528–9531——Average rate of wages for a good tinplate worker, before the distress began, about 2*l.* per week; acceptance by the men of reductions of 12½ to 15 per cent. for the last seven or eight months, 9477–9484.

Institution of the stone-breaking test by the Poor Law authorities of Landore and Kidwelly, at which the men earned between 5*s.* 6*d.* and 6*s.* a week, doing their best, 9485-9487——Impossibility of the home workers competing with America, even if they worked for nothing, as there is a protective tariff of 5*s.* 2*d.* on every box of tin plates entering the United States, 9512–9527.

Piece-work. Opportunity chiefly in piece-work trades for reducing the amount of employment, instead of entirely displacing some of the employés, *Smith* 4769–4771.

Pilditch, John Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—As surveyor to the parish of St. Mary, Battersea, witness submits explanations in detail respecting the distress in the parish from want of employment in different industries, the measures adopted by the vestry, and the expenditure incurred in relieving the distress, 5020 *et seq.*

Expenditure of between 600*l.* and 700*l.* in the winter of 1890, and again in 1891, in clearing the roads from snow; less severe weather in 1892, when the expenditure was under 300 *l.*; 5022–5024——Various kinds of employment provided in the winter of 1892–93, the total cost having been between 6,000 *l.* and 7,000 *l.*; large number of men employed, 5024, 5025——Very severe weather in 1893–94, a vast amount of work having been provided in the winter months, entailing an expenditure of nearly 14,000 *l.*; 5025–5030.

Practice in witness' parish to arrange in advance for works to be done late in the year or during the winter, 5029. 5031, 5032. 5039, 5040——Expenditure of nearly 5,500 *l.*, up to the present time (26th March), upon works carried on during the past winter; provision of 10,000 *l.* or 12,000 *l.* for works in the next winter, 5029–5033. 5046–5054——Satisfactory working of the labour bureau through which the unemployed are taken on to work, 5034–5038——Conclusion that other parishes might equally arrange in advance the works to be executed when there is a pressure for employment, 5039, 5040.

Direct employment given by the vestry, instead of resorting to contract labour,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Pilditch, John Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

overtime being abolished so as to employ the greatest possible number of men, 5041–5045——Large expenditure since 1890 in local improvements and works of various kinds, witness submitting that much benefit is conferred upon genuine unemployed men (apart from "loafers"), that the works are efficiently carried out, and that many men are enabled to tide through the severe weather who would otherwise apply for poor relief, 5046 *et seq.*——Better class of men obtainable for the works in winter than in summer, these men not caring to work with the "loafer" class, 5057-5060. 5066–5071. 5081–5086. 5151-5154.

Better work obtained from the men by the vestry than is obtained from those who work under the poor law, 5074–5086——Denial that it is a disadvantage that men should look forward for work known to be provided for them in the winter, though it is necessary to take precautions against abuse, and to restrict employment to those residing in Battersea, 5090 *et seq.*——Limited extent to which employment can be provided for all who apply for it; less pressure if other parishes made equal provision, 5103–5110. 5134–5137. 5138–5154.

Low rates in Battersea, the system of work for the unemployed not increasing them, 5120–5126——Large employment of male workers as compared with females, 5127–5130——Minority of the vestry opposed to the system in question, 5131-5133——Difficulty in providing extensive work year by year, whilst the creation of work is studiously avoided, 5138–5150.

Plomesgate Rural District (*Suffolk*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 322.

Plumstead (*Kent*). Amount of distress in this parish; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 204.

Plymouth. Amount and cause of distress in Plymouth County Borough; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 456, 457.

Plympton St. Mary (*Devon*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 452.

Pocklington (*York*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 322.

Pollokshaws (*Renfrews*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 604.

Pontardawe (*Glamorgan*). Want of employment in this rural district through the stoppage of tin plate works; voluntary relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 459.

PONTYPOOL (MONMOUTH):

1. *Exceptional Distress, mainly through Depression in the Tin Plate Industry and in the Coal Trade.*
2. *Extensive Provision of Relief by Voluntary and Charitable Organisations.*
3. *Employment and Relief by the Local Boards or Urban District Councils, and by the Poor Law Guardians.*
4. *Claim to State Aid.*

1. *Exceptional Distress, mainly through Depression in the Tin Plate Industry and in the Coal Trade:*

Estimated population of 16,000 in the district represented by witness, its area being about three miles long by one broad, *Griffith* 3875, 3876——Information respecting the dearth of employment in the district through the closing of certain tin works and iron sheet works, and of the Glyn Colliery at different periods since the strike in August and September 1893; loss of employment by at least 1,350 men, some 200 being employed intermittently at the town forge works, *ib.* 3877–3904. 3914, 3915. 4005–4007. 4041, 4042. 4101–4106.

Total of about 1,800 persons (including women and children) relieved daily by the relief committee during the distress; estimate that 1,000 men were absolutely without employment, only between 200 and 300 of whom were affected by the frost, *Griffith* 3928–3933. 4061-4066. 4154, 4155.

Very poor prospect of a revival of the tin plate trade in the Pontypool district, though there is now some intermittent employment at one of the works; odd jobs of various kinds upon which some of the men have obtained employment, *Griffith* 3934–3938. 3948. 3953-3963——Improbability of the Glyn Colliery being soon re-opened, *ib.* 3938–3941.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

PONTYPOOL (MONMOUTH)—continued.

1. *Exceptional Distress, mainly through Depression, &c.*—continued.

Further information respecting the great depression in the Pontypool tin-plate industry, and in the local collieries, in connection with the question of the future employment of the work-people and of their migration to other districts in search of work, *Griffith* 4076–4109. 4134–4138. 4150. 4164–4173. 4211–4213.

More acute distress recently in Pontypool than witness has ever known elsewhere; widespread distress outside the operations of the voluntary relief committee, *Griffith* 4110–4112. 4117–4121. 4150–4261.

Explanation as regards the closing of one colliery at Pontypool, whilst another is only partially at work; question of royalty rents adverted to hereon, *Griffith* 4216–4230. 4279–4284. 4293–4295.

Evidence to the effect that there are twenty-four parishes in the Pontypool Union, the total rateable value being 155,921*l.*, and the population 39,091 in 1891; *Phillips* 6638–6640 —— Coal, tin, iron, and steel works the principal industries of the Pontypool district; large number of men employed at the locomotive establishment of the Great Western Railway Company at Pontypool-road, *ib.* 6641.

Occurrence of distress at times in the union, due, generally, to the stoppage of individual works; very severe distress in 1874, when there was a strike in the coal trade, *Phillips* 6642, 6643——Great distress in the Pontypool district since the tin plate trade became disorganised, although the board of guardians have not had much difficulty in connection with it, *ib.* 6648–6650. 6719–6730. 6786, 6787. 6793–6796.

Particulars of the stoppage of the Glyn Colliery in 1894, which threw about 600 men out of work; absorption of nearly all these men in the other collieries of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, the old men only being left in the Pontypool district, *Phillips* 6651–6654. 6759–6786.

Conclusion that the men out of employment in the early part of this year obtained assistance from their friends, and in very many cases disposed of their goods rather than apply to the board of guardians; great reluctance on the part of both the skilled and unskilled artizans to ask for relief, *Phillips* 6664, 6676. 6703–6708.

Letter from Mr. W. Sandbrook, dated 28th February 1895, as to the great distress in the district through want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 372.

2. *Extensive Provision of Relief by Voluntary and Charitable Organisations:*

Formation of the local relief committee for the Pontypool district in January 1894, about 300*l.* having been collected and the committee having worked for about twelve weeks, relief having been given in kind, *Griffith* 3905–3908. 3914, 3915——Relief committee again formed in January 1895, upon the closing of the Pontnewynydd Iron Sheet Works, whereby 400 men were suddenly thrown out of employment; committee also formed in the Pontypool district, the two committees having been subsequently amalgamated with witness as chairman, *ib.* 3916–3920. 4040–4042.

Collection of about 500*l.* mainly from shopkeepers, about 100*l.* of which is yet in hand, relief having been given in a daily distribution of bread and a bi-weekly distribution of soup; coals also given by colliery owners, *Griffith* 3921–3927. 4035. 4067–4075——Large and influential character of the relief committee; careful inquiry in every case before help is given, *ib.* 3926. 4030–4034. 4040——Doubt as to much help having been given by the local trade unions, *ib.* 3955–3957. 4151–4153. 4239, 4240.

Improved system of distribution of bread and soup at the homes of the people, during the present distress, as compared with the practice in the previous winter, *Griffith* 3965–3972——Liberal help received by the relief committee from the local landowners, *ib.* 4285–4291.

Institution in the early part of this year of three organisations, independent of the guardians, to cope with the distress caused by the stoppage of the Glyn Colliery and the Pontymaile Tinworks, *Phillips* 6655 *et seq.*

Information respecting the Pontypool organisation, which was worked by a relief committee, presided over by the Vicar of Trevethin; Table handed in showing the number of people relieved by the committee from the 25th January until the 15th April 1895, *Phillips* 6656–6660.

Particulars as to the second organisation, which was at Pontnewynydd, where it established a soup kitchen on the 15th January, *Phillips* 6661–6663.

Promotion of the third organisation by the Undenominational Christian Mission who have done a great deal of good in the way of charity, having given 100,000 meals at their different stations between August 1873 and December 1894, *Phillips* 6665, 6666. 6725–6728.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Pontypool (*Monmouth*)—continued.

3. *Employment and Relief by the Local Boards or Urban District Councils and by the Poor Law Guardians:*

Employment offered by the local board during the winter of 1894 upon stone-breaking, at 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard, or about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; unfitness of this class of work for the class out of employment, *Griffith* 3909–3913. 3973–3987. 4055–4060.

Statement to the effect that the board of guardians have taken no active part in relieving the distress, whilst the urban district council have co-operated in every way; reference hereon to the amount of the local rates, the poor rate having slightly increased, *Griffith* 3990–4004. 4012–4034. 4174–4193. 4258, 4259.

Further statement as to the guardians not having relieved the able-bodied unemployed, voluntary assistance having been a necessity; expediency of an extension of powers in the former direction, *Griffith* 4194–4197. 4259–4263. 4270–4278.

Explanation that in order to meet the distress in 1874 the guardians opened a stoneyard and had a great deal of stone cut and broken, which they found very difficult to dispose of afterwards; failure of the stoneyard financially, *Phillips* 6644–6647.

Evidence to the effect that during the recent distress the urban district councils of Pontypool, Abersychan, and Panteg employed men to break stones and cinders at 1*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* 4*d.* per yard, respectively, some men breaking from five to nine yards, and one or two as many as twelve yards, in the week, *Phillips* 6667–6670——Belief that although some discretion was used in employing the men to break the stones and cinders, any men who applied were given work provided they belonged to the district, *ib.* 6670.

Explanation that at the commencement of the distress the board of guardians directed their two relieving officers to grant relief to persons applying for it, and that relief was given, without any test, in every case where it was found, on inquiry, that the man deserved it, *Phillips* 6672–6674——Expenditure by the board of 4,399 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* in out-relief in 1892–3, 4,719 *l.* 1 *s.* 4 *d.* in 1893–4, and 5,056 *l.* 7 *s.* 7 *d.* in 1894-5, *ib.* 6675.

Summary in letter from the chairman of the urban district council of the measures taken for the relief of the distress, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 372.

4. *Claim to State Aid:*

Grounds upon which witness submits that the case of Pontypool is one which has a strong claim to outside aid in the form of a Government grant, the local voluntary resources having been already greatly strained in order to keep the people from starvation, and no other funds being available to meet the want of employment, *Griffith* 3942–3964. 3990–4004. 4008–4037. 4050–4054——Probable benefit to Pontypool if the cost of in-door relief were paid generally out of Imperial funds, *ib.* 4214, 4215.——*See* also *Tin-plate Trade.*

Pontypridd (*Glamorgan*). Reply received from Pontypridd (in response to circular from the Local Government Board), stating that there was no material increase of applications for relief, the distress among non-applicants not being exceptional, *Sir H. Owen* 48.

Explanations, in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress and the relief provided by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 170.

Poole (*Dorset*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App* (*2nd Rep.*) 75.

Poor Law System:

Explanations in detail respecting the orders and regulations of the central board, and the powers of boards of guardians as regards the relief of destitution, witness submitting that such powers are ample whenever applications are made for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 175 *et seq.*; 298, 299. 373 *et seq.*; 656, 657——Duty of the guardians to give relief to any destitute person who applies for it, *ib.* 340–343——Objection to a dual authority for the administration of poor relief, *ib.* 647.

Doubt whether any modifications can be made in the regulations of the central board as regards the unemployed, without the risk of affecting the independence of the numerous class repugnant to accept relief, *Sir H. Owen* 660–662.

Contemplated combined action on the part of the unemployed for the breaking down of the present system of poor relief, if the Committee cannot recommend some temporary scheme for the prevention of starvation, *Keir-Hardie* 746, 747——Expediency

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Poor Law System—continued.

diency of a relaxation of the present legal restrictions upon relief in times of exceptional distress, *Hilleary* 1641–1648.

Large class of unemployed whom the Poor Law system does not touch, who are prepared to work, but to whom pauperism and disfranchisement are repugnant, *Alden* 2024–2029——Suggestion that the Poor Law restrictions be modified during severe winters, and that relief be afforded on certain conditions, but without disfranchisement, *ib.* 2030, 2031.

Division of the poor and unemployed into two main classes, the worthy and the unworthy, these being again sub-divisible into the competent and the incompetent, *Hills* 2570——Proposed maintenance of the present Poor Law machinery, together with the existing disqualifications as regards the incompetent, *ib.* 2570. 2767–2769. 2795. 2797——Opinion as to the sufficiency of the present powers of the guardians and local authorities to deal with exceptional distress, *Fenton* 2986–2997. 3062–3069.

Grounds for the contention that there are only two means of coping with the difficulties due to want of employment, namely: the more perfect administration of the Poor Law, and the extension throughout the country of charity organisation societies, *Mackay* 5412–5427. 5631 *et seq.*; 5725 *et seq.*——Conclusion that if it were known that men employed in seasonal trades would be relieved when they had no work the tendency would be to decrease the wages in those trades; contention that the most humane treatment is to continue as rigidly as may be the system laid down in the Report of the Poor Law Commission of 1834; *ib.* 5444–5455. 5754–5757.

View of witness that the Poor Law should be more elastic, so that persons who are not quite destitute could be helped by the guardians, as under the Scotch Poor Law; desirability of helping the thrifty man without taking him off the register, *Phillips* 6678 *et seq.*; 6708-6718. 6791, 6792——Contention that the fact that there is no extra pressure on the Poor Law does not in the least prove that there is no exceptional distress, many men being supported by trade unions and private charity, *Dodd* 7588.

Immense expenditure by Poor Law authorities out of the rates in support of the poor and destitute, which would indirectly be reduced under the operation of witness' scheme of farm colonies, *Mather* 8975–8995 —— Examination as to whether the failure of the large expenditure to meet the wants of the unemployed does not raise a distrust of the principle on which relief is administered, *Lansbury* 10439. 10449–10453.

Evidence as to the powers at present possessed by Poor Law authorities in dealing with cases of distress resulting from want of employment, derived from the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, London and other urban unions being regulated by the Out-door Relief Regulation Order of the 14th December 1852; *Vallance* 11533, 11534—— Sufficiency of the existing Poor Law wisely administered, in co-operation with organised charity, to meet ordinary recurrent or seasonal periods of distress, while exceptional cases can be dealt with by the Modified Workhouse Test Order, *ib.* 11551.

Paper submitted by Sir Hugh Owen explanatory in detail of the powers of Poor Law guardians and of their officers as to relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 557–562.

Explanations in connection with the several provisions under different Acts as regards the employment of the poor by boards of guardians for wages, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 561.

See also *Boards of Guardians. Franchise. Local Government Board. Labour Test. Metropolis. Out-door Relief. Pauperism. Scotland. West Ham.*

Poplar:

Growing difficulty in Poplar as regards employment, though up to 15th February the applications for relief were less than in previous years, *Sir H. Owen* 130—— Increasing distress and want of employment by the middle of February, *ib.* 321–326.

Amount of the poor rate in Poplar and other East-end parishes adverted to in connection with the question of employment on sanitary and other useful works, *Sir H. Owen* 493–515.

Relief works carried on last year in Poplar under the same conditions as in West Ham; conclusion from the experience then gained as to the necessity of separating assisted labour from labour in the ordinary channels, *Hills* 2534——Great credit due to the Poplar district for the practical steps taken in order to deal with the unemployed difficulty; liberal action of Mr. Hills in the matter, *Benn* 3138.

Experience to the effect that distress in Poplar is not merely a question of seasons, although in the winter it becomes more acute, *Lansbury* 10401. 10403. 10414—— Information in regard to the great distress of last February; particulars as to the ages of 1,939 men who worked in the stone-yards during the six weeks they were opened,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Poplar—continued.

Lansbury 10402–10404——Statement showing that by the opening of the stoneyards the union has spent 2,720*l.* on which there will be no return whatever, *ib.* 10404.

Reference to the crowded state of the workhouse, which, at the present time, has 125 inmates over the statutory number, *Lansbury* 10404–10408——Co-operation of the guardians with the Board of Works during the winter to relieve the distress; experience that at the depôts men fought to obtain tickets to go to work, *ib.* 10408.

Evidence respecting the large number of youths from eighteen to twenty-one who are out of work in Poplar, *Lansbury* 10408. 10447, 10448——Difficulty in obtaining employment in the case of men whose ages range from thirty to sixty, *ib.* 10408——Reference to the large number of widows to whom out-door relief is given, *ib.* 10408.

Contention that the poor law union of Poplar is not supporting a higher average of paupers than is the case in other adjoining unions, *Lansbury* 10439–10446.

Particulars supplied by Mr. Farnfield (clerk to the district board of works), in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 120–122.

Further information supplied by the clerk, dated 5th March 1895, as to the expenditure on extra labour up to 2nd March, and as to the operation of the labour yards, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 387, 388——Return of money expended, and of the number of men employed in snow removal and road sweeping in Poplar, Bow, and Bromley, up to 2nd March, *ib.* 387.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94, the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

See also *Dock Labour. West Ham.*

Population and Pauperism. Table showing the number of persons relieved on the corresponding days of January in each of the years 1857–95, together with the population of the country, and the number of paupers in every 1,000 of the population on the last day of the fifth week of the month in each year, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 13.

Port Glasgow (*Renfrew*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress in the burgh and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*), 605——Amount of distress in Port Glasgow parish, through the severe weather; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 771, 772.

Portland (*Dorset*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 333.

Portsmouth. Letter from the mayor of Portsmouth, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 61.

Preston (*Lancashire*). Absence of exceptional distress in Preston County Borough, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 61——Special measures of relief not necessary in the rural district of Preston, *ib.* 412.

Printing and Book Trade. Probable cause of the increased per-centage of unemployed in the printing book trade in July and August as compared with the period from October to December, *Smith* 4577–4580.

Chart submitted by Mr. Llewellyn Smith showing the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations of employment in the trade, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*), *p.* 52.

Prison Labour. Attention called to the employment of prisoners on certain industries; opinion that there is no objection provided they do the work for Government use only, *C. Booth* 10549–10554.

Private Enterprise. Belief that the continuance of depression is mainly due to lack of enterprise; possibility that a large public undertaking, such as light railways, might encourage private enterprise, *C. Booth* 10533–10539. 10687–10691——Opinion that enterprise depends greatly upon Governmental action, *ib.* 10534. 10713–10716.

Provincial Districts. Replies received from seventy provincial boards, in response to circular from the Local Government Board; general purport of these, in about fifty cases, that there was no material increase of distress, and that the guardians did not anticipate any difficulty in dealing with the distribution, *Sir H. Owen* 6 *et seq.*

Reference to special cases, taken in alphabetical order, as fair samples of the whole of the provincial replies received by the Local Government Board, *Sir H. Owen* 12–14 —— Large centres of population comprised in the ninety unions to which circulars have been sent, *ib.* 15, 16.

Issue of a further circular by the Local Government Board (on the day the Select Committee was appointed) to their Inspectors in the thirteen provincial districts, asking for immediate information on several points; reports received in reply, *Sir H. Owen* 64–69.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Provincial Districts—continued.

Communications from the several Inspectors submitting information respecting the distress in their respective districts, and the action taken by the guardians and local authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 20–56.

Local replies from the various provincial boards to the circular of the Local Government Board, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*

Putney. Absence of exceptional distress in Putney, *Sir H. Owen*, 137.

Pwllheli Rural District (*Carnarvon*). Special measures of relief not necessary in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 433.

R.

Ramsbottom (*Lancaster*). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 364.

Rates. Non-objection to a small rate being levied in small towns for the relief of exceptional distress, where no other funds are available, *Bell* 8053–8057.

Rawtenstall (*Lancaster*). Letter from the mayor of Rawtenstall, dated 20 February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 76.

Reading. Letter from the town clerk, in February, explanatory of the extent and causes of the local distress and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 326–328——Information as to the large additional employment during the frost in connection with the severe weather, *ib.* 380.

Re-appointment of Committee. Hope expressed by the Committee that in another Parliament the House will renew the inquiry in order that the Legislature may be guided to the adoption of some palliative for the evils to which many of the best and most industrious among the people are at present exposed, *3rd Rep.* v.

Reclamation Works. Proposed employment, in times of exceptional distress, upon the reclamation of slob-lands and of waste lands, *Alden* 2064, 2065——Objection to large numbers of workmen being sent from a distance and located for any length of time upon such work as an expensive reclamation scheme, *Hills* 2699, 2700.

Information as to the large areas of land at Plumstead, Hackney, Wandsworth, Poplar, and elsewhere, suitable for reclamation or cultivation, *Benn* 3110–3125. 3266–3277——Extensive employment to be provided, also, under some well-considered scheme, for the reclamation of Thames foreshore, *ib.* 3110. 3275–3277.

Explanations respecting the experiment carried on by Mr. McDougall upon some lands in the Isle of Dogs, the street sweepings of London having been utilised with excellent results, *Benn* 3110. 3117–3120. 3126–3129. 3147–3153——Considerable areas of flooded or marsh land, as in the case of the Isle of Dogs, Hackney Marshes, Thames foreshore, &c., which might be reclaimed and rendered fit for cultivation, *ib.* 3110.

Doubt as to the practicability of profitably employing the unemployed in reclaiming the land on the low parts of the River Thames near London; belief that putting the unemployed upon the land, for the purpose of giving them relief, would be a failure, *Mackay* 5379 *et seq.*; 5574–5581.

Evidence in support of rhe proposition that large numbers of the unemployed might be absorbed in the cultivation of unreclaimed and cultivable land, and that the extensive influx of rural labour into the towns would thus be beneficially checked, *Hunter* 8287–8292. 8482–8488. 8502–8520. 8543–8546. 8567–8572.

See also *Relief Works.*

Redruth (*Cornwall*). Amount of distress in the Redruth rural district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 195——Extent and character of the distress in the urban district in February; remedial measures adopted, *ib.* 352.

Register of Unemployed. Value of a register of the unemployed from month to month; suggestion that the local authorities should be compelled to keep a labour register of all the unemployed, and to send in monthly returns to the Local Government Board, *Alden* 2034, 2035. 2352.

Statements by the various boards of guardians and local authorities throughout England and Wales and Scotland upon the question whether an unemployed register

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Register of Unemployed—continued.

is maintained, and with what results, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

See also *Labour Bureaux.*

Reigate (*Surrey*). Explanation, in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough, and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 142 ——Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *ib.* 433.

Relief Works:

1. *Experience hitherto in the provision of Relief Works for the Unemployed.*
2. *Scheme of Mr. Hills for a system of Relief Works or Labour Colonies throughout the United Kingdom, to be aided and subsidised by the State on certain conditions.*
3. *Rate of Payment of Men Employed on Relief Works.*
4. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally upon the Question of Relief Works for the Unemployed, and of Contributions by the State.*

1. *Experience hitherto in the provision of Relief Works for the Unemployed:*

Consideration of the extent to which the labour recently employed upon relief works by the local authorities has been inefficient and costly; instances at Glasgow, Cardiff, and Swansea, *Sir H. Owen* 612-618——Degree of inquiry before men are employed on local relief works, *ib.* 642-645.

Consideration of experiments in Paris and elsewhere in the finding of work for the unemployed, the results not being satisfactory, because the conditions and the administration were wrong; expediency of further experiments on an improved system, *Alden* 2241-2269. 2287-2313.

Action taken by ninety-six local authorities in Great Britain, in the winter of 1892-93, for providing work for the unemployed, *Smith* 4723——Reference to the steps taken in eleven important districts, in the winter of 1893-94, for the provision of relief works, *ib.*

Belief that no workman, with any self-respect, will work on the relief works or in labour yards, which are very largely monopolised by loafers, *Mackay* 5807-5810. 5866-5868.

Experience of witness, in regard to the Wanstead Flats and Abbey Mills experiments, that sober and steady unemployed men do resort to the labour colonies when out of work, at all events as a temporary means of maintenance; doubt, however, as to their breaking up their homes to go to such colonies, *Moore* 9624-9638. 9795-9801.

Communications from boards of guardians, district boards, and other local bodies in England and Wales and Scotland, as to the relief works in the several towns, burghs, parishes, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*

2. *Scheme of Mr. Hills for a system of Relief Works or Labour Colonies throughout the United Kingdom, to be aided and subsidised by the State on certain conditions:*

Authority given to witness by the West Ham Relief Committee to submit a scheme (now in the printer's hands) for dealing with the unemployed throughout the country, *Hills* 2566——Explanation that the provisions of the scheme advocated by witness for the whole country have been hastily embodied in the draft Bill circulated among the members of the Committee, some revision being necessary, *ib.* 2568.

Grounds for justifying the proposition that the State, the local authority, and the individual (or charitable public) should co-operate in providing the money required for a system of works as a means of solving the problem of the unemployed question, *Hills* 2568 *et seq.*

Suggestion that the able-bodied unworthy poor might be dealt with by a county machinery, who might provide labour colonies where the men must work as a condition of their being fed, *Hills* 2570——Main objects of the proposed Bill to deal with the worthy poor, whether competent or incompetent, *ib.*

Primary importance of the question of the able-bodied worthy poor who are willing to work, but for whom there is no employment, *Hills* 2572——Suggestion that this class be relieved by means of employment to be provided by a joint committee for each district, comprising the local authority, and subscribers to charitable funds, *ib.*

Proposal that the State shall contribute an amount equal to the aggregate subscriptions of the local authority and of charitable subscribers, but not exceeding 1*l.* per cent. of the population of the district, *Hills* 2572, 2573.——Expediency of the administration being entirely local, *ib.* 2572-2574——Very careful administration required as regards relief works, this being a novel experiment on a national scale, and presenting many difficulties, *ib.* 2573.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

RELIEF WORKS—continued.

2. *Scheme of Mr. Hills for a system of Relief Works, &c.*—continued.

Evidence in explanation and support of the proposal that no person should be employed on relief works for more than six days of six hours each in any week, or at a rate of wages exceeding two-thirds of the current rate in the district, *Hills* 2573, 2574. 2765, 2766——Suggestions as to the work being pieced at market rates and measured up, and as to the way in which any profits are to be dealt with; facility in fixing the rates, *ib.* 2573–2576.

Important advantages claimed for the system of piecing the work, with a minimum wage, an incentive being thus given to industry, without introducing overtime, *Hills* 2573, 2574——Simple character of the work (chiefly digging) contemplated under the proposed national scheme; condition to be enforced, as to West Ham, that a certain minimum of labour must be performed, *ib.* 2574–2580. 2647, 2648——Facility of conveying men to and from work near the metropolis by means of cheap trains, greatly to their moral and physical benefit from employment in the open air, *ib.* 2580. 2651, 2652.

Belief that the example set by West Ham and Wanstead Flats could be made applicable generally, witness being prepared to organise (at his own expense) the whole country by the end of November if the scheme advocated by him be sanctioned by Parliament, *Hills* 2585–2589.

Convenience of the administration oft he works being under the borough council, or, rather, local authority, whilst the charitable relief should come under the Poor Law authorities; official staff available in the former case, *Hills* 2592. 2698——Checks upon the maladministration of the joint fund by tho local authority; contemplated power in the State to withhold contributions if not satisfied with the local administration, *ib.* 2594–2598.

Estimate of from 500,000*l.* to 800,000*l.* as the annual contribution by the State; belief that the present State advance of 2,500,000*l.* might be saved, *Hills* 2598, 2599.

Decided objection to payment on the works at the full rate of wages for only three days a week, instead of at a reduced rate for the six days; ample opportunity of the men in the latter case to look out for other employment, *Hills* 2616–2624——Further explanation as to the division ol work and of profits among the men, *ib.* 2625–2630.

Statement to the effect that the fund available for any particular district would not be confined to the amount raised in such district, but might be supplemented out of the county or central fuud, *Hills* 2631-2646——Importance of the principle of getting money's worth in work for the money paid, those not willing to work being eliminated from the scheme, *ib.* 2650–2652——Approval of only two-thirds, or about 2*d.* an hour, being paid in agricultural districts where wages are very low, *ib.* 2653–2657.

Great advantage of the scheme as insuring that competent men may always obtain work and wages without resorting to the Poor Law for relief; nor would it lead to any lower wages in the summer, *Hills* 2663–2666——Conclusion that the poor rates would be decreased by the scheme, rather than increased, *ib*, 2667, 2668.

Difficulty in at once discriminating between a worthy and an unworthy applicant for relief, with a view to the former not being put under disqualification, *Hills* 2676–2680——Varying rate of wages in different localities and industries, it being proposed by witness that the rate under his scheme shall be about one-third less than the normal rate, *ib.* 2701–2710——Necessity of falling back on the existing machinery in auy district where there are no voluntary subscribers, *ib.* 2711, 2712. 2763, 2764.

Further approval of employment being offered on condition that the men who can work must work for their food and living, *Hills* 2713–2717——Denial that there would be competition with ordinary industrial employment. the reduced payment to be offered not inducing men to give up regular work if they can get it, *ib.* 2725–2727. 2749-2752.

Very large amount of work which may be provided round the metropolis and throughout the country in the form of digging, trenching, planting potatoes, &c.; belief that market gardeners and others would not be injuriously affected on the score of competition, *Hills* 2728–2748——Value of the scheme as a means of promoting regularity of employment and preventing deterioration of workmen, *ib.* 2778–2790.

3. *Rate of Payment of Men employed on Relief Works:*

Non-interference by the Local Government Board with the localities respecting the rate of wages paid in the case of loan works, *Sir H. Owen* 695–698.

Evidence to the effect that local committees in providing relief works for the unemployed should pay them the full rate of wages instead of only two-thirds, *Keir-Hardie* 1087–1129.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

RELIEF WORKS—continued.

3. *Rate of Payment of Men employed on Relief Works*—continued.

Much better work and value to be obtained by paying at the union rate, *Alden* 2037——Check upon abuse by not employing labourers for a full day or for a whole week, when a minimum rate of wages, or about 6*d.* an hour, is paid, *ib.* 2088–2097——Consideration of and reply to objections to the proposal that the men for whom work is to be found by the State should be paid the union rate of wages, 6*d.* or 6½*d.* an hour, *ib.* 2157–2168. 2192–2199. 2372–2403. 2424–2441.

Payment of the extra men employed in Islington during the frost at a reduced rate so as not to interfere with employment at the ordinary rate, *Dewey* 3819–3825——Objection to payment at the trades union rate of wages, save by piecework, *Bell* 7923–7926.

4. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally upon the Question of Relief Works for the Unemployed, and of Contributions by the State:*

Urgency of the present crisis so that local relief works would not avail by reason of the delay in their establishment, *Keir-Hardie* 738——Expediency of State aid in the provision of work for those who are unemployed through no fault of their own, *ib.* 1040. 1150. 1217–1221——Local inability to find sufficient work for the unemployed in the large centres of industry, *ib.* 1134, 1135.

Suggestions as to the class of works which Government might promote for the unemployed, and as to the removal of able-bodied men from one part of the country to another, *Hilleary* 1451–1455. 1556-1563——Difficulty in suggesting any scheme for providing sufficient work in such exceptional winters as the present, *Alden* 2335, 2336.

Statement showing that outside the metropolis, but within the County of London, there are large areas of land, as at Plumstead, Hackney, Wandsworth, Poplar, and elsewhere, suitable for cultivation or reclamation upon which men out of work could be usefully, if not profitably, employed in time of distress, *Benn* 3110–3125. 3147–3153. 3266–3277——Explanation that witness is not prepared to offer suggestions as to any scheme for the entire country, though he would favour the principle of a county contribution, *ib.* 3216–3220. 3240–3245.

Inability of witness to suggest any permanent remedy as regards the question of the unemployed and the provision of relief works, *Tagy* 3569–3571.

Grounds for the conclusion that the circular of the Local Government Board as to the several modes of employment to be resorted to during severe winters is not only useless but misleading, *Dewey* 3733-3748——Mischievous effect of the circular in inducing persons to believe that the local authorities are almost bound to provide relief works, *ib.* 3733. 3762, 3763. 3806–3813.

Proposition that it is undesirable to create useless work for the sake of employing the unemployed (out of the rates), inasmuch as this would interfere with regular employment; exception as regards street sweeping, *Dewey* 3746–3752. 3762, 3763——Strong deprecation of the Islington Vestry being a large employer of casual labour on unnecessary work for the sake of giving relief; injury thereby to the smaller and poorer ratepayers, *ib.* 3814-3818. 3827–3843.

Decided opinion that to start relief works for wages in cases of destitution due to decay of trade only tends to aggravate the congestion and to do more harm than good; citation of the relief works at Nottingham in support of this opinion, *Mackay* 5354–5362. 5367–5374. 5419——View of witness that while it is perfectly easy to start as many relief works as can be paid for, and by so doing getting a large number of paupers, the crux of the matter is to get these paupers back into the ranks of industry again, *ib.* 5419-5427.

Conclusion that if every authority in London were to make it known that a certain sum of money had been set aside to spend upon relief works in winter, many people would depend upon that prospect, and so aggravate the conditions of distress, *Mackay* 5432, *et seq.*——Grounds of objection to the suggestion that the wealthy might help the poor by placing money at the disposal of the local authority to be administered in relief works; contention that the want of economical employment should not be concealed, *ib.* 5661, 5662——Opposition of witness to any form of municipal relief work to meet the "unemployed" difficulty, except work which arises in the natural development of the industry of the country, *ib.* 5869–5881.

Opinion that when relief work is provided it should be given by the sanitary authority or local board rather than by the board of guardians; objection to the guardians being called upon to deal with exceptional distress, *Shand* 6028–6032. 6142–6146.

Evidence in support of the conclusion that the municipal authorities should have charge of relief works that are started to meet exceptional distress, rather than the Poor Law authorities, as the former have better means of disposing of the stone, &c., broken,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

RELIEF WORKS—continued.

4. *Conclusions and Suggestions generally upon the Question of Relief Works, &c.*—continued.

broken, and as the stigma of pauperism would not be felt so strongly by the men employed, *Phillips* 6693–6702. 6731–6750. 6788–6790.

Approval of useful works for the unemployed, but not in the form of penal colonies, *Hunter* 8411–8414——Grounds for objecting to relief works either in rural districts or in towns, *Willink* 8708–8713. 8727——Three remedies suggested by witness as a means of providing work for the unemployed, *Hunt* 10181, 10182. 10241–10246.

See also *Abbey Mills. Battersea. Camberwell. Farm and Labour Colonies. Glasgow*, 2. *Hadleigh Farm Colonies. Land, &c. Loans. Mansion House Committee. Metropolis. Reclamation Works. Wandsworth and Clapham Union. Wanstead Flats. West Ham.*

Relieving Officers. Careful inquiry by relieving officers with reference to applications for relief, *Sir H. Owen*, 351–353.

Paper submitted by Sir Hugh Owen, explanatory in detail of the powers of relieving officers, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 557–562.

See also *Out-door Relief.*

REMEDIAL MEASURES:

View of witness that the difficulty arising from want of employment can be met either by drastic changes in the social organisation, or by means of a large number of small reforms and improvements; preference for the latter course, *Dodd* 7487, 7488——Possibility of obtaining many of the reforms recommended without recourse to an Act of Parliament, while others are merely extensions of principles that have already been accepted by the Legislature, *ib.* 7487——Inability of the Committee to make any recommendations applicable to the present juncture or to adopt any plan which Parliament might be expected readily to accept, 1*st Rep.* iv.

Summary of the principal suggestions that have been submitted to the Committee; careful consideration required before any proposal can be adopted, further investigation being necessary, 1*st Rep.* iv, v.

Suggestions and explanations by the various local bodies throughout the United Kingdom, in reply to Circulars from the Central Authority, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App* (3*rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Summary (in Paper submitted by the Chairman of the Committee) of remedies suggested for the relief of distress, as well as for the creation of work for the unemployed, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 805, 806.

Reference to the various schemes laid before the Committee by Mr. Hills, Mr. Mather, the Salvation Army, the Church Army, and others, all of them evincing great care and thought in elaboration as being unavoidably left without the full consideration they deserve; that is, through the sudden Dissolution of Parliament, 3*rd Rep.* v.

Suggested re-appointment of the Select Committee with a view to further inquiry and to the recommendation of some remedial measures for the relief of the deserving and industrious poor, 3*rd Rep.* v.

See also *Agriculture. Allotments. Boards of Guardians. Church Army. Colonisation. Farm and Labour Colonies. Hours of Labour. Land (Acquisition by Boards of Guardians). Local Authorities. Local Government Board. Metropolis. Migration of Labour. Out-door Relief. Poor Law System. Relief Works. Salvation Army. State Aid. Trade Depression. Trade Unions. West Ham.*

Renfrew. Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 772.

Rhymney. Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Richmond (Surrey). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 439.

Ripon (York). Official explanations, in February, as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 215.

Rochdale. Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 62.

Rochester (Kent). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough, in February 1895; adoption of certain relief measures, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 264.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Rochford (*Essex*). Limited exceptional distress in this district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 322.

Romford (*Essex*). Absence of exceptional distress in Romford Urban District, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 103——Sufficiency of voluntary agencies, in the rural district, during the severe weather, *ib.* 461.

Ross (*Hereford*). Very little exceptional distress in the Ross Rural District in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 322.

Rotherham (*York*). Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 416.

Rotherhithe. Particulars supplied by the vestry clerk, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 122, 123.——*See* also *St. Olave's Union.*

Row (*Dumbarton*). Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 666.

Rowley Regis Urban District (*Stafford*). Moderate amount of local distress, fully coped with by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 103.

Royton (*Lancaster*). Exceptional distress in the urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measure of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 282.

Rugby (*Warwick*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 323.

Rugby. Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 230.

Runcorn (*Chester*). Amount of distress in the urban district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 172——Amount and cause of the distress in the rural district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 392, 393.

Rural Districts. Explanations submitted by boards of guardians and local authorities throughout England and Wales, in February, March, and April 1895, as to the extent and character of the distress in the various rural districts, and as to the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 112–120. 182–201. 239–255. 288–302. 316–324. 335–339. 365–368. 372–375. 378–380. 383, 384. 386, 387. 390, 391. 396 *et seq.*

Summary (in Paper submitted by the Chairman of the Committee) of returns, (England and Wales), showing the amount of distress reported as existing in country districts in February 1895, and the causes to which due, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 803.

Conclusions drawn from the returns as to the comparative absence of distress in rural districts, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 804. 820.

List of rural districts making complaints respecting distress through agricultural depression, stoppage of employment through the frost, &c., *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 807–812. 816.

Local communications from rural parishes in Scotland explanatory of the amount of local distress, the relief measures adopted, &c., *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

See also *Agriculture. Allotments. Bradfield Union. Farm and Labour Colonies. Migration of Labour. Provincial Districts. Relief Works.*

Russia. Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain industries in each of the years 1880–90, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 511.

Rutherglen (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk of the burgh respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 667——Amount of distress in Rutherglen parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *ib.* 740.

Ruthven (*Banff*). Statement as to the amount of distress in this parish, and the means adopted for its alleviation, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 652.

S.

Saffron Walden (*Essex*). Explanations, in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 143.

St. Albans (*Herts*). Information respecting the extent of the distress in the municipal borough, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 76——Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *ib.* 459.

St. Cuthbert's Combination (*Edinburgh*). Amount of distress in this parish, through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 680.

St. Faith's Rural District (*Norfolk*). Practical absence of exceptional distress in this district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 323.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:

1. *Explanations respecting the Extent and Character of the Distress and the Action of the Poor Law Authorities as regards Out-door Relief, &c.; strict Administration in the Parish.*
2. *Information as to the Operations of the Charity Organisation Society; beneficial Results claimed.*

1. *Explanations respecting the extent and Character of the Distress and the Action of the Poor Law Authorities as regards Out-door Relief, &c.; strict Administration in the Parish:*

Satisfactory letter from St. George's-in-the-East on 6th February; virtual discontinuance of out-door relief in this parish, *Sir H. Owen* 90——Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *ib.* 200.

Considerable distress in St. George's-in-the-East, though up to a recent date there was no material increase in the applications for relief; beneficial operation of some charity agencies, *Sir H. Owen* 327–336——Different practice respecting out-door relief in St. George's-in-the-East, as compared with St. Olave's and Camberwell; strict administration of the poor law in the former union, charitable organisations being also in operation, *ib.* 406–415.

Very exceptional and strict administration of poor relief in St. George's-in-the-East, valuable co-operation on the part of charitable organisations, *Sir H. Owen* 671–674.

Conclusion that there are fewer sporadic relief works in St. George's-in-the-East than elsewhere, *Mackay* 5616–5620——Possibility that the deaths from starvation or privation in St. George's amount to about one-tenth of the total for London, although the population is only one-eightieth of the whole population; particulars of a case where out-relief was applied for at St. George's Union, and refused, *ib.* 5699–5705.

Disagreement with statement that the poor have been largely forced into the workhouses; inaccuracy of Dr. Hunter's figures, so far as St. George's Union is concerned *Mackay* 5795–5798——Contention that the poor in St. George's-in-the-East are more independent than they were fifteen years ago, and that on the whole there is less poverty there, *ib.* 5832–5838.

Belief that the poor of St. George's-in-the-East did not suffer more than usual this winter until the frost came, when the exceptional distress was due to the exceptional severity of the weather, *Martineau* 6815, 6816.

View of witness that out-door relief would have had very little effect in St. George's, and might have done harm; reduction in pauperism in the district since out-door relief was given up, *Martineau* 6821 *et seq.*——Doubt as to any real starvation cases occurring in the parish; personal inquiries of witness as to whether the children in the board school have had breakfast before they come to school, *ib.* 6823. 6896–6899.

Increase of frugality and independence in St. George's since the cessation of out-door relief; certainty that there is as much or more poverty in Bethnal Green, where out-door relief is given, *Martineau* 6824–6826. 6847, 6848. 6876 *et seq.*

Opinion that out-door relief should never be given in St. George's, all forms of relief works being mistaken methods of helping the poor; disposition of witness to rely on the Charity Organisation Society and the local charities to meet exceptional distress, *Martineau* 6828–6836. 6860, *et seq.*; 6885–6893. 6922–6932.

Arrears of rent due to the East End Dwellings Company scarcely larger this winter than they have been in previous winters, *Martineau* 6837–6840——Belief that the poor have not suffered on account of the refusal to excuse their rates, *ib.* 6853–6856.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST—continued.

1. *Explanations respecting the Extent and Character of the Distress, &c.*—contd.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893 94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

2. *Information as to the Operations of the Charity Organisation Society; beneficial Results claimed:*

Detailed explanation of the exceptional system pursued by the Charity Organisation Society in co-operation with the Poor Law in St. George's-in-the-East (where there is no labour yard) for the relief of the unemployed, *Mackay* 5327 *et seq.*

Statement that, of the twenty applicants who came to the Society for relief during the last three months, three were relieved unconditionally, being clubmen, eight accepted the Society's conditions and went into the workhouse, and nine refused the conditions, *Mackay* 5329–5342.

Evidence to the effect that the reason why so few of the unemployed applied to the Society in St. George's during the recent frost was because of the large amount of charitable relief given throughout the parish; belief that where there is extra depression there will be extra charity, *Mackay* 5375–5378. 5518–5541. 5608 *et seq.*; 5643–5647. 5765.

Argument as to the beneficial operation of the Charity Organisation Society in the parish as tending to make the people more self-reliant, *Mackay* 5436 *et seq.*; 5640 *et seq.*

Conclusion that the ways and means of relieving those in distress in St. George's were sufficient, help having been given by the Charity Organisation Society and by both the Church of England and Dissenting clergy, *Martineau* 6817-6820.

St. George's (*Hanover Square*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 198, 199.

Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 25th February 1895, respecting the distress in the parish and the employment and relief works provided by the vestry, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 303.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893-94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524-533.

St. George Urban District (*Gloucester*). Amount of distress in this district previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 425.

St. Germans Rural District (*Cornwall*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in this district during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 452.

St. Giles-in-the-Fields and St. George, Bloomsbury. Absence of any exceptional distress during the recent winter months in the parishes of St. Giles-in the-Fields and St. George, Bloomsbury, *Sir H. Owen* 90——Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, in St. Giles parish as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *ib.* 192—— Absence of exceptional distress in St. Giles; employment provided by the District Board of Works, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 123.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen, showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

St. Helens (*Lancashire*). Particulars supplied by the town clerk, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 130, 131.

St. Ives (*Cornwall*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 264.

St. James, Westminster. Letter from the vestry clerk, dated 25th February 1895, as to the extent of the distress in the parish and the relief provided by the vestry and by voluntary societies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 304, 305.

St. Luke (*Middlesex*). Letter from the chairman of the vestry, dated 25th February 1895, as to the extent of distress in the parish and the employment provided by the vestry, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 305.

St. Margaret and St. John (*Westminster*). Limited amount of distress, save during the frost; employment provided by the local authorities, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 456.

Return

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

St. Margaret and St. John (Westminster)—continued.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 524–533.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Considerable amount of employment given by the vestry during the severe weather; absence of exceptional distress, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 394.

St. Mary (Newington). Letter from the chairman of the vestry, dated 25th February 1895, relative to the steps taken by the vestry in order to provide employment for those in want of relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 305.

ST. OLAVE'S UNION (SOUTHWARK):

1. *Considerable Extent of St. Olave's Union.*
2. *Abnormal Increase of Poor Relief in St. Olave's as compared with other Metropolitan Unions; several Causes of the Local Distress and Want of Employment.*
3. *Stoneyard; Particulars as to its Administration, the Facilities as to Admission, Numbers Employed, Rate of Pay, and Total Cost.*
4. *Employment irrespective of the Stoneyard.*
5. *Workhouse Accommodation.*
6. *Rates.*
7. *Equalisation of Rates Act and Common Poor Fund.*
8. *Details respecting the Amount and Cost of Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively.*
9. *Lunacy.*
10. *Vagrants.*
11. *Regulations generally as regards the Administration of In-door and Out-door Relief.*

1. *Considerable Extent of St. Olave's Union:*

Explanation that the Union comprises five parishes, part of the Borough of Southwark; that is, St. John, Horselydown; St. Thomas, Southwark; St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey; St. Olave, Southwark; and St. Mary, Rotherhithe, *Fenton* 2802, 2803.

2. *Abnormal Increase of Poor Relief in St. Olave's as compared with other Metropolitan Unions; several Causes of the Local Distress and Want of Employment:*

Letter from St. Olave's, dated 1st February, together with reports from relieving officers, as to the extent and causes of local distress; very much larger increase of applications since that date than in any other Union in London, *Sir H. Owen* 100–108 ——Abnormal increase of relief in St. Olave's Union, careful inquiry being now made into all cases; special causes to which the distress is owing, *ib.* 226–234. 237–245. 344–348.

Distress mainly due to depression in the leather and tanning trades and the want of work at the riverside and the docks; belief that the number of unemployed from these causes is increasing yearly, *Fenton* 2806–2808. 2812–2830—— Tendency to increased want of employment where manufactories and places of business are removed, as in making the approaches to the Tower Bridge, *ib.* 3007–3009.

Letter from Mr. E. Bayley, dated 27th February 1895, to the effect that the local distress is temporary and occasioned mainly by the frost; relief provided by the district board and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 340——Limited number of names on the unemployed register, *ib.*

Opinions as to the extent and cause of distress in the several districts of the union, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 472.

Return in reply to inquiries of Local Government Board as to the extent and causes of distress in the union and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 478.

3. *Stoneyard; Particulars as to its Administration, the Facilities as to Admission, Numbers Employed, Rate of Pay, and Total Cost:*

Information as to the operation of a stoneyard in St. Olave's, the pay being at the rate of 6*d.* an hour; exclusion, after a time, of men from outside parishes, *Sir H. Owen* 104–128.——Case of St. Olave's Union further adverted to in connection with the employment and rate of payment given for a time to outsiders, the increase of relief being very startling, *ib.* 374, 375. 406–410.

Considerable distress in the several districts in the Union during the winter, through want of employment, so that the guardians decided on the opening of a stoneyard, on 7th January, work being offered therein at certain rates of wages, *Fenton* 2804 *et seq.*

St. Olave's Union (*Southwark*)—continued.

3. *Stoneyard; Particulars as to its Administration, &c.*—continued.

——Information as to the conditions under which the stoneyard is in operation, the restrictions as to admission, the amount of work required to be done, and the rate of payment in money and in kind, the total representing 3*s.* 6*d.* per man per day, *Fenton* 2832 *et seq.*

Limit of residence not imposed for the first few days, so that there was a large influx from outside districts; steps taken for the removal of this difficulty, witness having previously closed the stoneyard on his own responsibility till some remedies could be adopted, *Fenton* 2833–2836. 2871–2873. 2919–2923. 2966–2968.

Varying number of days in the week for which different classes may work in the stoneyard, *Fenton* 2838, 2839. 2931, 2932——Very large increase of staff in connection with the stoneyard and with the great increase of out-door relief, *ib.* 2846–2857. 2948–2950. 3037–3042.

Particulars as to the numbers relieved through the stoneyard and the total cost, the numbers in one day having reached 1,759; comparison with the number of out-door poor in previous winters, *Fenton* 2858–2870. 2901–2909. 2914–2918. 2957–2959——Recent decision of the guardians that men residing in common lodging-houses should be eligible for admission to the stoneyard, whereas these may not be genuine residents, *ib.* 2924–2929——Letter from the Local Government Board, on 8th January, as to the conditions on which approval is given to the opening of the stoneyard, *ib.* 2930–2932.

Difficulty in obtaining a fair day's work in return for the wages paid, even from those who are really capable and able-bodied, a large proportion of whom shirk the labour as much as possible, in spite of the increased staff and supervision, *Fenton* 2933–2940. 2950. 2955, 2956. 3028–3040. 3046–3054. 3061.

Information as to the cost of the granite obtained for the stoneyard, the large increase therein, and the unprofitable results of the system, *Fenton* 2941–2947. 2960–2963. 3021–3027——Objectionable results from the payment of so much as 3*s.* 6*d.* a day in the stoneyard; demoralising effects of the system, *ib.* 2975–2985. 2998–3001. 3046–3054.

Particulars as to the opening of the stoneyard, which was decided upon somewhat hurriedly at the beginning of the year; details as to the rate of pay and the number of days per week for which different classes of men were allowed to work, *Shand* 5931 *et seq.*; 5967 *et seq.*; 6083–6115.

Submission by witness of a return showing the number of men employed in the stoneyard each day that it was open, the maximum being 1,759 on the 21st February; considerable increase also in the out-door relief given at the houses, *Shand* 5940 *et seq.*; 6051–6059.

Approval of a large system of out-door relief, if it be given judiciously and carefully; admission that the out-door relief in connection with the stoneyard was not altogether judiciously managed, although the intention was good, *Shand* 5246 *et seq.*; 6154-6173.

Estimate that every ton of stone broken in the stoneyard this year costs the union 7*l.*, the actual breaking costing 4*l.* 6*s.*, and the superintendence and material, &c., 2*l.* 14*s.* per ton, whereas 5*s.* would probably be a fair price for breaking a ton of stone under ordinary conditions; protest made by witness to every member of the board against the continuance of this expenditure, *Shand* 5989 *et seq.*; 6015–6018. 6033–6050. 6083–6115. 6125–6131.

Impossibility of so supervising the stonebreaking in the labour yard as to compel the men to do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, there being such a great variety of men there; general disapproval of stoneyard relief work, *Shand* 6006–6014. 6077–6083. 6132 *et seq.*

Return of the number of men employed daily in the out-door labour yard in January and February 1895; total of 38,390; *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 472.

Return of callings and occupations of men in the labour yard for the two weeks ended 20th February 1895; aggregate of 1,915; *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 475——Total of 241 general labourers and of 977 waterside labourers, *ib.*

Return, dated 31st January 1895, as to inquiries made by relieving officers respecting men applying for orders for the labour yard, distinguishing between the several districts, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 478.

Regulations in force as to employment in the out-door labour yard, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 479.

Additional staff employed in consequence of the opening of the out-door labour yards; total of 87; *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 491.

4. *Employment*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

St. Olave's Union (Southwark)—continued.

4. *Employment irrespective of the Stoneyard:*

Other sources of employment resorted to in St. Olave's besides work in the stoneyard; special employment provided also by the vestries of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, *Fenton* 2953, 2954. 2991-2997. 3002–3005.

Evidence to the effect that in order to lessen the distress during the winter the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe vestries employed a number of men in picking up the roads and on sewer work, *Shand* 6019–6025.

Number of men employed by the Bermondsey Vestry on the snowfalls from 13th January to 2nd February 1895; total of 2,089; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 491.

5. *Workhouse Accommodation:*

Explanation that steps have not been taken to increase the workhouse accommodation in St. Olave's, as it was thought that the Report of the Royal Commission on Aged Poor would recommend more out-door relief, and that no increased accommodation would be required, *Shand* 5926–5930.

Belief that the form headed "London Pauperism and Distress" is filled up regularly by the masters of the workhouses and transmitted to the Board of Trade, *Shand* 6060–6068.

Memorandum by the clerk respecting in-door accommodation, submitting details on various points in connection with the different workhouses, the cost involved, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 499–508.

Particulars respecting the workhouses and infirmary, with details as to the expenditure on Parish-street workhouse, Tanner-street workhouse, and Rotherhithe workhouse, and upon the infirmary since 1874; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 502–508.

Reports by Mr. T. Barnes-Williams in December 1888 and July 1891, and by Mr. A. H. Newman on April 1889 and October 1891, upon the condition of Tanner-street workhouse, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 503, 504.

Statistics and calculations submitted by the clerk of the union upon the subject of new and improved workhouse accommodation in connection with the abandonment of Tanner-street workhouse, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 505–508.

Suggestions by the clerk on the subject of an improved classification, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 505.

6. *Rates:*

Amount of the rates in Bermondsey and other parishes in the union; poor rate of 2*s.* 10*d.* in Bermondsey (the total rate being 7*s.*) and of about 2*s.* in the other parishes, *Fenton* 2895–2900. 3006——Explanation in connection with the rates in St. Olave's, these having advanced from 5*s.* 10*d.* to 6*s.* 4*d.* since the equalisation, *Benn* 3094–3099. 3105.

Amount of poor rate and of general rate in the several districts of St. John, St. Olave, St. Thomas, Bermondsey, and Rotherhithe, in each year ended Lady-day 1891–95; *App.* (*2nd. Rep.*) 490.

7. *Equalisation of Rates Act and Common Poor Fund:*

Statement that the vestry of St. Olave's have to pay something like 1,000*l.* a year under the Equalisation of Rates Act (London), *Shand* 6069–6076.

Information as regards the loss from Metropolitan Common Poor Fund and grant from London County Council, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 502.

8. *Details respecting the Amount and Cost of Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively:*

Statistics of the annual cost of out-door relief in the union since 1873; very large increase since 1884, whilst the numbers have been practically the same, the policy of the board of guardians having then been changed in favour of more liberal relief, *Fenton* 2879–2894. 2910–2913. 2969–2974. 3010–3020——New development of policy on the part of the board some years ago, tending to a more extensive use of out-door relief, *Shand* 5922–5925.

Return of the number of out-door poor relieved in each week of the Michaelmas half-year of 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1894, together with the cost of relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 473——Similar return for the Lady-day half-year, *ib.*

Return of the number of in-door poor relieved in the Michaelmas half-year, 1891–94, and in the Lady-day half-year, 1892–95; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 474.

Total annual expenditure on out-relief for each year ending Lady-day 1873–94, and for the forty-six weeks ending Lady-day 1895; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 474. 484.

Return distinguishing between the number of not able-bodied, able-bodied, and children who received out-relief in Michaelmas and Lady-day half years since 1891; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 482–484.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

St. Olave's Union (*Southwark*)—continued.

8. *Details respecting the Amount and Cost of Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively*—continued.

Number of in-door poor relieved in each half-year since Michaelmas half-year 1891, distinguishing between not able-bodied, able-bodied, and children, and showing the number of men and women, respectively, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 485–487.

Statement of the number of each class of indoor paupers relieved on 1st January in each of the years 1884–95; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 492, 493—— Similar particulars respecting indoor paupers on 1st July in each year, *ib.*

Statements of the number of each class of out-door paupers relieved on the 1st January and on the 1st July in each year from 1884 to 1895; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 494, 495.

Return submitted by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of indoor and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

9. *Lunacy:*

Increase of lunacy in St. Olave's, the actual expenditure on pauper lunatics for the half-year to Michaelmas 1894 having been 5,375*l.*, and the estimated expenditure for the half-year to Michaelmas 1895 being 5,590*l.*; *Shand* 6116–6124.

10. *Vagrants:*

Return respecting vagrants relieved on the night of Friday in the years 1891 to 1894, and on Friday in each week from 4th January to 15th February 1895; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 477.

11. *Regulations generally as regards the Administration of In-door and Out-door Relief:*

Statement showing the out-door labour yard regulations, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 479.

Regulations for the administration of out-door relief generally, for the guidance of guardians and officers, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 496–498——Definition of the classes excluded from receiving out-door relief, *ib.* 496.

Information in detail as to regulations in force in connection with the administration of relief, classification of inmates, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 499–508.

See also *Camberwell.*

St. Pancras. Considerable difficulty in St. Pancras through the numerous applications for help on the part of the unemployed; co-operation with other boards of guardians in order to urge Government to take steps to deal with the unemployed question, *Sir H. Owen* 128–130——Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work, or of relief for the unemployed, *ib.* 194.

Instance in the case of St. Pancras of the unnecessarily large expense now thrown upon the rates in order to find employment, *Hills* 2745–2747.

Particulars supplied by the vestry clerk, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 123, 124.

Return submitted by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

St. Saviour's (*Southwark*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 204, 205.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

St. Thomas (*Devon*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 299.

St. Vigeans (*Forfar*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 708.

Sale (*Chester*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 231.

Salford. Letter from the Town Clerk of Salford, dated 25th February 1895, explanatory of the measures adopted for the relief of the local distress, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 309.

Salisbury. Amount and cause of distress; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 446.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

SALVATION ARMY:

Evidence to the effect that until 1890 the Salvation Army had been conducting a strictly religious work amongst the poor of this and other countries, but that in that year General Booth published a book explaining his special plan for the relief of the unemployed, *B. Booth* 9821, 9822. 9929 *et seq.*

Information respecting the city colony operations of the Salvation Army, which were instituted in order to give immediate help to the workless man; schedule of the various shelters for homeless men and women handed in, *B. Booth* 9832 *et seq.*——Advantage of the shelters in affording an opportunity of coming into contact with and advising the individual sufferers, and of classifying them, *ib.* 9836.

Employment of between 1,300 and 1,400 men and women in the city colony, the majority of them being engaged in dealing with the waste material that is collected from house to house, *B. Booth* 9836, 9837——Particulars as to the time the men stay in the labour factories, 20 per cent. remaining for less than a month, half of whom are thoroughly idle, worthless fellows, who will not work, and 11 per cent. working their way up until they become gangers over the other men, *ib.* 9839.

Payment of the men in the labour factories by means of tickets, having a money value, according to the amount of work done; signature by the men entering the labour colony of a copy of the regulations, which are similar to those for the farm colony, *B. Booth* 9840, 9841.

Success of the homes for fallen women, instituted in connection with the city colony, about 1,500 women being received annually, 75 per cent. of whom are permanently and satisfactorily reclaimed, *B. Booth* 9841.

Encouraging results of the special methods of dealing with purely criminal men, who are treated separately, but on much the same principles as ordinary workless men; belief that 86 per cent. of them are earning an honest living two years after leaving the home for criminals, *B. Booth* 9841 *et seq.*

Statement that money grants, instead of food, are made to married men who come to the city colony, and that the amount given there is just sufficient to keep them from the workhouse and despair, *B. Booth* 9842, 9843.

Estimate that about 8 per cent. of the men received into the criminal home last year belonged to the professional classes, 30 per cent. to the commercial classes, 30 per cent. were skilled mechanics, and 32 per cent. unskilled workers, *B. Booth* 9844——Average stay of the criminals in the home about six months, or a little more; practice of the Salvation Army to find these men situations (telling their history to the employers), and to keep touch with them, *ib.* 9845, 9846.

Evidence to the effect that after a man has been trained and disciplined a little in the city colony he is transferred to the farm colony to be fitted for transplantation across the sea, *B. Booth* 9847 *et seq.*

Principle on which the city colony was founded that the main cost of the undertaking must be provided by the persons benefited, and any margin supplied by the public must be such as can be regarded as a reasonable economic investment, thus being the very opposite of the poor law system, *B. Booth* 9877. 9939–9941.

Financial statement in regard to the city colony, the expenditure last year amounting to 73,000*l.*, and the receipts, either in labour or money, to 70,000*l.*, so that all that was required from a benevolent public for sheltering and receiving thousands of persons in the labour factories was only 3,000*l.*, *B. Booth* 9877–9881. 10083 *et seq.*

Experience of witness that the sheltering and feeding of the unemployed pays for itself virtually, but that the temporary employment of men and women results in a loss; attention drawn to the fact, however, that a large proportion of the persons temporarily employed are thereby restored to work and livelihood, *B. Booth* 9880. 10083 *et seq.*

Denial of the accusation that there has been any under-selling in the wood-chopping and metal-making business of the city colony; explanation that the match-making business was simply taken up to benefit the matchbox-makers, who are generally women and children, and has not been very successful financially, *B. Booth* 9911–9913. 10110–10127.

Attention called to the small amount required by the Salvation Army from the charitable public in order to make up the deficiency of their shelters, homes, &c.; explanation that they pay no wages, but adopt the truck system, *Hunt* 10395–10400.

Schedule of the various shelters for homeless men and women, showing the extent and nature of the accommodation, the food supplied, and the character of men using the shelters, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 543.

Return of food and shelter section of the Darkest England Scheme for twelve months ended 30th November 1894; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 544.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Salvation Army—continued.

Analysis of the trades of 222 men working in connection with the Darkest England Scheme in February 1895; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 545.

See also *Colonisation. Hadleigh Farm Colony.*

Samford (*Suffolk*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 300.

Sanitary Authorities. Explanation of the circumstances and conditions under which the Local Government Board have favoured co-operation between the guardians and the sanitary authorities as regards work for the deserving unemployed; benefits anticipated in some cases, *Sir H. Owen* 422-425. 491-515.

See also *Local Authorities. Metropolis*, 8. *Vestries.*

Savings (*Working Classes*). Mischievous operation of the system by which, when industrious and well-conducted artizans are thrown out of employment (as by the introduction of improved machinery), they live for a time in enforced idleness upon their savings, and upon the help received from friendly societies and trade unions, *Mather* 8975.——*See* also *Wages.*

Scarborough. Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 143.

Scotland:

Impression that England has, relatively, less pauperism than Scotland, though there is no out-door relief in the latter country, *Sir H. Owen* 263–267.

Official reports available for the Committee as to the state of the labour market and the extent of distress in all the centres of population in Scotland, *1st Rep. p.* 41.

Probability that some of the larger towns in Scotland would make application under a system of free grants, though local efforts have generally been sufficient in Scotch towns, *Keir-Hardie* 1142–1149.

Different provisions and conditions as to out-door and in-door relief in Scotland as compared with England; practically, destitution is the test of admission on the in-door roll or out-door roll in Scotland, *Motion* 8093–8101. 8175–8190——Absence of obligation upon the Scotch Poor Law authorities to provide employment for those in distress, destitution being the test of relief, *ib.* 8144–8146.

Grounds for the conclusion that the question of dealing with the able-bodied or unemployed poor in large parishes in Scotland should be under the control of the Poor Law authorities, the parish councils taking the initiative by applying to the Local Government Board for authority and directions as regards exceptional relief, *Motion* 8147-8151. 8237-8243. 8250, 8251. 8256–8259.

Opinion that the respectable unemployed in Scotland would not feel degraded by employment on relief works; assistance given privately to many of these during the distress, *Motion* 8164–8167. 8199–8203——Several causes of the destitution which prevails in some parts of Scotland, drunkenness being one cause, and early and indiscriminate marriages another, *ib.* 8211–8215.

Conclusion that, not only in Glasgow, but in most other Scotch towns, sufficient funds can be raised locally for feeding the people in times of distress from want of employment, but that the proper course is to remove, if possible, the causes of the distress, *Hunter* 8323–8328. 8358–8364 —— Low wages in the rural districts, in addition to want of employment; inaccuracy of a statement that in some localities ploughmen receive 22*s.* a week, with a house, *ib.* 8337–8342.

Desirability of amending the Poor Law of Scotland, under which no relief is given to able-bodied persons, and people have to inflict some wound upon themselves in order to obtain it; disapproval of the Poor Law system altogether, *Morton* 11038–11040.

Analysis of the returns, as received from 204 burghs, showing that in 140 no exceptional distress existed; total of 151 burghs in which relief measures were taken, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 503.

Summary of returns made by the inspectors of the poor, showing for each county the total number of parishes, the number in which there was no exceptional distress, the number in which there was distress due to different causes, and the number in which measures were taken to meet the distress, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 504.

Circular letter, dated 20th February 1895, addressed by the Local Government Board for Scotland to the local authorities throughout Scotland as to the extent and cause of local distress and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565.

Letters received from town clerks (burghs), and from inspectors of poor (parishes), submitting explanations in reply to the foregoing, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Inability

Scotland—continued.

Inability of the Committee to consider the special circumstances of Scotland, 3*rd Rep.* v.

See also *Glasgow.*

Self-help. Proposition that any method dealing with the problem of the unemployed should aim at securing for every man self-respect and self-help, *Hunt* 10146.

Settle Rural District (*York*). Absence of exceptional distress from want of employment, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 459.

Sevenoaks (*Kent*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the urban district and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 232——Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *ib.* 459.

Shaftesbury (*Dorset*). Absence of exceptional distress from want of employment in this rural district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 455.

Shand, Augustus. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is chairman of the St. Olave's Board of Works; has been a member of the board between eight and nine years, 5919–5921.

New development of policy on the part of the board some years ago, tending to a more extensive use of out-door relief, 5922–5925——Explanation that steps have not been taken to increase the workhouse accommodation in St. Olave's, as it was thought that the Report of the Royal Commission on Aged Poor would recommend more out-door relief, and that no increased accommodation would be required, 5926–5930.

Particulars as to the opening of the stoneyard, which was decided upon somewhat hurriedly at the beginning of the year; details as to the rate of pay and the number of days per week for which men with various responsibilities were allowed to work, 5931 *et seq.*; 5967 *et seq.*; 6083–6115——Submission by witness of a Return showing the number of men employed in the stoneyard each day that it was open, the maximum being 1,759 on the 21st February; considerable increase also in the out-door relief given at the houses, 5940 *et seq.*; 6051–6059.

Approval of a large system of out-door relief, if it be given judiciously and carefully; admission that the out-door relief in connection with the stoneyard was not altogether judiciously managed, although the intention was good, 5946 *et seq.*; 6154–6173——Estimate that every ton of stone broken in the St. Olave's Union stoneyard this year cost the union 7*l.*, the actual breaking costing 4*l.* 6*s.*, and the superintendence, material, &c., 2*l.* 14*s.* per ton, whereas 5*s.* would probably be a fair price for breaking a ton of stone under ordinary conditions; protest made by witness to every member of the board against the continuance of this expenditure, 5989 *et seq.*; 6015–6018. 6033–6050. 6083–6115. 6125–6131.

Impossibility of so supervising the stone-breaking in the labour yard as to compel the men to do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, there being such a great variety of men there; general disapproval of stoneyard relief work, 6006–6014. 6077–6083. 6132 *et seq.*——Evidence to the effect that in order to lessen the distress during the winter the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Vestries employed a number of men in picking up the roads and on sewer work, 6019–6025.

Opinion that any relief work should be given by the sanitary authority or local board, rather than by the board of guardians; objection to the guardians being called upon to deal with exceptional distress, 6028–6032. 6142–6146——Belief that the form headed "London Pauperism and Distress" is filled up regularly by the masters of the workhouses, and transmitted to the Board of Trade, 6060–6068.

Statement that the vestry of St. Olave's have to pay something like 1,000*l.* a year under the Equalisation of Rates Act, 6069–6076——Increase of lunacy in St. Olave's, the actual expenditure on pauper lunatics for the half-year to Michaelmas 1894 having been 5,375*l.*, and the estimated expenditure for the half-year to Michaelmas 1895 being 5,590*l.*; 6116–6124——Experience of witness that the stoneyard work is very demoralising to the men and a very great deterrent to their getting honest work, 6147–6153.

Shardlow (*Derby and Nottingham*). Slight exceptional distress in this rural distress, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 466.

Sheffield. Information supplied in report by Inspector of poor as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 50——Letter from the town clerk, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *ib.* 62.

Shelters (*Metropolis*). See *Church Army. Salvation Army.*

Shepton Mallet. Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 412.

Shifnal (*Salop and Stafford*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in this rural district during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 460.

Shildon and East Thickley (*Durham*). Limited amount of distress in this district at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 364.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades. Demand for really good men in the shipbuilding business in London, competent workmen finding regular employment, *Hills* 2690–2697.

Effect of cyclical fluctuations chiefly in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, *Smith* 4547, 4587——Small seasonal fluctuations in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, *ib.* 4580.

Chart explanatory of the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations, *3rd Rep. p. 52.*

Calculations based upon the variations in the amount per head paid by certain trade unions for unemployed benefit over a period of years; confirmation thereby of other figures as to the cyclical fluctuations in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, which were much worse in 1893 and 1894 than in 1889 and 1890, *Smith* 4596–4608 ——Reference to the statistics of fluctuation in the shipbuilding trade as obtained through the Board of Trade Inspectors, *ib.* 4730.

List of places making complaint with reference to distress through depression in the shipbuilding trade, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 807–812. 816——Complaints from five districts on this score, *ib.* 816. 820.

Lower proportion of unemployed in shipbuilding and engineering in January and February, on an average of the years 1887–93, than in the autumn months; improvement of late in the shipbuilding trade, *Smith* 4778-4784.

Shipley (*York*). Exceptional distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities for its relief as well as by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 383.

Shirley and Freemantle (*Hants*). Amount of distress in this urban district previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 425.

Shop-fitting. Work in the special trade of shop-fitting fairly continuous throughout the year, a certain amount of export trade tending to equalise it; slight increase of employment in this branch in the winter when the shops are being fitted up for the summer season, *Aves* 10881–10883.

Shoreditch. Absence of exceptional distress in Shoreditch and Hoxton, *Sir H. Owen* 130–132——Exceptional distress existing in February, the vestry doing their utmost to provide employment, this being very inadequate, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 205.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Shotts (*Lanark*). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 740.

Shrewsbury. Letter from the mayor of Shrewsbury, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 76.

Skegness (*Lincoln*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 173.

Skilled Labour. Statistics obtainable to a certain extent through the trades unions as to the number of persons engaged in the skilled trades, *Smith* 4790–4797. 4808, 4809.

Skipton (*York*). Local information as to the amount of distress in the rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 250——Information as to the amount and cause of the distress in the urban district in February 1895, and as to the measure of relief provided, *ib.* 283.

Sleaford (*Lincoln*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 105.

Small Holdings (*Agriculture*). Conviction that the salvation of England in the future lies in small holdings, which may be made very profitable, while large holdings can never be made to pay; advantage of the allotment that it can be extended into the small holding, *Tuckwell* 6970 *et seq.*; 7043-7057. 7074 *et seq.*; 7442–7455. 7470–7476.

Attention drawn to the fact that there are numerous crops, for which there is a large demand, and which are being imported at great cost from France and Belgium, whilst they can be grown on small holdings in this country, *Tuckwell* 6971–6973. 7058–7060.

Opinion that the Small Holdings Act is even less likely to lead to the acquisition of small holdings by the agricultural community than the clauses in the recent Act, because

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Small Holdings (*Agriculture*)—continued.

because of the extraordinary difficulty in getting land under the Act, *Tuckwell* 7079 *et seq.*; 7246, 7247——Difficulty anticipated as regards the purchase of small quantities of land at a reasonable price in or near villages, *ib.* 7081–7085.

See also *Allotments.*

Smart, Bolton. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is Honorary Secretary to the Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed; is also a Poor Law Guardian of Stepney, and a member of the Vestry of Ratcliffe, 11194–11196.

Brief outline of the origin and operation of the scheme carried out by the Mansion House Committee, which was specially formed in 1893 to deal with the dock labour question, 11197 *et seq.*

Acceptance by the committee of the offer made by the London County Council of about thirty acres of waste land at Abbey Mills, at a rent fixed upon the basis of out-of-pocket expenditure, in order to provide an efficient test of work for the casual element, 11199.

Production by witness of a form upon which the case of the applicant for help was taken down, a necessary condition being that the man must have been at the least a waterside labourer; thorough inquiry, including visitation of the home, made into each case before help was granted, 11199–11201——Information as to the mode of procedure and management of the works at Abbey Mills, the men when being taken on receiving a work ticket, with the rules printed on the back (copy of which is handed in); object of the scheme to provide for the permanent reinstatement of the men in some kind of work, 11202–11205. 11362, 11363.

Statement that out of the 372 applicants who were entered on the case papers in the first year 224 finished their period of test work; explanation that the test period was fourteen days, at the end of which time the men came before the committee and presented their schemes for settlement, either for migration, emigration, or in some other way, 11206–11210.

Particulars of the 372 applicants for help, 228 of them having been born in London and only two in the country; conclusion that the country-born man gets a good position when he comes to London and pushes out a town man, 11211–11216. 11400 *et seq.*

Statistics showing that 189 of the applicants were, or had been, members of trade societies; confirmation of the well-known fact that casual docking is resorted to by every kind of worker who happens to be thrown out of his own employment, 11217–11226——Evidence to the effect that 158 out of the 372 applicants stated that they were, or had been, members of a club or benefit society, seventy of them having run out, 11223.

Admission that the committee failed, so far as their main purpose was concerned, one-third of the total number of cases receiving no permanent assistance after they had been dealt with; attainment, however, of the subsidiary object of giving relief work to the unemployed, 11227–11229——Detailed information as to the position of the men who had been helped by the committee, the sixteen who emigrated to Canada doing well as a rule, and only a very small proportion of those who remained in this country having to apply subsequently for relief; decided opinion that a large proportion of those settled in one way or another have been permanently assisted by the committee's work, 11230–11238.

Financial details in connection with the Abbey Mills scheme, the total expenditure amounting the first year to 1,315*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, of which 142*l.* represented the cost of management; no profit under the scheme except that derived by a poor neighbourhood from the land being let out at reasonable charges to working men, 11239–11244. 11364–11375——Decision of the committee in January 1894 to repeat the scheme of the previous year, waterside labour being greatly depressed and a large number of people out of work; improvement of the scheme by extending the area, removing the restriction as to the men being engaged in waterside labour, and reducing the age from sixty-five to fifty-five, 11245–11247.

Statement that in 1894, 141 cases were entertained out of 414 applications, and that stronger confirmation was obtained of the fact that the kind of poverty dealt with is largely a town product; certainty that many men were deterred from applying by the stringent methods of inquiry, and an objection to emigration, 11247 *et seq.*; 11400–11430——Information respecting the 141 cases dealt with in 1894, sixteen of which, representing 115 persons in all, were sent to Canada, the number of those which failed to receive any benefit from the committee being ninety-two; comparatively small proportion permanently helped in that year, 11255–11270.

Approximate cost of the scheme in 1894, 1,102 *l.* 19 *s.* 1½ *d.*, a larger number of cases being emigrated at less cost than in the previous year, emigration offices having

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Smart, Bolton. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

assisted from their own funds; variation of the period of work from a fortnight to two months, 11271–11275——Satisfaction of the London County Council valuer with the work done at Abbey Mills; description of an average day's work accomplished with a staff of forty-one men, 11276-11280.

Enumeration of the difficulties with which the committee were confronted in dealing with the applicants for help; brief statement of certain facts and principles which appear to be demonstrated by the work of the committee, 11280, 11281——Belief that the ordinary wages of a casual docker average about 13*s.* per week taking the year round, while the amount paid by the committee was 22*s.* per week, 11282-11289.

Explanation that the committee did not intend to do anything last winter, but recommenced in response to urgent appeals from various quarters; particulars of the eighty-five cases entertained, the men being set to work at Lower Sydenham to convert brick fields into allotments, 11290–11296. 11376–11381——Total cost of the scheme, 780*l.* this year, only those cases being taken in hand that afforded a reasonable hope of re-instatement; extension of the time of working to three months, the works having been closed in the first week of June, 11296–11299.

Utility of the scheme of the committee as an experiment in dealing with the unemployed; witness is not aware of any attempt that has succeeded so well, and worked so safely, in spite of the smallness of the returns, 11300–11304——Impossibility of any voluntary committee dealing satisfactorily with the amelioration of relief; suggestion that in cases of necessity relief should be granted from the common poor fund, and administered by the vestries under the control of an elected body, 11305–11327. 11332–11354. 11382–11399.

View of witness that there should be a broad distinction between a confirmed pauper and a man who is driven to seek relief, so as to disfranchise the former and preserve to the latter his right to vote, 11328–11331.

Evidence to the effect that during the last five years pauperism has trebled in the Tower Hamlets, the increase being chiefly due to the influx of a very undesirable type of men through the opening of free shelters, and to the fact that some districts are getting poorer while others are getting richer, 11355-11361.

Smethwick Urban Distrtct (*Stafford*). Exceptional distress between January and March; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 449, 450.

Smith, H. Llewellyn. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Since the beginning of 1893 witness has had charge of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, 4526, 4527.

Several sources from which information is obtained by the Labour Department as to the state of employment throughout the country, the results being published monthly in the "Labour Gazette," firstly as to the condition of employment in particular districts, and, secondly, in particular trades, 4529–4533——Explanation that the statistics of the Labour Department deal only with the state of employment as distinct from the state of distress, the latter coming under the scope of the Local Government Board, 4534, 4535.

Distinction drawn between the staple industries and the fluctuating industries, in connection with the want of employment; summary of trades or employments put under each class, and of the several causes of fluctuation, 4535–4549——Distinction between fluctuations due to the different seasons of the year, and those which may be termed periodical or cyclical oscillations, there being also the irregular fluctuations due to weather, 4547–4549——Effect of cyclical fluctuations chiefly in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, 4547–4587.

Class of fluctuations due to migration of work and of industry from one place to another, 4547——Fluctuation due also to changes of process or of fashion, 4547–4549——Further class of fluctuations through the influence of trade disputes on employment in allied trades, 4547——Reference to cyclical oscillations as by far the most serious kind of fluctuation, 4548.

Information respecting the mode of calculating the fluctuations in certain trades or employments, such as dock labour in London, blast-furnaces in the United Kingdom, mines, &c., there being actual returns and data available, 4550–4555——Calculation of the range of unemployment in the foregoing class of cases by the difference in any year between the minimum number employed and the maximum, as shown in the returns, 4553-4555.

Explanations with reference to a further mode of calculating the fluctuations in various trades by taking the percentage of unemployed members of trades unions giving unemployed benefit; extent to which this basis can be relied upon as an accurate index of changes in the labour market, 4556–4573.

Information

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Smith, H. Llewellyn. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Information in elucidation of a certain table (compiled from the monthly returns received from trade unions), together with accompanying charts, showing for various trades the changes in the labour market, and the per-centages of unemployed, at different periods in the years 1887-94; 4567 *et seq.*

Reference to chart (*Third Rep. p.* 52) in illustration of seasonal changes, and showing the per-centages of employment at the end of each month, 4574-4581——Probable cause of the increased per-centage of unemployed in the printing and book trade in July and August, as compared with the period from October to December, 4577-4580——Small seasonal fluctuations in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, 4580.

Further chart referred to in illustration of the cyclical fluctuations, showing that 1889 and 1890 were the best years since 1887, whilst 1894 was somewhat better than 1893; 4581–4588—Small cyclical fluctuation in the building trade, it being less than the seasonal fluctuation, 4587. 4595——Minimum of about two per cent. of unemployed at the best of times, exclusive of sickness and strikes, 4585–4594.

Calculations based upon the variations in the amount per head paid by certain trade unions for unemployed benefit over a period of years; confirmation thereby of other figures as to the cyclical fluctuations in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, which were much worse in 1893 and 1894 than in 1889 and 1890; 4596-4608.

Particulars respecting the monthly oscillations of dock labour in London, due to various causes, in 1893 and 1894 and in January and February 1895; increased percentage of employment in November and December of each year through the great wool sales in those months, 4608-4621——Chart prepared by witness showing the actual daily fluctuations in the employment at several of the docks, 4618.

Statement showing in the case of the blast furnace men the injurious effect upon employment through the strike in the coal trade from July to November 1893; 4621–4630——Inclusion of machine makers, tool makers, brass workers and founders, pattern makers, steel melters, and others in the engineering trades, 4631–4634.

Information based on the "Vacant Book" of the Amalgamated Engineers as to the numerical distribution of loss of time or want of employment among the members of the society; conclusion that there is an increasing tendency to the displacement of the less efficient and less skilful workmen and to concentrate full employment on a smaller number, 4635–4654——Illustration in the case of dock labour of the tendency to a reduced employment of the less efficient men, 4648–4653.

Information as to the general state of agricultural employment during the period from last autumn till the middle of January (before the frost); irregularity of such employment chiefly in the corn-growing and arable districts, though for certain reasons it was more continuous than usual until the frost set in, 4655–4658. 4668——Stoppage of agricultural employment severely felt in certain counties during the frost, whilst there has been a gradual increase of employment since the thaw, 4658–4667——Information on the foregoing subject obtained chiefly through Mr. Wilson Fox, as agricultural correspondent, 4650–4665.

Explanations respecting the comparative state of employment in the coal-mining, shipbuilding and engineering, building, and other trades at the end of December 1894, and at the end of January and February 1895, as compared with the corresponding periods in the previous winter, 4669–4676——Reference to the boot and shoe trade as affording good employment in January and February, though in some districts short time is still worked and the bespoke trade is slack, 4676.

Difficulties in drawing any comparison between the state of distress, in connection with the want of employment, in the present and previous winters; explanations hereon respecting the condition of employment in the two periods as affected by the state of the weather, 4677, 4678——Increased distress when severe frost and want of employment come at the end of a prolonged period of depression in trade, 4677.

Summary of the several agencies which have been in operation for dealing with distress and unemployment, by far the most extensive agency being the insuring against want of employment through trade societies, 4680–4682——Provision made by a few friendly societies in the form of unemployed benefit, 4681.

Particulars respecting the operation of the Loughton (Essex) Mutual Labour Aid Society, 4683–4685——Information respecting the steps being taken in some of the Swiss cantons for the establishment of local schemes of insurance against want of work, 4690–4694.

Explanations and statistics relative to the operation of labour bureaux in this country, some of these being managed by local authorities, and some by voluntary agencies, 4696–4698——Information respecting a system of labour registration in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, through the medium of the Post Office, 4699——Belief as to the labour register at Brussels not having been a success, 4700, 4701——Infor-

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Smith, H. Llewellyn. (Analyeis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

mation to be supplied respecting the Bureau de Travail of Paris, which has been closed, 4702–4707.

Movement in Germany for a revision of the labour registries, they having failed to a large extent, 4709–4711——Operation of the Labour Department in New Zealand in finding places for the unemployed, as in making roads through the bush, 4711–4713.

Information respecting the public employment offices in different towns in the State of Ohio; situations found chiefly for women, 4714–4716——Recent establishment of a Chamber of Labour in Italy, 4717——Apprehension in some quarters lest labour bureaux in this country should operate in neutralising strikes and trade disputes, 4718–4722.

Action taken by ninety-six local authorities in Great Britain in the winter of 1892–93 for providing work for the unemployed, 4723 ——Reference to the steps taken in eleven important districts in the winter of 1893–94 for the provision of relief works, 4723.

Pressure experienced by municipal authorities in Germany, Holland, and other countries as well as in England, as regards work for the unemployed, 4724—— Experiment in Amsterdam in providing employment in workshops; belief that it did not meet with much success, 4724, 4725.

Importance of the measures adopted in Massachusetts and other States for the provision of work, 4725 —— System of co-operative contracts upon which the unemployed in New Zealand are engaged to work on railways and roads; arrangement as to the rate of wages according to piecework, 4725–4727——Arrangement in Victoria as to employment on railways on the butty gang system; varying modes of payment, 4727, 4728.

[Second Examination.]—Reference to the statistics of fluctuations in the shipbuilding trade as obtained through the Board of Trade inspectors, 4730——Monthly statements before the Board of Trade as to the amount of various dutiable articles retained for consumption, 4730.

Table submitted showing that the decrease of imports since 1889 has been less in London than in other ports, 4730, 4731 —— Statistics and explanations respecting the range of unemployed benefit given by mining unions in Northumberland and Durham in different years, 4731——Paper submitted respecting the closing of the Paris Labour Exchange, 4731.

Increased fluctuation, since the introduction of machinery, in the number of people employed in the boot and shoe trade, 4732——Tendency in trades generally to a concentration of unemployment among a smaller number of employés of the less steady and skillful class, 4733–4735. 4740. 4875–4880. 4927–4930——Instance in the case of dock labourers of the more permanent employment of a certain number, whilst the casual men find it very difficult to get any employment, 4735–4739.

Statement as to the practice in some trade unions as regards out-of-work benefit being sometimes followed by superannuation, 4741–4747——Conclusion that cyclical fluctuations at varying intervals between periods of good trade and periods of bad trade will assuredly recur, 4748, 4749 —— Effect of increased introduction of machinery, as in the printing and book trades, in causing increased displacement of manual labour, 4750–4755.

Question well worth investigation whether there might not be more equable distribution of work throughout the year so as to lessen the fluctuation of employment, 4755–4759——Reference to certain experiments in the form of labour colonies; information more especially as regards the Salvation Army Colony at Hadleigh (Essex), 4760, 4761. 4967–5011.

Explanation as regards coal mines being open for so many days in the week that it is difficult to supply information as to the number of days for which the miners individually were at work, 4762–4768. 4907–4916——Opportunity chiefly in piecework trades for reducing the amount of employment instead of entirely displacing some of the employés, 4769–4771.

Doubt as to the extent to which men formerly engaged in textile fabrics at Nottingham have since been employed in working in brass and iron, 4772–4775——Lower proportion of unemployed in shipbuilding and engineering in January and February, on an average of the years 1887–93 than in the autumn months; improvement of late in the shipbuilding trade, 4778–4784.

Inability of witness to supply statistics as to the total number of the working classes in the United Kingdom, 4785–4789—— Statistics obtainable to a certain extent through the trades unions as to the number of persons engaged in the skilled trades, 4790–4797——Impression that non-union men are a larger proportion than union men, 4808, 4809. 4796.

Explanation

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Smith, H. Llewellyn. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Explanation that witness is not prepared with any wages statistics in the engineering or other skilled trades; deductions to be allowed in years of depression, whilst on the other hand allowance should be made for overtime, 4798–4804 —— Great variation in the provision made in different colliery districts as regards unemployed benefit, 4810–4813——Doubt whether on the whole employment is lessened by the increasing introduction of machinery, 4815–4818.

Conclusion that the years in which employment is at its best are, as a rule, the maximum years of imports and exports, 4821–4825——Better position of organised than of unorganised labour in time of distress, in so far as the numbers of organised trades are mutually helpful to each other, 4826–4828.

Further statement as to certain returns showing the per-centage of unemployed dating only from 1887, in which year the average per-centage was higher than in 1894; 4829–4834——Belief that cycles of depression come round more frequently than in former years, but that the period of depression is shorter, 4835–4841. 4920—— Information to be supplied by witness as to the relative employment of female labour and male labour, and as to the displacement of women by boys and girls, 4842–4846. 4935–4942.

Advance in manufacturing industries in many countries, the exports from England to certain countries falling off in consequence, 4847–4852——Difficulty at present in explaining the causes which lead to the cycles of trade depression which occur all over the world, 4853–4856.

Evidence to effect that labour bureaux if unpopular, as interfering with trade disputes, would not be of much use as registries, whilst in any case their usefulness in time of general depression would be very limited, 4857–4874.

Consideration of the effect of trades unions as regards the unemployment of the less efficient men, witness fully recognising the great value of trade organisations in times of depression, 4875–4884. 4887.

Statement respecting the sources of information upon which the reports of Mr. Wilson Fox are founded; conclusion from these reports that until the recent frost agricultural employment was fairly continuous, 4888–4898 —— Information with further reference to the migration of agricultural labour to the towns, 4899–4906.

Great difficulty in estimating the comparative number of employés in stable trades and in fluctuating trades, 4921, 4922——Doubt as to the percentage of unemployed being greater among non-unionists than unionists, 4923–4926——Probability that the standard of efficiency is higher among unionists than non-unionists, 4927–4930.

Instance at Coventry of the transfer of workpeople from one trade to another of an entirely different character, 4931–4934——Exceptions taken to certain figures purporting to show a very large proportion of men out of employment for a considerable time during the winter of 1886–87; general and severe depression at this period, 4943–4957——Exceedingly large expenditure of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers for unemployed benefit, witness fully recognising in this connection the valuable operation of trades unions, 4958–4966.

Examination with further reference to the question of labour colonies, as in Germany, Holland, and other countries, as well as on a limited scale in England; obstacles to their satisfactory operation, 4967–5011——Doubt as to labour bureaux having been largely established on the initiative of trades unions; advantage in their being in the hands of the local authorities, 5012–5015.

Obstacles to any statistics of overtime, 5016——Respect in which unemployed benefit promotes the policy of trades unions as regards maintenance of the rate of wages, 5018——Result of certain statistics as showing that there is a residuum of men constantly out of work, 5018, 5019.

Solihull (Warwick). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 367.

Somersetshire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 26–30.

South Leith (Edinburgh). Amount of distress in this parish through the severe weather; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 679.

South Molton (Devon and Somerset). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 434.

South Shields (Durham). Extent and character of the distress in the county borough; employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 131——Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in the rural district, *ib.* 434.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

South Stoneham (*Hants*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in this rural district during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 434.

South Wales. See *Pontypool. Swansea. Tin-plate Trade.*

Southall-Norwood (*Middlesex*). Absence of exceptional distress in this urban district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 284.

Southborough (*Kent*). Different kinds of employment provided in this rural district, the men working for six hours a day, at the rate of fourpence per hour, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 105.

Southend (*Essex*). Amount of distress previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 406.

Southgate (*Middlesex*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies for coping with the distress in this district in February 1895, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 284.

Southport (*Lancaster*). Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 381.

Southwick (*Durham*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 233.

Spalding (*Lincoln*). Absence of exceptional distress in the urban district of Spalding, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 106——Amount of distress in the rural district previously to 22nd March; relief provided, *ib.* 412.

Stafford. Extent of the distress in Stafford municipal borough previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 417——Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in the rural district, *ib.* 455.

Staffordshire (*South*). Information supplied in report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 26, 27.

Stalybridge (*Chester*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 216.

Stamford. Letter from the town clerk, in February, explanatory of the extent and causes of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 329.

Stapleton (*Gloucester*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 175.

Starvation. See *Poor Law System. Relief Works. St. George's-in-the-East. State Aid. West Ham.*

State Aid (*Relief of Distress*):

1. *Scheme of Treasury Grants or State Aid advocated by Mr. Keir-Hardie; Safeguards against Abuse.*
2. *Scheme of State Aid advocated by Mr. Alden; Conditions to be Imposed.*
3. *Concurrence of other Witnesses in favour of State Aid.*
4. *Concurrence of Evidence adverse to any Grants by the State in Relief of Local Distress.*
5. *State Grants not necessary with reference to the recent Distress, through the Severe Weather, the Crisis having passed.*

1. *Scheme of Treasury Grants or State Aid advocated by Mr. Keir-Hardie; Safeguards against Abuse:*

Proposition that an interim Report should recommend that the Treasury should at once contribute up to an aggregate of 100,000*l.*, an amount equal to that raised in each locality; that is, for expenditure in charitable relief and in useful relief works, *Keir-Hardie* 738 *et seq.*——Suggestion that as regards the proposed contributions a residential test be prescribed, and that recipients of parochial relief be excluded, *ib.* 740. 791.

Explanation that the foregoing proposal is intended purely as a temporary expedient for the relief of existing starvation, and should be followed up by the permanent remedies to be recommended in the final Report of the Committee, *Keir-Hardie* 740–744.

Examination as to the tests and precautions which ought to be adopted in order to deal with excessive applications to the Treasury from any locality, and to prevent abuse in the administration of the funds by the special local committees; suggested limits with reference to population, &c., *Keir-Hardie* 748 *et seq.*

Consideration of difficulties raised as to the sufficiency of a Treasury grant of only 100,000*l.*, in view of the immense number of the unemployed; admitted probability that

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

STATE AID (*RELIEF OF DISTRESS*)—continued.

1. *Scheme of Treasury Grants or State Aid, &c.*—continued.

that further and much larger amounts may be necessary, *Keir-Hardie* 748 *et seq.*——Contemplated expenditure of the first Treasury grant of 100,000*l.*, and the corresponding local contributions, mainly in food; expected sufficiency thereof up to the end of March, *ib.* 837–844.

Examination as to the cost of one or two meals daily for the aggregate number of the unemployed, witness submitting that though a Treasury grant of 100,000*l.* or 200,000*l.* would not go very far, but that relief would also be given by trades unions and charitable associations, and that some casual employment would be obtained *Keir-Hardie* 914 *et seq.*

Advocacy of a State grant not only as preventing disfranchisement but as a remedy against the demoralising effect of work in the stone-yard *Keir-Hardie* 941–945. 1228–1230——Explanation that witness proposes not a loan from the State, but a free grant, *ib.* 1009–1011.

Dissent from the view that the proposed State aid in the case of West Ham would cause an influx of unemployed from other districts; check by means of a residential test, *Keir-Hardie* 1020–1037. 1141——Duty of the State to aid in providing work for the unemployed if out of work through no fault of their own, *ib.* 1040. 1150. 1217–1221.

Suggestions as to the constitution of the local committees for the administration of a grant from the State; approval of this resting with the guardians alone if there be no disfranchisement, *Keir-Hardie* 1041–1052. 1224–1227——Necessity of a very careful sifting out, and of a residential test in the administration of the proposed scheme; accurate accounts desirable, *ib.* 1066–1083. 1141. 1224, 1225.

Approval of a suggestion that two equal amounts be provided locally, by voluntary contributions and by the rates, and that a third contribution be added by the Treasury, *Keir-Hardie* 1073–1078——Explanation that witness does not contemplate any permanent system of State aid for the unemployed, though he advocates such aid in order to provide work on exceptional occasions, *ib.* 1150–1158.

Extent of the personal experience of witness, and character of the inquiries upon which he bases his proposals for a Treasury grant in order to provide work when there is exceptional distress, *Keir-Hardie* 1169–1175——Belief that local effort would be promoted, rather than checked, by a system of Treasury grants, when there is exceptional distress, *ib.* 1222, 1223.

2. *Scheme of State Aid advocated by Mr. Alden; Conditions to be Imposed:*

Grounds for the contention that when distress is exceptional the State should assist the local authorities by subsidies, and should exercise supervision over works promoted by the latter for the unemployed, such as farm colonies in Essex, *Alden* 2033–2045.

Belief that subsidies from the State in aid of employment on reproductive relief works and on land, with proper classification and supervision, would have a most beneficial effect in enabling the men to keep themselves, and that, in time, such works might be self-supporting, *Alden* 2169–2171. 2235–2269. 2297–2313. 2413–2421. 2450–2456——Argument as to the responsibility of the State with reference to work for the unemployed, *ib.* 2229–2234. 2305–2309. 2449–2451.

Grounds for concluding that the number of unemployed will gradually increase, and that a system of permanent State employment will prove necessary, to be administered under careful restrictions, and the unemployed to be registered and classified, *Alden* 2352 *et seq.*——Expected willingness of local authorities to contribute in co-operation with an Imperial fund for the unemployed, *ib.* 2442–2445.

Opinion that the fund should be administered by the municipal authority, and that they might be called upon to contribute as much as the State, *Alden* 2457–2464——Approval of a proposal that the fund be used only for the deserving poor, and that disqualification of the recipients should not result, *ib.* 2464–2467——Dissent from the view that a State fund would have any demoralising tendency, *ib.* 2468, 2469.

Expediency of half the required amount being found by the State instead of the whole amount being provided by local rate and voluntary agencies, *Alden* 2470–2476——Conditions and restrictions to be imposed in connection with applications for employment provided by means of a State fund, *ib.* 2496–2500.

3. *Concurrence of other Witnesses in favour of State Aid:*

Proposal that the incompetent worthy poor be dealt with by joint committees of the Poor Law authorities and of charitable subscribers, the State contributing to the expense, *Hills* 2572–2574——Justification of the State being asked to provide funds to be administered by local authorities, as under witness' scheme, *ib.* 2718–2722——Contention that the State is to some extent responsible as regards work for the unemployed

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

State Aid (Relief of Distress)—continued.

3. *Concurrence of other Witnesses in favour of State Aid*—continued.

ployed, and that the local authorities could never work the proposed scheme without the help of the State, *Hills* 2753–2762.

Advocacy of the proposed scheme of State loans for a national system of small farm settlements, in the interests of increased agricultural employment and improved cultivation, rather than of State loans at low interest to landowners for improvements in drainage, buildings, &c., *Mather* 9401, 9402.

Necessity that any scheme for the unemployed should be dealt with nationally if it is to be successful, *Lansbury* 10495. 10498–10512.

Objection to the question of the unemployed being dealt with either by the poor law or the municipal authorities; conclusion that it should be taken up by Government, *Thorne* 10841–10845.

4. *Concurrence of Evidence adverse to any Grants by the State in Relief of Local Distress:*

Decided objection to Imperial grants-in-aid of municipal expenditure on employment works in times of distress, *Sir H. Owen* 311–315——Conclusions adverse to its being the duty of any public Department to provide work for the unemployed in times of distress, so as to save them from applying for poor relief, *ib.* 389–396.

Further statement of the individual views of witness (not, necessarily, as representing his Department), adverse to any imperial grant-in-aid of the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 541, 542. 547, 548.

Difficulty as regards State aid to a declining trade in that the State would neither know the exact psychological moment to step in with its special aid, nor when to stop it, *Mackay* 5804 *et seq.*

Advisability of the Government encouraging and directing the better organisation of capital and labour, the settlement of disputes, and the institution of remedies for existing evils; decided objection, however, to the Government granting pecuniary aid in connection with these objects to local authorities, *Cox* 6215, 6216. 6326–6334. 6444–6447. 6505. 6588–6594.

Contention that neither the Government nor the local authorities should be responsible for the provision of work for the maintenance of persons out of employment, *Bell* 7877–7891——Re-iteration of the view that in no instance should State aid be given to the unemployed, either directly or by means of works; unanimous opinion of the members of the Glasgow Corporation to the same effect, *ib.* 7948–7958. 7977–7982. 8028.

5. *State Grants not necessary with reference to the recent Distress, through the Severe Weather, the Crisis having Passed.*

Large amount of work soon to be had, as in West Ham, so that the unemployed difficulty will gradually settle down for the present; a grant from the State not being necessary at the present time, *Hilleary* 1563–1569. 1612–1614. 1621–1625. 1665–1667. 1674–1684. 1710. 1736–1738.

Conclusion that any State grant-in-aid of the unemployed would be objectionable and useless in the present season, there being no machinery ready for its administration, and for the organisation of the necessary works, *Hills* 2568. 2590, 2591. 2602–2614.

See also *Exchequer Contribution Account. Farm and Labour Colonies*, I. 4. *Pontypool. Relief Works. St. Olave's Union. Tin-plate Trade. West Ham.*

Steeple Claydon (*Bucks*). Large proportion of men unemployed, *Keir-Hardie* 802.

Stepney. Information supplied by Stepney as to the amount of relief in the winter months for the last four years; considerable distress at present among the working classes who have not applied for relief, *Sir H. Owen* 132–135 —— Several causes of the distress in Stepney, *ib.* 339.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Steyning, West (*Sussex*). Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 387.

Stirling. Letter from the town clerk of the burgh respecting the amount of distress, and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 608——Amount of distress in the Parish of Stirling parish, through the severe weather; measures adopted for its relief, *ib.* 791.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Stockport. Very large increase of relief at Stockport for some time previously to the end of January, *Sir H. Owen* 51, 52.

Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the distress in the county borough, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 131.

Stockton (*Warwick.*) See *Allotments.*

Stockton-on-Tees (*Durham*). Official explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the municipal borough and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 216.

Stoke Newington. Exceptional distress in February due to severe weather; sufficiency of the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 256.

Stoke-upon-Trent. Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 265——Amount of distress from different causes in the rural district in February; relief works contemplated, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 300.

Stokesley (*York*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 444.

Stone (*Stafford*). Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 251.

Stone-Yard (*Labour Test*). See *Labour Test. St. Olave's Union. Wandsworth and Clapham Union. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

Stornoway (*Cromarty*). Absence of exceptional distress in February, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 778.

Stourbridge (*Worcester*). Information respecting the extent of the distress in Stourbridge Urban District, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 106.

Stow Union (*Suffolk*). Information as to the amount of local distress, and the relief given to out-door paupers, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 464, 465.

Strand District. Facility of dealing with the distress in the Strand Union without exceptional arrangements; increasing applications from persons not settled in the union, *Sir H. Owen* 135.

Particulars supplied by Mr. W. Emden, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of distress in the Strand district from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 124-126.

Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Stratford-upon-Avon. Letter from the town clerk in February explanatory of the extent and causes of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 329——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district at the end of February, *ib.* 384.

Streatham. Decrease rather than increase of relief in Streatham, *Sir H. Owen* 137–139.

Strikes. Conclusion as to the necessity of certain tests or conditions and of inquiries being applied to all applicants for work provided by the local authorities, and from the Common Poor Fund, witness considering that men on strike should not be entitled to such work, *Benn* 3142. 3157–3164. 3168–3172. 3179. 3239. 3246, 3247——Advantage of boards of conciliation and arbitration for the settlement of trade disputes, *Cox* 6198, 6199.

Strong feeling of witness and of numerous other representatives of the men that strikes (as in the Scotch coal trade) should never be allowed to take place at all, and that preventive steps should promptly be taken, as by the present Select Committee, for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation, *Hunter* 8301, 8302——Explanation as to the injurious effect of strikes on the community, *C. Booth* 10532. 10612–10614. 10695.

Stroud (*Gloucester.*) Information respecting the extent of the distress in Stroud Urban District, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 107——Amount of distress in the rural district in February; steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 252.

Sudbury (*Suffolk*). Extent and character of the distress in this municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 265.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Sunderland. Information supplied by the inspector of poor as to the extent of local distress, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 22.

Letter from the mayor of Sunderland, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 62.

Surbiton. Absence of exceptional distress in this urban district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 315.

Surrey. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 30, 31.

Sussex. Report from inspector as to the amount of distress, and the remedies applied, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 52, 53.

Sutton (*Surrey*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 175.

Sutton-in-Ashfield (*Notts*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 426.

Sutton Coldfield (*Warwick*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 77.

Swadlincote (*Derby*). Steps taken by the district council to provide employment for those out of work, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 463.

Swaffham (*Norfolk*). Particulars supplied by Mr. H. Lee Warner, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of distress in the urban district from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 176——Amount of distress in the rural district; relief by means of private charity, *ib.* 339.

Swansea. Report received by the Local Government Board from Swansea, on 15th February; testifying to a very large increase of destitution and relief, and the prevalence of distress among those who do not apply for relief; steps taken for providing employment, *Sir H. Owen* 53–57.

Population of 100,000 in Swansea, there being now about 5,800 unemployed and 13,000 half-timers (inclusive of women and children), chiefly in the tin-plate trade, *W. H. Edwards* 4297–4307. 4390–4414.

Particulars respecting the constitution and operation of the Voluntary Relief Committee, a register of unemployed having been opened and relief given in food, *Edwards* 4320–4329. 4458–4461—— Employment given by the Corporation in sweeping the streets and clearing away the snow, *ib.* 4330, 4331.

Statement as to the Poor Law guardians at Swansea having done nothing to relieve the able-bodied unemployed, they not having been aware at the time that they had power to give relief partly in money and partly in kind, *Edwards* 4362–4372. 4445–4462.

Letter from the mayor of Swansea, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 63.

See also *Tin-plate Trade.*

Sweden. Statement showing the number of workpeople employed in certain industries in each of the years 1884–91; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 511.

Swindon (*Wilts*). Amount of distress in this district previously to 23rd March; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 426.

Swinton and Pendlebury Urban District (*Lancaster*). Extent and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 397.

Switzerland. Details supplied by Mr. Moore respecting the voluntary farm colony recently established in Switzerland, *Third Rep. p.* 530.

Belief that the Swiss colony referred to in witness' paper was founded upon the only principles likely to be satisfactory in the case of colonies, *Moore* 9548. 9699 *et seq.*

Information respecting the steps being taken in some of the Swiss Cantons for the establishment of local schemes of insurance against want of work, *Smith* 4690–4694.

Statement showing the number of persons employed in certain industries in 1880 and in 1888; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 509.

T.

Tadcaster (*York*). Several portions of this rural district in which exceptional distress exists, as on 24th February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 323.

Tagg, Charles William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is clerk to the vestry of Camberwell, which is also the sanitary authority for the parish, 3278, 3279.

Total of 4,342 acres as the area of the parish, the estimated population being 254,503, and the rateable value 1,063,234*l.*; comparatively few large houses, 3280–3286——Total rate of 4*s.* 1*d.* levied by the guardians, the actual poor rate for 1894–95 being 2*s.* 3*d.*, and the vestry rates 1*s.* 8*d.*; 3287–3290. 3543–3545——Absence of any exceptional distress in Camberwell save through the frost, 3291, 3292. 3535, 3536.

Expenditure by the vestry of 1,546*l.* on relief works between the 31st Jan. and the 27th Feb., each man getting about two days' work in the week, and being paid at the rate of 5*d* per hour for eight hours a day, 3294–3311. 3333–3340——Employment mainly on road-sweeping and snow sweeping, 3297, 3298——Total of nearly 2,000 men on the register for work, from 200 to 250 having been employed daily; way in which the register was kept and work apportioned, 3300–3311. 3325–3327. 3361–3365. 3372, 3373. 3587–3591.

Information respecting the labour exchange started in Camberwell by the vestry in 1892; discontinuance thereof, as it was decided to be illegal to expend money upon it out of the rates, 3312–3324. 3551–3553. 3585, 3586——Full employment in the gas works and factories in the parish during the winter, the men out of work through the frost being engaged chiefly in the building and sanitary trades; large proportion of "general labourers," 3328–3332. 3387, 3388. 3400–3407. 3430–3438.

Communications between the vestry of Camberwell and the guardians during the recent distress, the latter supplying the names of persons specially in need of work, 3343. 3345. 3347–3350——Conference of metropolitan vestries and guardians convened by Camberwell in 1893, when a resolution was passed that the London County Council should apply for further powers for dealing with the unemployed, and for establishing labour colonies, &c., 3344. 3346. 3359, 3360. 3596, 3597. 3627. 3646–3648.

Reference to the suggestions in the Circular Letter of the Local Government Board as impracticable so far as Camberwell is concerned, 3350. 3395–3399. 3581–3584——Several resolutions passed by Camberwell vestry asking for increased powers from Government, but without specifying what they should be: subsequent disapproval of a resolution passed by the conference of the vestry and guardians, 3351–3360. 3531–3534.

Probable employment of many outsiders, attracted by the two days' pay weekly; difficulty in preventing this influx, though certain inquiries were made, 3361–3366. 3522–3530. 3546–3550——Varying amount of work given by the men in return for the pay: very deserving character of large numbers of those employed, whilst many had undergone much privation and could not do heavy work, 3367–3373. 3400–3423.

Difficulty in the distribution of charitable relief in Camberwell: expediency of some test in the matter, 3369, 3370. 3601–3605——Increased out-relief in the parish (mainly in food) during the distress: probable employment on the relief works of some of those whose families were receiving out-relief, 3374–3386. 3416–3420. 3517–3521.

Objection of large numbers of men to receive poor-relief as disqualifying them for the franchise; grounds for this conclusion, 3385–3387, 3388. 3439–3447. 3554, 3555. 3598–3600——Contention that the cost of relief works should be charged to the whole of London; hardship upon Camberwell in having to provide work for many men who live in the parish but are employed in various other parishes, 3389–3394. 3421, 3422. 3424–3429. 3478–3492.

Great difficulty in Camberwell parish in providing the kinds of work best suited for those out of employment, sweeping the streets and clearing away the snow being the only available work in severe winters, 3395–3400. 3430–3438. 3537–3542. 3592–3595——Large numbers out of employment who did not apply for out-relief or for work so long as they had any savings to fall back upon, 3401–3407. 3430, 3431——Rate of payment by the vestry on relief work as compared with the ordinary wages of the men when not out of employment, 3432–3438. 3452–3457.

Explanation of the grounds upon which Camberwell (as a poor and populous parish) receives a grant of about 5½*d.* in the pound under the Equalisation of Rates Act, whilst St. Olave's parish has to contribute to the fund under the Act; population and rateable value taken into consideration in each case, 3458–3477. 3492–3500. 3556–3568.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Tagg, Charles William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Further explanations as to the mode of selection of the men employed on the relief works, those who proved undeserving having been excluded, 3501–3511——Increase of pauperism and of distress in Camberwell, many of the poorer working classes being attracted by the low rents, though not employed in the parish, 3512–3516.

Inability of witness to suggest any permanent remedy as regards the question of the unemployed, 3569–3571——Consideration of a suggestion that the increase of ground values, without any expenditure by the owners, might be diverted for the benefit of the community at large, 3572–3580.

Information with further reference to the action of Camberwell vestry in the distribution of work of different kinds, with special reference to the provision of labour for the unemployed in severe winters, 3606–3613. 3650–3661——Limited extent to which the receipts under the Equalisation of Rates Act have been devoted to finding employment; relief of the local rates out of the amount received, 3614–3618——Explanation as to the vestry not having taken action in the promotion of a labour colony as a means of providing work for the unemployed, 3619–3649.

Tamworth. Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this rural district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 470.

Tarvin (*Chester*). Local information as to the amount of distress in this rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 253.

Taunton (*Somerset*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 265——Plenty of work in Taunton, as on 26th February, *ib.* 329——Relief provided in the rural district by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 368.

Tavistock (*Devon*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 468.

Tenby (*Municipal Borough*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 77.

Tewkesbury (*Gloucester*). Exceptional distress in this municipal borough in February; relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 310.

Textile and Clothing Factories. List of places making complaint respecting distress and want of employment, through depression in textile and clothing factories, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 818.

Thames Foreshore. See *Reclamation Works.*

Thingoe (*Suffolk.*) Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, in the urban district, as regards the provision of work, or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181——Local information as to the amount of distress in the rural district in February, and as to the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 254.

Thornbury (*Gloucester*). Exceptional distress consequent on the severe weather, this has been fully met by voluntary agencies and private charity, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 324.

Thorne, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is General Secretary of the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers of Great Britain and Ireland; has most knowledge of the neighbourhood of West Ham, 10786–10789.

Information respecting a census taken in the early part of the year in the borough of West Ham, with a view to finding the number of unemployed; the actual number of unemployed male workers was 9,431; 10790–10794——Grounds for the opinion that there are quite one million of people out of work in different parts of the country, 10794–10798.

Experience to the effect that the introduction of the eight hour day has been the means of finding work for more men, 10799–10801——Suggestion that an International Conference reducing the hours of labour to eight per day would be productive of relief, 10831–10834.

Detailed evidence respecting the relief works carried on in West Ham during the last three winters, 10802–10809——Statement respecting the 1,000*l.* contributed by Mr. Hills during the winter of 1893-94, and the restrictions attached thereto; reasons which led the town council to refuse the second contribution offered by the same gentleman in December 1894; 10803–10806.

Belief that the rapid introduction of machinery, the benefits of which are all absorbed by capitalists, is the main cause of the scarcity of employment; particulars respecting several new developments in machinery now in use in the gas, coal, and other industries, 10810–10830. 10852–10856.

Statement

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Thorne, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Statement that the road scarifier in West Ham was dispensed with last winter, because it would have been the means of throwing a large number of men out of work, 10824, 10825——Disapproval of farm colonies, and the allotment system; desirability of land being cultivated by men who should make it their regular avocation, and who should be paid a decent wage, 10835–10840. 10864–10873.

Objection to the question of the unemployed being dealt with either by the Poor Law or the municipal authorities; conclusion that it should be taken up by Government, 10841–10845——View that any man or women outside the workhouse should be allowed to vote, 10846-10851——Opposition of witness to overtime work, except on occasions of great pressure, 10857-10863.

Thornhill (*York*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 176.

Thrapston Rural District (*Northampton and Huntingdon*). No exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 339.

Thrift (*Working Classes*). Desirability of making the poor more independent, thrifty, and careful, and of discouraging early marriages, *Martineau* 6849–6852. 6880–6884——Unintentional discouragement of thrift among the poor by the Local Government Board; necessity of modifying the Poor Law circulars, many of which are very old, *Dodd* 7597–7602.

Ticehurst Rural District (*Sussex*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 444.

Tin-plate Trade (*Wales*):

Unfitness of tin-plate workers and of miners not only for stone-breaking but for agricultural employment, *Griffith* 3973–3989. 4156–4163. 4251–4254——Good earnings of the tin-plate workers when in full work, many having saved money, and benefit clubs being largely used by them, *ib.* 4043–4049. 4122–4128.

Advocacy of State aid, in view of the exceptional acuteness of the distress and want of employment, rather than of an increase of rates or a further resort to voluntary help; dissent from the view that a Government grant might tend to pauperise the recipients, *Griffith* 4050–4054. 4067-4071. 4139–4144. 4241–4250. 4255–4269.

Liberal contribution by owners of works and collieries, whilst the men have helped each other with great generosity, *Griffith* 4068–4071. 4129–4133. 4231–4240——Reference to the cottage rents in the district, many of them being unpaid, *ib.* 4198–4203. 4289. 4292.

Explanations in detail respecting the depression in the tin-plate industry and the steel-plate industry, mainly through American competition, witness submitting that the only way to retain the trade in this country is by the men consenting to a reduction in the rate of wages, *Edwards* 4308–4319. 4332–4340. 4373 *et seq.*; 4467–4527.

Evidence to the effect that owing to the general depression in trade and to competition in America and the Continent the tin-plate trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire, is in a very crippled condition, and the people have suffered severely from want of employment, *Phillips* 9415–9419. 9453-9457. 9497 *et seq.*

Statistics showing that there have been 6,550 persons, principally men, totally idle, and nearly 6,000 partially idle, since the beginning of 1893 in the tin-plate trade in Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire, against a total of about 13,500 in full work during that time, *Phillips* 9420–9452. 9505–9511.

Belief that the present bad state of affairs was brought about by the price of tin plates having been forced up in the autumn of 1890, and in 1891, in anticipation of the Tariff Bill coming into operation in July 1891, the over-production at that time having caused the depression which has existed ever since, *Phillips* 9453 *et seq.*

Statement that hundreds of the unemployed tin-plate workers in witness' district are quite destitute, those who owned houses having either sold or mortgaged them and the thrifty having exhausted all their savings, *Phillips* 9458–9463. 9496.

Distribution of 10,000*l.* by witness' union amongst the unemployed tin-workers between December 1892 and December 1894; inability of the union to render the men any assistance this year, the funds having been exhausted, *Phillips* 9468-9472.

Decided opinion that some exceptional remedy ought to be found to meet the present extraordinary distress in the tin-plate trade, which is becoming more acute every week; approval of aid being given from the Exchequer, *Phillips* 9473–9476. 9488–9504. 9528–9531.

Average rate of wages for a good tin-plate worker, before the distress began, about 2*l.* per week; acceptance by the men of reductions of 12½ to 15 per cent. for the last seven or eight months, *Phillips* 9477–9484.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Tin-plate Trade (*Wales*)—continued.

Institution of the stone-breaking test by the Poor Law authorities of Landore and Kidwelly, at which the men earned between 5*s.* 6*d.* and 6*s.* a week, doing their best, *Phillips* 9485–9487.

Impossibility of the home-workers competing with America, even if they worked for nothing, as there is a protective tariff of 5*s.* 2*d.* on every box of tin-plates entering the United States, *Phillips* 9512–9527.

Lists of places, twelve in number, making complaint with reference to distress through depression in the tin-plate trade, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 807–812. 817.

Reference to the tin-plate trade of Wales as affording the most strongly marked instance of local trade distress, affecting a great number of workers, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 820.

See also *Pontypool. Swansea.*

Tipton (*Stafford*). Local explanation in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 234.

Tiverton (*Devon*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work, or of relief, for the unemployed, *Sir H Owen* 181.

Information respecting the extent of the distress in the urban district, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 77—— Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *ib.* 466.

Todmorden (*York*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in this urban district, and the relief measures provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 235.

Tonbridge. Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February, remedial steps taken for its relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 300.

Tooting. Very slight increase of relief in Tooting, *Sir H. Owen* 139.

Torquay. Character of the distress in the municipal borough in February; relief measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 266.

Torrington (*Devon*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 301.

Totnes (*Devon*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 78.

Tottenham (*Middlesex*). Causes of exceptional distress in the urban district of Tottenham; employment provided by the local authorities, voluntary agencies being also in operation, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 285.

Towcester (*Northampton*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 393.

Tower Hamlets. Evidence to the effect that during the last five years pauperisim has trebled in the Tower Hamlets, the increase being chiefly due to the influx of a very undesirable class through the opening of free shelters, and to the fact that some districts are getting poorer, while others are getting richer, *Smart* 11355–11361.

Town Councils. See *Local Authorities.*

Towns. Conclusion from the returns for England and Wales that, generally speaking, the towns suffered more severely than country districts, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 803, 804. 820.

Lists of towns with trade depression, showing in each case the cause or nature of the depression, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 807–819.

See also *Agriculture*, 2. *Farm and Labour Colonies. Glasgow. Leeds. Liverpool. Metropolis. Migration of Labour. Relief Works.*

Toxteth Park (*Liverpool*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 468.

Trade Depression:

1. *Statistics and Explanations as to the Fluctuations of Labour and of Unemployment, and as to the extent of Want of Employment in different Years.*
2. *Consideration of the Causes of Depression in Trade and of Labour Fluctuations, with Suggestions on the Subject.*

1. *Statistics and Explanations as to the Fluctuations of Labour and of Unemployment, and as to the extent of Want of Employment in different Years:*

Information respecting the mode of calculating the fluctuations in certain trades or employments, such as dock labour in London, blast furnaces in the United Kingdom, mines,

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

TRADE DEPRESSION—continued.

1. *Statistics and Explanations as to the Fluctuations of Labour, &c.*—continued.

mines, &c., there being actual returns and data available, *Smith* 4550–4555——Calculation of the range of unemployment in the foregoing class of cases by the difference in any year between the minimum number employed, and the maximum, as shown in the returns, *ib.* 4553–4555.

Explanations with reference to a further mode of calculating the fluctuations in various trades by taking the percentage of unemployed members of trades unions giving unemployed benefit; extent to which this basis can be relied upon as an accurate index of changes in the labour market, *Smith* 4556–4573.

Information in elucidation of a certain table table compiled from the monthly returns received from trade unions, together with accompanying charts, showing for various trades the changes in the labour market, and the percentages of unemployed at different periods in the years 1887–94; *Smith* 4567 *et seq.*

Paper and charts submitted by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith explanatory of the variations in the percentage of unemployment of members of trades unions in the years 1888–94; 3*rd Rep.*, *p.* 52; *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 547.

Reference to chart in illustration of seasonal changes, and showing the percentages of employment at the end of each month, *Smith* 4574–4581; 3*rd Rep.*, *p.* 52—— Further chart referred to in illustration of the cyclical fluctuations, showing that 1889 and 1890 were the best years since 1887, whilst 1894 was somewhat better than 1893, *Smith* 4581–4588; 3*rd Rep.*, *p.* 52.

Explanations respecting the comparative state of employment in the coal mining, shipbuilding, engineering, building, and other trades at the end of December 1894, and at the end of January and February 1895, as compared with the corresponding periods in the previous winter, *Smith* 4669–4676; 3*rd Rep.*, *p.* 52.

Conclusion that cyclical fluctuations at varying intervals between periods of good trade and periods of bad trade will assuredly recur, *Smith* 4748, 4749——Belief that cycles of depression come round more frequently than in former years, but that the period of depression is shorter, *ib.* 4835–4841. 4920.

Great difficulty in estimating the comparative number of employés in stable trades and in fluctuating trades, *Smith* 4921, 4922——Exceptions taken to certain figures purporting to show a very large proportion of men out of employment for a considerable time during the winter of 1886–87; general and severe depression at this period, *ib.* 4943–4957.

Information supplied from the various urban and rural districts, &c., in England and Wales, and from burghs and parishes in Scotland, as to the extent and character of the local depression and want of employment, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Names of places in England and Wales with trade depression, grouped by trades, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 813–819——Conclusion generally from the returns (England and Wales) that there does not appear to be any evidence of widespread trade depression, *ib.* 820——Absence of any general complaint from the large cotton towns, *ib.*

2. *Consideration of the Causes of Depression in Trade and of Labour Fluctuations, with Suggestions on the Subject:*

Summary of replies received by witness as to the special local causes which account for depression in trade, various causes, irrespective of bad weather, being frequently assigned, *Keir-Hardie* 890–895.

Distinction drawn between the staple industries and the fluctuating industries in connection with the want of employment; summary of trades or employments put under each class and of the several causes of fluctuation, *Smith* 4535–4549.

Distinction between fluctuations due to the different seasons of the year, and those which may be termed periodical or cyclical oscillations, there being also the irregular fluctuations due to weather, *Smith* 4547–4549——Class of fluctuations due to migration of work and of industry from one place to another, *ib.* 4547——Fluctuation due also to changes of process or of fashion, *ib.* 4547–4549.

Further class of fluctuations through the influence of trade disputes on employment in allied trades, *Smith* 4547——Reference to cyclical oscillations as by far the most serious kind of fluctuation, *ib.* 4548——Increased distress when severe frost and want of employment come at the end of a prolonged period of depression in trade, *ib.* 4677.

Difficulty at present in explaining the causes which lead to the cycles of trade depression which occur all over the world, *Smith* 4853–4856.

Conclusion that persons who are reduced to want through the decay of their trade must be maintained by the Poor Law and charity; necessity, however, in such cases of safeguards that will prevent them from being congested in the same place, and looking out for work where it cannot be found, *Mackay* 5354 *et seq.*

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

TRADE DEPRESSION—continued.

2. *Consideration of the Causes of Depression in Trade, &c.*—continued.

Review of the general conditions of employment in the staple manufacturing industries of this country, showing that there are several causes, not preventable, which render such employment of an exceedingly fluctuating and changeable character, there being an increasing tendency to the displacement and curtailment of labour, *Mather* 8975.

Reference to Bradford and Coventry in illustration of the large loss of employment through discontinuance of special manufactures; value of farm colonies in such cases, *Mather* 8975. 9001——Displacement of labour in the manufacturing districts, not only through the increased use of machinery, but through many men not readily adapting themselves to new methods of work, as well as through changes of fashion in the world's garments, *ib.* 8975.

Further evidence respecting the changes of industries, and the displacement of skilled labour, in the cases of Bradford and Coventry, in connection with the question of employment of a portion of such labour on farm colonies, *Mather* 9144-9156.

Evidence in support of the conclusion that the question of the unemployed cannot be touched without a complete re-organisation of our industrial system, *Lansbury* 10408. 10453–10458. 10497. 10510. 10513–10517.

Grounds for the opinion that improved organisation of the management of industries will produce greater regularity of employment, although it will tend immediately against the employed; instances quoted in the building trade and in the dockyards, *C. Booth* 10522–10531. 10606–10611——Tendency of changes in industrial processes to throw men out of employment, *ib.* 10532. 10615, 10616. 10650, 10651.

Table showing the extent to which distress is reported as caused in England and Wales, in February 1895, by bad trade; conclusions thereupon, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 803, 804.

Lists of places with trade depression, specifying in each case the character of the industry of the district or borough and the nature or cause of the depression, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 807–812. 817–819.

See also *Glasgow. Imports. Liverpool. Metropolis. Number of Unemployed. Pontypool. St. Olave's Union. Tin-plate Trade. West Ham. Whitechapel.*

TRADES UNIONS:

Very rare application for relief by members of trades unions and friendly societies, *Keir-Hardie* 959–966——Approval of some distinction as regards relief between those who are quite destitute and those who receive an allowance from their trade union, *Hilleary* 1626–1635.

Chart (submitted by Mr. Llewellyn Smith) showing the percentage of unemployed members of trades unions making returns to the Board of Trade at the end of each month from December 1886 to February 1895, *3rd Rep.*, p. 52.

Charts showing the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in employment in the case of members of trade unions making returns to the Board of Trade; also the fluctuations in special trades, *3rd Rep.* p. 52.

Summary of the several agencies which have been in operation for dealing with distress and unemployment, by far the most extensive agency being the insuring against want of employment through trade societies, *Smith* 4680–4682.

Statement as to the practice in some unions as regards out-of-work benefit being sometimes followed by superannuation, *Smith* 4741–4747——Impression that non-union men are a larger proportion than union men, *ib.* 4796.

Better position of organised than of unorganised labour in time of distress, in so far as the number of organised trades are mutually helpful to each other, *Smith* 4826–4828——Consideration of the effect of trades unions as regards the unemployment of the less efficient men, witness fully recognising the great value of trade organisations in times of depression, *ib,* 4875–4884. 4887——Probability that the standard of efficiency is higher among unionists than non-unionists, *ib.* 4927–4930.

Exceedingly large expenditure of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers for unemployed benefit, witness fully recognising in this connection the valuable operation of trades unions, *Smith* 4958–4966 —— Respect in which unemployed benefit promotes the policy of trade unions as regards maintenance of the rate of wages, *ib.* 5018.

Argument that trade unions, by trying to set up a monopoly of employment for people belonging to the unions, do not always promote their own interests; opinion that they should allow labour to flow more easily, *Mackay* 5549–5559.

View of witness that, while trade unions are entitled to demand a fair share of the profits of industry for their members, it is desirable that they should adopt more elastic ways of dealing with capitalists; tendency of their action at present to swell the ranks of the unemployed, *Cox* 6196 *et seq.*; 6261 *et seq.*

Suggestion

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

TRADES UNIONS—continued.

Suggestion that trade unions should enter into contracts with capitalists, selling the labour of their members at so much per week, or allow their individual members to so contract, the agreement to be subject to compulsory arbitration, *Cox* 6197–6199. 6391–6398. 6518.

Desirability of a modification of the trade unions' rules so as to permit the elderly or more weakly members to earn what they could at a lower rate than that for those in full vigour; belief that such a modification would largely mitigate the suffering entailed by want of employment, *Cox* 6208, 6209. 6307–6315. 6465. 6466. 6526–6532.

Powerlessness of the unions to solve the difficulty of the unemployed; question hereon whether it is not expedient for the State to facilitate a general system of weekly contributions to an unemployed benefit fund, *Hunter* 8377–8384.

Table (submitted by Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith) showing the percentage number of members of the Trade Societies in the United Kingdom rendering Returns to the Board of Trade, who were returned as unemployed at the close of each month in the several years 1888-94; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 547.

See also *Glasgow*, 4.

Tramps and Vagrants. Instances of the great abuse through able-bodied men cadging and begging about the streets instead of working for a living, even at a reduced rate of wages, *Hills* 2580, 2581——Undue facilities given by the public authorities, as by means of shelters, for people to go upon tramp; demoralising effect of encouraging the poor to be dependent on the rates and upon other people, *Mackay* 5718-5724.

Recommendation that the idle, dissolute, and criminal classes should be left to the sharp remedies of the Poor Law and the Criminal Law; statement hereon that the Statutes against vagabondage do not appear to be regularly enforced, *Cox* 6212–6214. 6007-6610. 6616.

Discussion upon the question whether penal colonies in this country for tramps and vagrants would not be an improvement upon the present system; difficulty in ascertaining whether these classes are idle from choice and will not work, *Willink* 8901–8912. 8935–8947——Several difficulties and expenses in working the colonies in Holland and Belgium which would militate against their success in this country, *ib.* 8948–8962.

Recommendation that incorrigible idlers and loafers should be legislated for immediately, and that they should be transferred to a settlement where they would either have to work or starve; no serious difficulty in deciding whether a man is a worthless loafer or not, *B. Booth* 9862. 9927, 9928. 10044-10060.

Desirability of enforcing more stringent laws against begging; instance showing the evils of indiscriminate charity, *Hunt* 10153, 10154. 10335–10349.

Expediency of leaving loafers to be strictly dealt with under the Poor Law; witness has no means of telling the number of people of that class, *C. Booth* 10621-10623. 10742-10769.

See also *Casual Paupers. Labour Test. Out-door Relief.*

Treasury Grants. See *State-aid.*

Tredegar Urban District (*Monmouth*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 108.

Truro (*Cornwall*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief; *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 301——Sufficiency of voluntary modes of relief in the municipal borough, *ib.* 376.

Tuckwell, Rev. William, M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is Rector of Waltham (Lincolnshire), and has had considerable experience as to the condition of agricultural labourers, 6947, 6948. 7437–7441.

Experience of witness that one of the chief causes of want of employment in the towns is the rural exodus from the villages; statistics showing that the decrease in the village population began in 1873 and is getting worse every year, 6948-6951. 6989 *et seq*; 7217–7229——Certainty that the able-bodied members of the village community have invariably been the first to go to the towns, 6951.

Opinion that the exodus from the villages is due to the farmers throughout England continuing obsolete methods of farming with a diminished number of hands, and to the increasing discontent of the labourer with his condition, 6952 *et seq.*; 7010–7022. 7141 *et seq.*; 7420–7423. 7442-7449——Necessity of a labouring man with a wife and four growing children having at least 21*s.* a week, in order to live with any decency or comfort; estimate that the average wage of agricultural labourers in England, after making every allowance, is not more than 15*s.* per week, 6954, 6955, 7112 *et seq.*

Liability of the agricultural labourer to be turned out of his cottage if he complains of his surroundings or votes against the will of his employer, 6955. 7153–7156. 7248–7272

Tuckwell, Rev. William, M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

7272——Utter hopelessness of the position of the agricultural labourer in England, there being no chance of an increase in his 10*s.*, 12*s.*, or 14*s.* wages per week, and the end being the workhouse, 6955. 7415–7419.

Particulars of an attempt made by witness in a very poor village in Warwickshire to improve the condition of the labourer by means of allotments; success of the experiment, the yield of the land in 1888 being about forty-two bushels of wheat per acre, the average throughout the country being twenty-eight, 6959 *et seq.*; 7023 *et seq.*; 7229–7244.

Explanation that there are two reasons why allotment land bears so much more than farmers' land; namely, that the former is much better cultivated than the latter, the labourer having no labour bill to pay, and that the labourer grows for consumption, while the farmer grows for sale, 6962–6965.

Statement that when witness left Warwickshire his successor repudiated the allotment scheme; inability of witness to lease any of the land, for the purpose of building cottages, without the bishop's consent, which was refused, 6966–6970. 7138–7140. 7401–7407. 7424–7429.

Conviction that the salvation of England in the future lies in small holdings, which may be made very profitable, while large holdings can never be made to pay; advantage of the allotment that it can be extended into the small holding, 6970 *et seq.*; 7043–7057. 7074 *et seq.*; 7442–7455. 7470–7476.

Attention drawn to the fact that there are numerous crops for which there is a large demand, and which are being imported from France and Belgium, whilst they can be grown on small holdings in this country, 6971–6973. 7058–7060.

Great success of Lord Tollemache's pasture allotments at Pockforton, the labourers all having money in the savings banks, while the result to Lord Tollemache is that he gets 2½ per cent. on his outlay and the pick of the finest labourers in the country, 6974–6977——Dissatisfaction with recent legislation in regard to allotments, as the labourer cannot get as much land as he wants at a fair rent, nor have perpetual tenure of it as long as his rent is paid, 6978. 7470 *et seq.*

Comparison of the agricultural systems of France and England, the French peasant being comfortable, independent, and full of hope and happiness, while the English peasant is degraded, underpaid, servile, and despairing, 6979, 6980. 7037–7042. 7065–7073. 7086–7088. 7171 *et seq.*

Opinion that nothing less than a gradual and merciful extinction of landlordism, and the nationalisation of the land, will arrest the depopulation of the rural districts; necessity of making the village attractive as well as lucrative, 6981–6988. 7097 *et seq.*; 7273–7276. 7546–7462——Doubt as to there being any individual repugnance on the part of labourers to village and agricultural life; belief that they would stay in the country if life were possible there, 6999–7009.

Admission that witness' ideal allottee would have to work, on an average, eighty-one hours per week, including the work done for the farmer and on the allotment; contention, however, that he would be a gainer morally and physically by so doing, 7028 *et seq.*; 7134–7137——Statement that the only instance of co-operative farming that witness is aware of was undertaken under very favourable circumstances and was an absolute failure, 7049–7057. 7160.

Suggestion that the municipal authority should be the proprietor of the land and let it to the men on conditions of perpetual tenure, fair rent, free sale, and as much land as the men want, 7061. 7064 *et seq.*——Opinion that the Small Holdings Act is even less likely to lead to the acquisition of small holdings by the agricultural community than the clauses in the recent Act, because of the extraordinary difficulty in getting land under the Act, 7079 *et seq.*; 7246, 7247.

Considerable doubt as to its being an easy matter to purchase small quantities of land at a reasonable price in or near our villages, 7081–7085——View of witness that if the allotment holders, by growing larger quantities of stuff than they consumed, displaced the produce grown by the farmers, there would be no serious difficulty, but rather a national gain; probability of the allottee being able to prevent any reduction of his wages, 7089–7096. 7163, 7164.

Decided opinion that the present system of land tenure, apart from its effects on agriculture, is detrimental to the interests of the community; no doubt that the system increases the land values for the proprietors at the expense of those who create the increased value, 7097-7104.

Conviction that land nationalisation would be absolutely just, ethically, as the community has the right to redistribute the land; contention that the landowners ought to think themselves overpaid with forty years' fair rent, 7110, 7111. 7356 *et seq.*; 7396–7400. 7477–7483.

General statement that agricultural wages have not risen during the last ten years, 7115–7119——Object of witness' proposals in regard to allotments and small holdings

to

Tuckwell, Rev. William, M.A. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

to bring the people back from the towns to the country; necessity of some lapse of time for the operation of the legislative changes, 7120–7130. 7161, 7162. 7277–7280. 7339 *et seq.*

Approval of farm colonies as a medium for bringing the people back to the land, if worked concurrently with witness' scheme, 7131–7133——Concurrence in the view that it would be better for the agricultural labourers' cottages to be separate, with the gardens or allotments adjacent to them, than for the cottages to be crowded together on the allotments, 7138–7140.

Desirability of establishing agricultural technical schools, or training colleges, to teach improved methods of cultivating land, and of the educational endowments being re-converted to the use of *pauperes scholares*, for whom they were bequeathed, 7157–7159. 7165-7170——Admission that there are very high protective duties in France on certain produce, and that these duties are an important factor in the comparison of the French and English agricultural systems, 7173–7179.

No doubt that the French peasant and his family can live on very much less than the amount required for an English peasant and his family, 7180–7189——Table handed in by witness showing how the estimate of 21*s.*, the minimum sum per week on which a labourer with a wife and four children can live, is made up; witness has no experience of such a family living decently and comfortably on 14*s.* per week, 7190–7216.

Advisability of providing allotments by private effort wherever possible, as that course is much better and cheaper than resorting to legislative machinery, 7244——Desirability of anything like a competitive rent being avoided; idea of witness that the land to be alloted should be valued and then let by the municipality at an economic rent, 7281 *et seq.*

Contention that a tenant, under witness' system, would be much better off than a tenant under an ordinary landlord, the rent payable by the former being somewhat less than that payable by the latter during the first forty years, and considerably less after the landowner is paid out, 7332 *et seq*; 7430–7436——Opinion that if witness' proposals were taken *en bloc* they would begin at once to reverse the migration from the country to the towns, 7395.

Proposal that all land that is at present individual property shall become State property, and be re-valued, 7408–7414——Explanation that under witness' scheme the labourer who had become a farmer by his own exertions would be allowed to have as many allotments as he could work, sub-letting being most rigidly prevented, 7449–7456.

Explanation that the very severe distress in witness' district during last winter was met by special voluntary subscriptions spent in coal and food, 7463–7466.

Tuckwell, Rev. W. Letter from Mr. Tuckwell, dated 24th June 1895, in reply to certain exceptions taken to his evidence respecting the Stockton covenants by the Rev C. L. E. Parker, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 546.

Tunbridge Urban District (*Kent*). Information respecting the extent of the distress in this urban district and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 108.

Tunbridge Wells. Letter from the mayor of Tunbridge Wells, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 78.

Tunstall (*Stafford*). Character of the local distress; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 109.

Twickenham (*Middlesex*). Amount of distress in this urban district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 177.

Tynemouth (*Northumberland*). Explanation in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the distress in Tynemouth municipal borough, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 144——Amount of distress in the rural district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 379.

U.

Ulverston (*Lancaster*). Information in February 1895 as to the extent and character of the local distress, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 198.

United States. Importance of the measures adopted in Massachusetts and other States for the provision of work for the unemployed, *Smith* 4725.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

United States—continued.

Statement showing the number of persons employed in certain industries in 1880 and 1890; large increase in the latter year as compared with the former, *App.* (3*rd Rep*) 512.

Unskilled Labour. Main difficulty as regards want of employment, in the case of unskilled labourers, it being proposed under witness' scheme of relief works to acquire land for their employment, and to convey them thereto and back again from the towns, *Hills* 2669-2675.

See also *Farm and Labour Colonies. Migration of Labour. Reclamation Works. Relief Works.*

Uptm-upon-Severn (*Worcester*). Absence of exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 384.

Urban Districts (*England and Wales*). Explanations submitted by various local authorities as to the extent and character of the distress in numerous urban districts, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 80-112. 146–181. 216–239. 266–288. 312–316. 330–334. 347–353. 360–365. 370–372. 376–378. 382, 383. 385, 386. 389. 395 *et seq.*

Uxbridge. Considerable distress through the severe weather; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 198.

V.

Vagrants. See *Tramps and Vagrants.*

Vallance, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is clerk to the Whitechapel board of guardians, 11532.

Evidence as to the powers at present possessed by Poor-Law authorities in dealing with cases of distress resulting from want of employment, such powers being derived from the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, London and other urban unions being regulated by the Out-door Relief Regulation Order of the 14th December 1852; 11533, 11534——Relief to able-bodied male persons on the ground of want of employment, conditional, under the order, on either the acceptance of an order of admission to the workhouse or the performance of an adequate task of work as a labour test; exceptions to this rule, 11534.

Statistics showing that the total average number of paupers relieved in Whitechapel in 1870 was 4,865, and, in 1895, 1,868, the greatest pauperism having been reached early in February 1870, when the total was 6,758; 11535, 11536——Statement that previous to 1870 the administration of poor relief in Whitechapel was similar to that in other unions, but that the experience of the winter of 1869–70 led the guardians to reconsider their position, and to aim at reforming a system that was felt to be fostering pauperism, demoralising the poor, and wronging the ratepayers, 11537, 11538.

Absence of necessity for opening the labour-yard or of adopting exceptional measures of relief in Whitechapel during the last twenty-five years, notwithstanding the virtual suspension of the Order of 1852; there has been no complaint that the administration entailed suffering on the poor, the general opinion being that the guardians are bringing about a better state of things, 11538, 11539. 11550. 11592–11594——Substitution by the guardians of useful and profitable employment for the paupers in the workhouse in lieu of oakum picking, stone-breaking, &c., every one being employed to the extent of his ability, and, as far as possible, at his own trade; entire success of the attempt to exercise a salutary restraint upon the conduct and conversation of the paupers during the evening hours, 11540, 11541. 11557–11560.

Particulars of a modified workhouse test order obtained by the Whitechapel guardians from the Local Government Board in 1887, under which they were able to ensure the preservation of the home of the applicant for relief, and at the same time have adequate security against a too ready dependence on the rates, 11541.

Consideration by the Whitechapel guardians, at intervals, of the practicability of, either directly or indirectly, employing the unemployed on the land, resulting in several conferences of the guardians of all the metropolitan unions; conclusion that any scheme of an agricultural training home must necessarily be carried out by a body outside the Poor Law, 11542-11546.

Information respecting the six men sent by the Whitechapel guardians to a small farm at Langley, started by Mr. Hazell for the relief of the unemployed, five of whom reached the farm and obtained satisfactory reports, two of them emigrating to New Zealand; explanation that no more men were sent to the farm because there were only

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Vallance, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

only eight men who were suitable and willing to go, and of these seven took their discharge, 11546–11548. 11561–11567.

Statement that the relieving officers in Whitechapel are in constant communication with the Charity Organisation Society, with a view to saving from the Poor Law those who are under the necessity of seeking assistance; endeavour of the guardians also to secure the co-operation of the District Board of Works with the same object, 11549. 11568–11575.

Sufficiency of the existing Poor Law, wisely administered, in co-operation with organised charity, to meet ordinary recurrent or seasonal periods of distress, while exceptional cases can be dealt with by the modified workhouse test order, 11551.

Decided opinion that the present time is opportune for the Legislature to deal sternly with the habitual pauper, who uses the workhouse as a legal means of avoiding the necessity for self-maintenance by work; recommendation that justices should have the power of sending such men to some place where they could be kept to useful labour for three months, 11551. 11576–11591——Conclusion that the last word cannot have been spoken upon the question of the unemployed so long as any large quantity of land remains out of cultivation, 11551.

Increasing number of Jews now resorting to the Poor Law, the Jewish board of guardians experiencing more and more difficulty in dealing with the poor in the absence of a workhouse test; fear of the board that if they established a workhouse for Jews a larger number than ever would be attracted from Russia and Poland, 11552–11556—— Strong feeling on the part of witness that persons who receive Poor Law relief should not be allowed to vote for Poor Law guardians, 11595, 11596.

Valley Rural District (*Anglesey*). Scarcity of labour in this district, there having been no distress, *App.* (*2nd Rep*) 470.

Vestries (*Metropolis*). Denial that pressure on the part of the Local Government Board was needed in order to stimulate vestries and district boards, as in Islington, to do what was feasible in the matter of the unemployed, *Dewey* 3762–3771.

Disapproval, on principle, of any question of employing unemployed labour being allowed to influence the vestries in carrying out their duties as to repaving streets and remedying sanitary defects, *Mackay* 5647–5661.

View of witness that there should be only one Poor Law authority, and that it would be a mistake to have the vestries giving relief as well as the Poor Law guardians, *Mackay* 5799–5802. 5819 *et seq.*

Impossibility of any voluntary committee dealing satisfactorily with the amelioration of relief in London; suggestion that in cases of necessity relief should be granted from the Common Poor Fund and administered by the vestries under the control of an elected body, *Smart*, 11305–11327. 11332–11354. 11382–11399.

See also *Battersea. Camberwell. Labour Test. Local Authorities. Relief Works. St. Olave's Union. West Ham.*

Victoria. Arrangement in Victoria as to employment on railways on the butty gang system; varying modes of payment, *Smith* 4727, 4728.

Memorandum respecting the establishment and operation of labour colonies in Victoria, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 513.

Voluntary Agencies. Communications from numerous local authorities showing the extent to which the distress has been met by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

See also *Charitable Relief* (*Charity Organisation Society*). *Church Army. Glasgow*, 3. *Mansion House Committee. Pontypool. Relief Works*, 2. *Salvation Army. Scotland. West Ham.*

W.

Wages. Explanation that witness is not prepared with any wages statistics in the engineering or other skilled trades; deductions to be allowed in years of depression, whilst on the other hand allowance should be made for overtime, *Smith*, 4798–4804.

Tendency of the rigid administration of the Poor Law as regards out-relief to make the men disposed to demand higher wages in depressed times, *Mackay* 5713–5715.——Impracticability of labourers saving much, if anything, out of their precarious earnings, *Hunter*, 8272. 8332–8336.

Adoption by witness of a minimum wage (as well as an eight hours day); statement hereon as to men not being often thrown out of work because of age and the competition of

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Wages—continued.

younger men, *Mather* 9061–9069.——Information as to the average age at which a good worker fails to get his highest value, *C. Booth*, 10574-10581.

See also *Agriculture*, 3. *Building Trade. Farm and Labour Colonies. Migration of Labour. Relief Works. Trade Unions.*

Wakefield (*York*). Information supplied in report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 42. 51.

Letter from the mayor in February explanatory of the extent and character of the local distress, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 346.

Sufficiency of voluntary agencies in the rural district during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 445.

Wales. Information supplied in reports by Inspectors as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 32. 41.

See also *Pontypool. Swansea. Tin-Plate Trade.*

Walker (*Northumberland*). Amount of distress in this urban district in February, relief measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 334.

Wallasey (*Chester*). Local explanations in February as to the amount of distress in the Wallasey urban district, and the remedial measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 236.

Wallsend Urban District (*Northumberland*). Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 389.

Walmer and Deal (*Kent*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work, or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Walsall (*Stafford*). Particulars supplied by the mayor, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of distress in the county borough from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 63—— Extent and character of the distress in the rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief, *ib.* 301.

Waltham (*Lincolnshire*). Statement that the very severe distress in witness' district during last winter was met by special voluntary subscriptions, spent in coal and food, *Tuckwell* 7463–7466.

Waltham Holy Cross (*Essex*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 178.

Walthamstow (*Essex*). Amount and cause of the local distress; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 389, 390.

Walton le Dale (*Lancaster*). Satisfactory absence of distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 352.

Walton-on-the-Hill (*Lancaster*). Exceptional distress in this urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measure of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 286.

Walton-on-Thames (*Surrey*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 178.

Wandsworth and Clapham Union:

1. *Large Extent and Large Rateable Value of the Union.*
2. *Amount of Distress and Cost of Poor Relief.*
3. *Stone-yard and Out-Door Relief; Objections to the Operation of the former.*

1. *Large Extent and Large Rateable Value of the Union:*

Evidence to the effect that the Wandsworth and Clapham Union comprises 11,454 acres, with a population of 332,542, and is the largest in the metropolis; division of the union into six parishes, of which Battersea and Wandsworth contain a large number of the working class, the remainder being more residential, *Henderson* 5156–5160.

Details as to the rateable value of the union, which has been just about doubled in the last twenty years, and is now 1,962,355*l.*; variation of the rates in the various parishes, *Henderson* 5161–5165.

Considerable

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION—continued.

2. *Amount of Distress and Cost of Poor Relief:*

Considerable distress reported from Wandsworth, largely through stoppage of employment in the building trade, *Sir H. Owen* 139, 140.

Inclusion of various rates under the heading of poor rate, the actual amount spent in connection with the poor not being more than one-third of the whole rate; great difference in the constitution of the poor rate inside and outside the metropolis, *Henderson* 5166 *et seq.*

Statistics showing that the actual money required for the maintenance of the poor in the Wandsworth and Clapham Union has increased in a greater ratio than the valuation, *Henderson* 5169 *et. seq.*; 5235–5240.

Evidence to the effect that the relief operations of the board of guardians are not restricted to the poor people who apply for relief, but that all known deserving cases are relieved either by the board or by charity societies with which the guardians are in touch, *Milligan* 5883-5886. 5895–5900.

View of witness (as chairman of the board) that it is not his duty to go outside his board and seek out cases of poverty; statement that the work involved in doing so would be too great as he already deals with something like 6,000 cases of distress per year, *Milligan* 5884–5887.

Particulars supplied by Mr. B. Weir in letter dated 23th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment; the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 58.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 and 1893–94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

3. *Stone-yard and Out-door Relief; Objections to the Operation of the former:*

Result of a committee of inquiry into out-relief in 1894, that some of the relieving officers were dismissed for malversation, that new rules were made, and the whole district reconstituted, *Henderson* 5180–5190. 5237–5240.

Decrease in the out-door relief this year until the very severe weather set in, when the number in the stone-yard increased very much; permission given for the men to work six instead of four days per week in the stone-yard, because of the acute distress during the frost, *Henderson* 5187–5200. 5241 *et seq.*; 5273–5275. 5311–5324.

Particulars of the relief given to the men working in the stone-yard, the weekly value going up to a maximum of 15*s.* 2*d.*, with a double allowance of bread on Saturday, for a man with a wife and more than six children, *Henderson* 5200–5215. 5293–5310.

Statement that the inquiry into the genuineness of the circumstances alleged by the applicants for relief was as thorough as possible, considering the large number of applications, *Henderson* 5206–5215. 5272.

Explanation that the average quantity of stones broken in the stone-yard this year has been 2 to 3 cwt. per man per day, while the allotted task is 8 cwt.; understanding, however, that the men work according to the best of their physical ability, *Henderson* 5216-5220.—Analysis of the trades of the men working in the stone-yard in 1894, the majority of the men being labourers, *ib.* 5221–5226. 5276–5278.

Statement that in no single case was an applicant who came within the rules refused work by the guardians; belief, however, that the greater number of people in distress did not apply for relief, *Henderson* 5227–5234. 5268–5271. 5281–5292.

Resolution passed by the guardians of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union expressing the opinion that the Government should at once consider the question of starting some scheme to meet the difficulty of want of employment otherwise than by opening stone-yards, which are calculated to pauperise and demoralise the poor, *Henderson* 5243–5267. 5303–5310. 5325.

Explanation that the resolution of the board calling upon the Government to find means of employment for the unemployed and condemning the stone-yard system, was passed by twelve to ten; belief that the whole of the guardians agreed to the latter part of the resolution, *Milligan* 5888-5891.

Paper containing a comparison of numbers in the stone-yard in 1893–94 and 1894–95; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 502.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

WANSTEAD FLATS (WEST HAM RELIEF WORKS):

1. *Explanations generally as to the Extent and Character of the Experiment at Wanstead Flats, the Labour on which the Men were Employed, and the Results as regards subsequent Employment.*
2. *Rate of Payment of the Men and Financial Results.*
3. *Exceptions taken to the Experiment.*

1. *Explanations generally as to the Extent and Character of the Experiment at Wanstead Flats, the Labour on which the Men were Employed, and the Results as regards subsequent Employment:*

Institution by the West Ham Relief Committee last year of works upon about 180 acres of land at Wanstead Flats, men in want of work having been employed six hours daily, *Hills* 2533, 2534——Eventual carrying out of the works on Wanstead Flats by the Relief Committee (without aid from the Town Council), employment having been given to from 120 to 180 men, *ib.* 2536.

Explanations in detail respecting the conditions and system of payment under which the men have been employed, the character of the work, the supervision exercised, and the financial results; success claimed notwithstanding that there was an organised trades union obstruction to the payment of 4*d.* instead of 6*d.* an hour, *Hills* 2536–2566——Arrangements as regards food for the men, so that they show much physical improvement, *ib.* 2557.

Invitation to the present Committee to visit the relief works on Wanstead Flats, so that they may see for themselves the practical working of the system of employment, *Hills* 2568.

Very satisfactory results of the experiments in West Ham not only as regards the improved condition of those employed by the Relief Committee, but as regards their future employment elsewhere, *Hills* 2574. 2580. 2778–2790. 2798–2800.

Arrangements for supervision at Wanstead Flats; maximum of 186 employed at any time, *Hills* 2770–2773——Facility in applying the test of residence in connection with employment, *ib.* 2774–2777.

Information respecting the men employed in the levelling and digging operations on Wanstead Flats, most of whom were country born, the number which averaged about 100 having risen to 180 at the busiest time; statement that the work paid better after the gangs were reduced from twenty-five men to ten men as the superintendence was better, *Mansell* 11433–11450. 11478 *et seq.*

Evidence to the effect that on the conclusion of the work on the Flats, most of the intelligent and willing workmen were provided with situations in the Thames Iron-works and other works; belief, however, that a few of the men who had served their time at a trade are still out of work, *Mansell* 11451–11461——Willingness of the majority of the men employed to do the work alloted them, those who were not quite fit for the work, physically, doing their best; care taken to make the gangs as equal as possible, *ib.* 11462–11466

Opinion that, in addition to the absolute relief given at the moment, the Wanstead operations cured some of the men, and made them more permanent workers, *Mansell* 11491–11501——Suggestion that continuous land cultivation should be found for the unemployed, the men being mostly able and willing to work; desire of some of them to go back into the country if they could find work there, *ib.* 11502–11531.

2. *Rate of Payment of the Men and Financial Results:*

Employment of the men for six hours daily, four days a week at 4 *d.* an hour, *Hills* 2533, 2534——Shelter and food provided for the men at a very small charge, *ib.* 2574. 2582–2584.

Grounds for the contention that the experiment at Wanstead Flats proves that the men earned in kind an equivalent of 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a day, and that their labour did not entail any loss whatever, *Mather* 9024–9032.

Statement that the rate of pay was 4*d.* per hour with 1*s.* per rod for double digging, the amount earned by each gang beyond the 4*d.* per hour being given at the end of the week as a bonus, *Mansell* 11467–11470. 11490.

Uncertainty as to whether the Wanstead experiment can be considered a paying transaction from a business point of view; no doubt that if witness had not had to take all comers, but could have picked his men, he could have made it pay, *Mansell* 11471 *et seq.*

3. *Exceptions taken to the Experiment:*

Condemnation of the work done on Wanstead Flats under Mr. Hills' scheme as useless and in no way remunerative, elevating, or productive; no doubt that it was done at a lower price than if it had been put out under contract, but not so long as the rate at which the borough council could have done it, *Morton* 11064–11069. 11144–11149.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Wanstead Urban District (*Essex*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 179.

Ware (*Hertford*). Non-existence of any unusual distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 324.

Wareham (*Dorset*). Letter from the mayor of Wareham, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 79——Statement to the effect that there is no exceptional distress from want of employment in the rural district of Wareham and Purbeck, *ib.* 435

Warrington. Exceptional distress in the district, mainly through the severe weather; relief measures provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 360.

Warwick. Letter from the town clerk of Warwick, dated 25th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress and the relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 311.

Warwickshire. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 30, 31.

Watford (*Herts*). Amount of distress in the urban district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 179——Character of the distress in the rural district, and of the employment and relief provided, *ib.* 198.

Wavertree (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the distress in this district, and the relief and employment provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 180.

Wayland (*Norfolk*). Sufficiency of voluntary effort for dealing with the distress in this rural district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 324.

Weather (*Stoppage of Employment*):

Large mitigation of distress anticipated when the frost goes, though this does not equally apply to all districts, *Sir H. Owen* 248.

Apprehended continuance of a great amount of distress, irrespectively of severe weather, *Keir-Hardie* 738——Data for the estimate of 1,750,000 as the number out of employment through the frost, *ib.* 895–897.

Further information as to the basis of witness' estimate (a very rough one) of 1,750,000 of unemployed persons in the United Kingdom, through the frost; estimate of about 1,000,000 permanently out of work throughout the summer, *Keir-Hardie* 1186–1204. 1234.

Difficulties in drawing any comparison between the state of distress in connection with the want of employment in the present and previous winters; explanations hereon respecting the condition of employment in the two periods as affected by the state of the weather, *Smith* 4677, 4678.

Communications from local authorities and others throughout England and Wales and Scotland, respecting the extent of distress in each district, parish, &c., through the severity of the weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 57 *et seq.*; *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 565 *et seq.*

Summary of returns (England and Wales), showing the amount of distress reported as due to the severe weather, in February 1895; conclusions drawn from the returns as to this cause of distress, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 803, 804.

Conclusion from the returns for England and Wales, that 44 per cent. of the population making returns complain of the severe weather as the chief cause of the exceptional distress, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 804.

Reference to the distress due to the weather as far more apparent in the metropolis and county and non-county boroughs than in urban or rural districts, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 804.

See also *the Headings generally throughout the Index.*

Wednesbury (*Stafford*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 79.

Wellingborough (*Northampton*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 180——Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *ib.* 339.

Wellington (*Salop*). No exceptional distress in this district from want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 445.

Wellington (*Somerset*). Information respecting the extent of the distress in the urban district, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 110——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 301.

Wells (*Somerset*). Extent of the distress in the urban district; remedial measures adopted *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 79——Absence of any unusual or exceptional want of employment in the rural district, *ib.* 435.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Wem (*Salop*). Sufficiency of voluntary effort for dealing with the distress in this rural district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 324.

West Bromwich. Particulars supplied by the mayor, in letter dated 21st February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies respectively, &c. *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 132.

West Cowes. Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 352.

West Derby (*Lancaster*). Extent and character of the distress in this rural district in February; remedial steps taken for its relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 301, 302——Amount and cause of the distress in the urban district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *ib.* 389.

West Ham:

1. *Number of Unemployed in West Ham Union; Local Census taken.*
2. *Extent and Causes of the Distress in the Union.*
3. *Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively; amount of Poor Rate and other Rates.*
4. *Stone-yard and Labour Test.*
5. *Local action in the provision of Relief Works and of Employment; particulars as to the Cost, Administration, and Result of the Works.*
6. *Question of Government Aid towards Relief of the Distress; alleged inability of the Guardians or Local Authorities to cope with the evil.*
7. *Migration and Immigration of Labour.*
8. *Exception taken to Circular of Local Government Board.*
9. *Papers submitted by Dr. Hilleary in Elucidation and Amplification of his Evidence on certain Points.*
10. *Full Inquiry by the Committee into the case of West Ham.*

1. *Number of Unemployed in West Ham Union; Local Census taken:*

Reference to a recent census of the unemployed in West Ham, as showing that 6,176 persons were casually employed, and 10,131 out of work, *Keir-Hardie* 736——Large increase in the estimate of 10,000 out of employment if those affected by the frost and their families be added, *ib.* 898–910.

Consideration of the extent to which the number of the unemployed, as in the building trade and in work at the docks and on the river, was influenced by the frost, at the time the census was taken; form of census paper handed in, *Keir Hardie* 946–962. 1031–1034.

Number of men in the West Ham district out of work in winter, irrespectively of severe weather, and also in the summer, relatively to the total population, *Hilleary* 1240, 1241; *Alden* 2200–2217.

Several capacities in which witness has become conversant with the West Ham district; reference more especially to the prominent part taken by him in the recent census of the borough with reference to the number of the unemployed, *Alden* 1976–1980——Constitution of the local committee by whom the census was carried out, it having been completed about the 20th January, after a house to house visitation over nearly the whole of the borough, *ib.* 1980–1983. 1992. 1997–1999.

Result of the census that it showed about 10,140 workers out of employment in the borough, including about 1,000 women; very large proportion in the southern part of the borough, *Alden* 1982–1999——Difficulty of arriving at any fairly accurate estimate of the number of casual labourers, *ib.* 1993-1996——Enormous increase during the frost in the foregoing numbers, *ib.* 2000.

Explanation that the whole of the 10,000 persons reported as unemployed were not absolutely destitute; inclusion in this total of many young persons down to 16 years, *Alden* 2113–2131.

Examination with further reference to the total number out of employment in West Ham, in winter and in summer, and the several classes of which composed, *Alden* 2344–2371.

Information respecting the census taken in the early part of the year in the borough of West Ham, with a view to find the number of unemployed; the actual number of unemployed male workers was 9,431; *Thorne* 10790–10794——Upwards of 10,000 unemployed altogether, according to the census taken by the trades council of the borough, *Morton* 11024. 11028.

Particulars required in connection with the unemployed registers, together with the number of names registered during each week, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 495.

Exceptional

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

WEST HAM—continued.

2. *Extent and Causes of the Distress in the Union:*

Exceptional distress in West Ham, not only through some decaying industries, but through the agricultural depression in Essex, *Keir-Hardie* 1031-1033.

Extent to which the several parishes are rural or urban, the want of employment and the distress existing chiefly in West Ham and Leyton parishes, *Hilleary* 1242, 1243——Information respecting the various callings of the unemployed, the main proportion being returned as labourers, *ib.* 1316-1326——Enormous and rapid increase of the working-class population of the union; chief occupations and industries in which employed, *ib.* 1376-1378. 1392-1400. 1494-1500. 1596-1603.

Belief that not many persons in West Ham are summonod for non-payment of rates, *Hilleary* 1552–1555——Recurring character of the want of employment in the winter months whenever the weather is severe, *ib.* 1649–1652. 1731–1735——Small number of skilled workmen permanently unemployed, those out of work being chiefly labourers, *ib.* 1713-1722.

Examination as to the increase or decrease of employment of various kinds, as in the sugar industry, gasworks, docks, &c., *Hilleary* 1747–1778. 1812——Comparatively few casuals and tramps, *ib.* 1802–1808——View of the guardians that the severe weather mainly accounts for the excessive applications for relief in West Ham, as elsewhere, *ib.* 1809-1811.

Particulars as to the several trades and the different classes of workmen chiefly affected by the severe weather and by depression of business; reference especially to the Thames Shipbuilding Company, the docks, agriculture, &c., *Alden* 2001-2022——Large increase of employment in different trades in West Ham when the severe weather comes to an end, this not equally applying to the class of agricultural labourers, *ib.* 2098-2105——Fairly thrifty character of the working classes in the district, so that many have savings to fall back upon in times of distress, *ib.* 2132–2135.

Statement to the effect that the distress is more amongst the general labouring class than amongst skilled men, *Alden* 2477–2488. 2501–2512——Extent to which the unemployed are members of trades unions and receive out-of-work money, *ib.* 2482–2484. 2501–2509——Employment of women chiefly in the jam works and india-rubber works, *ib.* 2510-2512——Decreased employment in the ship-building trade and causes thereof, *ib.* 2513-2523.

Explanation that the road scarifier in West Ham was dispensed with last winter, because it would have been the means of throwing a large number of men out of work, *Thorne* 10824, 10825.

3. *Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively; Amount of Poor Rate and other Rates:*

Crowded state of the workhouse in West Ham, the guardians being unable to deal with the distress, *Keir-Hardie* 736, 737——Very high rates in the union, all that is possible being already done, *ib.* 987, 988.

Total of about 55,000 *l.* as the amount of relief in the union last year, the rateable value being 1,627,485*l.*, and the poor rate being about 1*s.* 1*d.*, *Hilleary* 1244–1248. 1655, 1656——Particulars respecting the amount of out-door relief in the winter months in recent years and in February 1895; also the total number of persons relieved at different periods, *ib.* 1249–1264.

Information with reference to the poor rate (1*s.* 1*d.*), the School Board rate, and other rates in West Ham, the total being about 8*s.* in the £., witness explaining that each additional penny of poor rate in the union would bring in nearly 7,000*l.*, which would be a much larger sum than a share of a Government grant, *Hilleary* 1366–1372. 1411–1415. 1431–1443. 1481-1493. 1606–1611. 1787–1790.

Sufficient poor rate available for the relief of distress in the district if pauperism with its disqualifications did not deter applications, *Hilleary* 1366–1372. 1431–1443. 1492, 1493——Benefit to the union from the Equalisation of Rates Bill if the union were within the area, *ib.* 1373–1375. 1617–1620——Facility with which the union can raise money at 3 per cent. or less, *ib.* 1664.

Information as to the numbers relieved in October and November last, and in March and April, before and since the severe weather, *Hilleary* 1711, 1712——Out-door relief freely given in the union, the guardians, however, having no difficulty in dealing with all the cases that come before them, *ib.* 1796-1801. 1818-1820.

Explanation that the poor rate throughout the West Ham union may be taken at from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* in the £., whilst in some metropolitan parishes it is half as much again, *Hilleary* 1821–1830——Belief that an inspector from the central board has not suggested that, under certain circumstances, relief should be taken by the relieving officers to the men's houses, *ib.* 1852-1860.

Large and increasing proportion of out-door relief, steps being taken to increase the

WEST HAM—continued.

3. *Out-door and In-door Relief, respectively, &c.*—continued.

workhouse accommodation, the house being over-full, *Hilleary* 1878–1882. 1958–1966 ——Decrease rather than increase of relief in West Ham in December and January 1894–95, until the severe weather set in, as compared with the same period in 1893–94, *ib.* 1955–1957——Explanation that the school-rate for last year was 1*s.* 11*d.* in the £., *ib.* 1974, 1975.

Explanation respecting the rate of payment in money and in kind for out-relief in the union, *Alden* 2218–2220. 2526, 2527.

4. *Stone-yard and Labour Test:*

Considerable increase, through the frost, in the number employed in the labour yard as compared with previous years, the number, however, being now (26th February) on the decline; limited influx of unemployed from other districts, *Hilleary* 1354–1364. 1381–1391. 1802–1808.

Conclusion as to the necessity of retaining the stone-yard test, *Hilleary* 1881–1884. 1921. 1950, 1951——Varying practice, according to the stress of destitution, as to the application of the labour test, efficient inquiry being made by the relieving officers as to the circumstances of the applicants for relief, *ib.* 1968–1973.

Unsatisfactory operation of the Poor Law system in West Ham, the labour test in the stone-yard being objectionable and demoralising, whilst it could not be efficiently used on account of the great number of applicants, *Alden* 2136–2143. 2314–2316—— Relief at the stone-yard, partly in money and partly in kind, *ib.* 2218–2220.

5. *Local Action in the Provision of Relief Works and of Employment; Particulars as to the Cost, Administration, and Result of the Works:*

Extent of employment provided in West Ham on relief works other than the stone-yard; employment also by means of a sum of 1,000*l.* given by Mr. Hills, which the town council eventually declined to accept, *Keir-Hardie* 983–986. 991–1006. 1087–1092.

Condtions of the Local Government Board, subject to which the West Ham guardians sent twenty-seven men last year to do farm-work under the English Colonisation Society, the society being paid 5*s.* a week for each man; advantage if similar arrangements could be carried out on a large scale without entailing disqualification, *Hilleary* 1268–1283. 1333-1339. 1365. 1706–1709.

Explanation respecting the action taken in the union with a view to the provision of employment, there having been several deputations from the unemployed, followed by an interview with the Local Government Board; legal difficulties in the matter, *Hilleary* 1284–1289. 1327-1332. 1694–1696.

Eventual withdrawal of the council from Mr. Hills' scheme, to which that gentleman contributed 1,000*l.*, *Hilleary* 1285. 1510–1522——Steps taken last year by the council, jointly with a voluntary committee, for giving employment on certain works, *ib.* 1307.

Further reference to the scheme of employment promoted by Mr. Hills, at a low rate of wage, and objected to on that ground, though it was eventually carried out by a local committee, *Hilleary* 1307, 1308. 1469–1480. 1510–1522. 1636-1640——Summary of the employment given in January and February on relief works, showing the numbers employed and the cost incurred, *ib.* 1308, 1309.

Report of the borough engineer for 1893-94, containing particulars as to the relief works during the year, the wages paid for works on Wanstead Flats, for the laying out of recreation grounds, &c.; conclusion expressed that national rather than local treatment is required, *Hilleary* 1310–1315.

Payment of 6*d.* an hour to the men employed in the union; tendency of this rate to prevent men seeking regular employment, *Hilleary* 1456–1468——Demand of the unemployed for work at a fair rate of pay, their objection being to the stone-yard as a test of relief, *ib.* 1668–1671.

Difficulties in the way of certain joint arrangements between the guardians and the corporation, whereby the latter might aid as regards work for the unemployed, so as to obviate the application of the labour test by the former, *Hilleary* 1694–1705. 1725–1727——Belief that no steps are taken to prevent men going on relief works who are earning money in the docks for two or three days in the week, *ib.* 1739–1746.

Doubt as to any benefit resulting from conferences and concerted action between the various agencies in the locality, such as the guardians, town council, school board trades unions, friendly societies, &c., *Hilleary* 1812–1817.

Loan obtained last year by the town council for relief works at Wanstead Flats, and for other works; lapse of time before sanction was obtained from the Local Government Board, *Hilleary* 1831–1841——Aggregate of about 45,000*l.* as the indebted-

ness

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

WEST HAM—continued.

5 *Local Action in the Provision of Relief Works and of Employment, &c.*—contd.

ness of the council for public works, the rateable value on which raised being about 1,000,000*l.*; *Hilleary* 1842–1851.

Statement as to no action having been taken respecting any scheme of annual relief works, employment upon the land or roads not being feasible during hard frost; views of Mr. Will Thorne on this point, *Hilleary* 1887–1905. 1944–1947——Employment of the able-bodied men on wood-chopping and oakum-picking; degree of competition in the former case with outside employment, *ib.* 1922. 1927-1942.

Grounds upon which witness differed from the proposal of Mr. Hills to employ men upon relief works at a much lower wage than the trades union rate of wages, *Alden* 2081–2097.

Considerable experience of witness in connection with the relief works; he represents the local relief committee, *Hills* 2531-2533——Constitution of the relief committee two years ago, partly of the town council and partly of the subscribers to a public charitable fund, the latter having provided about 1,000*l.*, and the council having agreed to find a similar sum, *ib.* 2533, 2534.

Explanations in detail in connection with the relief works at Wanstead Flats, *Hills* 2533 *et seq.*; *Mansell* 11433 *et seq.*——Result of the foregoing experiment that in West Ham, and still more in Poplar, the work costs a great deal more than it would have done under ordinary conditions, *Hills* 2534.

Amended system proposed to the council, based upon piece-work, with a minimum wage; approval thereof by the council in the first instance, whilst on the interference of Mr. Will Thorne (secretary of a local trade union), this approval was rescinded, *Hills* 2535, 2536.

Conflicting evidence as to the success or value of the Wanstead Flats experiment, *Mather* 9024–9032; *Morton* 11064–11069. 11144–11149; *Mansell* 11471 *et seq.*

Detailed evidence respecting the relief works carried on in West Ham during the last three winters, *Thorne* 10802–10809——Statement respecting the 1,000*l.* contributed by Mr. Hills during the winter of 1893-94, and the restrictions attached thereto; reasons which led the town council to refuse the second contribution offered by the same gentleman in December 1894; *ib.* 10803–10806.

Evidence to the effect that the poor law guardians did all they could for the unemployed in West Ham during the winter, and were prevented from doing more by the Local Government Board; opinion, however, that the work carried out did not touch the fringe of the unemployed question, *Morton* 11008-11018.

6. *Question of Government Aid towards Relief of the Distress; alleged inability of the Guardians or Local Authorities to cope with the Evil:*

Reference to an application from West Ham for some aid from the Local Government Board, to be handed over to the Corporation with the view of diminishing the loss which the latter might have to bear in consequence of giving work during the hard frost, *Sir H. Owen* 285.

Inability of the guardians and Corporation of West Ham, aided by trades unions and friendly societies, to meet the present severe distress, witness advocating temporary State help for this and other localities who can prove their need of it, *Keir-Hardie* 736, 737. 777 *et seq.*; 967 *et seq.*

Questions considered as to the very large number of unemployed in West Ham (and in populous districts generally), in connection with the degree of relief to be afforded under witness' scheme of Government grants and the number of meals which could be provided, *Keir-Hardie* 777 *et seq.*

Denial that the guardians and local authorities of West Ham are able to successfully cope with the severe distress, and to relieve all the unemployed from year to year, though some districts may be in a position to do so, *Keir-Hardie* 1053-1058. 1134–1136——Dissent from the view that dissatisfaction to other districts and demoralisation in West Ham would result from the proposed State aid in the latter case, *ib.* 1059–1065.

Extent to which West Ham may be regarded as a typical case as regards local claim to a share of a Treasury grant; reference hereon to the case of Glasgow and other towns in Scotland, *Keir-Hardie* 1205–1222.

Petition presented to Parliament on the part of the Corporation of West Ham; submission therein that the duty of finding employment for able-bodied persons out of work should be undertaken by the State, neither the council nor the guardians having any machinery for dealing with the evil, *Hilleary* 1294–1306. 1379, 1380.

View of the West Ham Council (and of witness) that the State should either undertake the duty of finding work for the unemployed or should throw the duty upon the council or the guardians, and prescribe how it is to be done, *Hilleary* 1340-1347.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

West Ham—continued.

6. *Question of Government Aid towards Relief of the Distress, &c.*—continued.

1403. 1416, 1417. 1451–1455. 1542–1551. 1570–1572. 1672, 1673. 1725–1729.——Circumstance of the Petition to Parliament not having been read over to the council; general approval, however, by the members, *Hilleary* 1530–1541. 1582–1595.

Further statement as to the extent of work available for the able-bodied when the weather improves, witness submitting that meanwhile those still unemployed and destitute through stress of weather might have their rents and rates paid for them and be provided with food, if a State grant be obtained, *Hilleary* 1861–1877. 1885, 1886.

Difficulties of adequate poor relief in West Ham on exceptional occasions, so that witness submits there should be a State grant available for the district and for other places labouring under similar difficulties, *Alden* 2107–2112——Entire inability of the corporation or of voluntary agencies to provide work for the unemployed, save for a very small proportion of them, *ib.* 2280. 2296–2299.

Unanimous opinion of a meeting of the unemployed that, in view of the large number of people starving, the Government ought to insist upon all the land now lying idle being brought into cultivation, or else depute various bodies to take possession of it and cultivate it, *Morton* 11018 *et seq.*

7. *Migration and Immigration of Labour:*

Limited extent to which there has been any official action as regards migration of labour or employment on useful works in time of depression, *Hilleary* 1779–1786.

Reference to statistics as showing that an enormous proportion of the working population of West Ham have migrated from other districts; large immigration of agricultural labourers, *Alden* 2045–2056. 2099.

Willingness of some 20 to 30 per cent of the unemployed to go back to the land, even under present conditions, if it were possible to get work in the country, *Morton* 1021 *et seq.*

8. *Exception taken to Circular of Local Government Board:*

Grounds for complaint as to the Circular of the Central Board having implied that the corporation could start relief works, *Hilleary* 1296. 1300–1302. 1549. 1570–1572.

Further evidence as to the misapprehension created by the Circular of the Local Government Board respecting the duties of town councils and other local authorities with reference to distress, witness repeating that Parliament should clearly lay down what is to be done, but objecting to the town council, in the case of West Ham, as the body to provide work for the unemployed, *Hilleary* 1909-1917.

Conclusion as to the importance of some steps being taken to prevent the influx of men in search of casual employment, this class being very largely in excess as compared with the work to be had at the docks, &c., *Alden* 2317–2327.

9. *Papers submitted by Dr. Hilleary in Elucidation and Amplification of his Evidence on certain Points:*

Paper handed in by Dr. Hilleary containing sundry details in reply to questions by the Chairman, Mr. Burns, and other members of the Committee, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 491, 492.

Particulars of work done and wages paid from 1st January 1895 to 25th January 1895; result as regards profit or loss, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 493, 494.

Constitution of the Relief Fund Central Committee; also of the Charitable Relief Committee for the north and south districts respectively, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 495, 496.

List of resolutions unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Central Committee on 17th December 1894; *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 495.

Number of men who, after starting work, have left for other employment, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 496.

Conditions required in connection with charitable relief; number of cases relieved in each district, together with the cost, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 496.

10. *Full Inquiry by the Committee into the case of West Ham:*

Inquiry by the Committee into the case of West Ham, it having been suggested that this was a fair type of the parishes which suffered most, 1*st Rep.* iv.

See also *Canning Town. Farm and Labour Colonies. Relief Works*, 2. *Wanstead Flats.*

West Hartlepool. Explanation in February 1895 respecting the extent and character of the local distress, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 145.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Westbury (*Wilts*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 435.

Westhampnett Rural District (*Sussex*). Absence of exceptional distress from want of employment, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 460.

Westminster. Non-increase of relief and distress in Westminster, *Sir H. Owen* 141.

Westmorland. Information supplied in report by inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 54, 55.

Weston-super-Mare (*Somerset*). Absence of exceptional distress in March, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 442.

Weymouth. Letter from the town clerk, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App* (*2nd Rep.*) 80.

Wheatenhurst (*Gloucester*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 301.

Whickham (*Durham*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Absence of exceptional distress in Whickham urban district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 286.

Whitby (*York*). No exceptional distress at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 372.

WHITECHAPEL:

1. *Generally as to the Amount of Poor Relief and the Number of Paupers.*
2. *System of Out-door Relief and of Employment on Relief Works.*
3. *Question of Employment on the Land; Active Part taken by the Board of Guardians in this direction.*

1. *Generally as to the Amount of Poor Relief and the Number of Paupers:*

Statistics supplied from Whitechapel as to the increase of relief and the extent to which due to want of employment through the severity of the weather; reference especially to the number of able-bodied in the workhouse, *Sir H. Owen* 141.

Opinion that a certain comparison made by witness between Whitechapel and other districts in regard to the effect of out relief on pauperism still stands good, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the relief given by the Jewish board of guardians in Whitechapel, *Mackay* 5669–5674.

Statistics showing that the total average number of paupers relieved in Whitechapel in 1870 was 4,865, and in 1895, 1,868, the greatest pauperism having been reached early in February 1870, when the total was 6,758, *Vallance* 11535, 11536.

Letter from Mr. A. Turner, dated 5th March, to the effect that there has been no exceptional demand for labour at the works of the district board, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 385.

Return handed in by Sir Hugh Owen showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893-94 the number of in-door and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of inmaintenance and of out-door relief, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 524–533.

2. *System of Out-door Relief and of Employment on Relief Works:*

Explanation that previous to 1870 the administration of poor relief in Whitechapel was similar to that in other unions, but that the experience of the winter of 1869-70 led the guardians to reconsider their position, and to aim at reforming a system that was felt to be fostering pauperism, demoralising the poor, and wronging the ratepayers, *Vallance* 11537, 11538.

Absence of necessity of opening the labour-yard or of adopting exceptional measures of relief during the last twenty-five years, notwithstanding the virtual suspension of the order of 1852; absence of any complaint that the administration entailed suffering on the poor, the general opinion being that the guardians are bringing about a better state of things, *Vallance* 11538, 11539. 11550. 11592-11594.

Substitution by the guardians of useful and profitable employment for the paupers in the workhouse in lieu of oakum-picking, stone-breaking, &c., every one being employed to the extent of his ability, and, as far as possible, at his own trade; entire success of the attempt to exercise a salutary restraint upon the conduct and conversation of the paupers during the evening hours, *Vallance* 11540, 11541. 11557–11560.

Particulars of a modified workhouse test order obtained by the guardians from the Local Government Board in 1887, under which they were able to ensure the preservation of the home of the applicant for relief and at the same time have adequate security against a too ready dependence on the rates, *Vallance* 11541.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Whitechapel—continued.

2. *System of Out-door Relief and of Employment on Relief Works*—continued.

Statement that the relieving officers in Whitechapel are in constant communication with the Charity Organisation Society, with a view to saving from the Poor Law those who are under the necessity of seeking assistance ; endeavour of the guardians also to secure the co-operation of the district board of works with the same object, *Vallance* 11549. 11568–11575.

3. *Question of Employment on the Land; Active Part taken by the Board of Guardians in this direction:*

Consideration by the Whitechapel guardians, at intervals, of the practicability of either directly or indirectly employing the unemployed on the land, resulting in several conferences of the guardians of all the metropolitan unions; conclusion that any scheme of an agricultural training homes must necessarily be carried out by a body outside the Poor Law, *Vallance* 11542–11546.

Particulars relative to the experiment upon a small farm at Langley, where six men were sent from Whitechapel, *Vallance* 11546–11548. 11561-11567.

Report of the committee of guardians of the Whitechapel Union appointed on the 24th January 1888 to consider certain proposals of the Rev. S. A. Barrett for training able-bodied men in country pursuits by means of the Poor Law, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 548, 549.

Draft report submitted at a meeting of the agricultural training homes committee of the guardians held on the 13th June 1893, with reference to the question of agricultural training homes for the unemployed, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 552–554.

Report of committee of guardians adopted by the board at meeting on 3rd October 1893, respecting the proposed English land colonisation scheme, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 554, 555.

Report of the general purposes committee, submitted to the guardians, 9th April 1895 ; conclusions and suggestions therein on the subject of training farms and of employment on the land, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 555, 556.

See also *Langley Farm.*

Whitefield Urban District (*Lancaster*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 427.

Whitehaven (*Cumberland*). Special measures of relief not necessary in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 446. 452.

Whitworth Urban District (*Lancaster*). Information respecting the extent of the local distress, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 110, 111.

Wick (*Caithness*). Exceptional distress through the severity of the weather; also, through failure of the fish supply, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 661.

Widnes (*Lancaster*). Letter from the mayor, dated 25 February, to the effect that there is considerable local distress ; relief provided by means of employment, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 311.

Wigan. Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 437.

Willenhall (*Stafford*). Considerable distress through the severe weather ; relief through voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 378.

Willesden (*Middlesex*). Information respecting the extent of the distress, and the relief measures provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 111.

Willington Quay (*Northumberland*). Amount of distress in this district in February; remedial measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 353.

Willink, Henry George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is chairman of the Bradfield Board of Guardians (Berks), and of the Rural District Council, 8584, 8585.

Total of thirty parishes in Bradfield Union, the population, about 18,000, being chiefly engaged in agriculture, and scattered throughout the union in small villages, 8586–8593——Several resident landowners, some of them being large proprietors, 8594.

Information respecting the rate of wages, these varying from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week; advantage in labourers (as on Mr. Benyon's property) being provided with cottages at 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, 8595-8601. 8605, 8606——Wages of stonemasons and plasterers at the rate of about 36*s.* 8*d.* a week, bricklayers' labourers getting about 18*s.* 6*d.*; 8602–8604.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Willink, Henry George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Statistics as to the great decrease of both out-door and in-door relief in Bradfield Union and of the expenditure thereon since 1871, though the population has increased; explanation more especially as to the very limited extent to which, and the conditions under which, out-door relief is now given, 8607–8664——Particulars respecting the system of giving relief on loan, whether out-door or in-door, this being done with the cognisance of the Local Government Board, and there being legal power to recover the amount from the parties liable if they come into possession of funds, 8626–8664.

Information respecting the workhouse, infirmary, staff employed, employment on the land, treatment of children, &c., 8665–8673——Explanation as to the treatment of tramps and their employment in pounding stones; large diminution in their number since 1890; 8674–8691.

Absence of exceptional distress in the union during the past winter, whilst the landlords gave as much extra employment as possible, 8692–8699——Opinion that in country districts generally the workhouse test, or in-door relief, is sufficient in times of ordinary distress, 8701–8705.

Necessary resort to a labour test if the workhouse accommodation be insufficient, 8706, 8707——Grounds for objecting to relief works either in rural districts or in towns, 8708–8713. 8727——Approval also of the workhouse test in towns with a labour test and out-door relief under certain conditions, 8714–8726.

Very salutary repugnance of the lower classes to in-door relief, witness strongly objecting to any relaxation as regards out-door relief, 8715–8726——Conclusions as to the unfitness of the unemployed in towns for labour on farm colonies, 8728–8734.

[Second Examination.]—Visit paid by witness to the Dutch labour colonies in 1883 and to the Belgian colonies in 1890, the results of his inquiries having been published in separate Reports which were subsequently submitted to, and generally confirmed by, the local authorities in Holland and Belgium, 8735–8740.

Information respecting the origination of the Dutch free colonies, which were founded in 1818, the area under cultivation since 1821 consisting of about 4,000 acres; three different classes received, there being about 1,800 persons altogether, 8741–8749——Explanation of the financial arrangements in the free colonies; reference especially to the practice as to the reception of families on payment by each district of 140*l.* per family, 8742–8749.

Foundation of the first beggar colony in Holland in 1820, these colonies comprising in 1888 about 3,500 persons; several classes received, one class being able-bodied persons convicted of begging, there being also a class of old soldiers and of orphans, 8750–8754——Financial difficulties of the two sets of colonies for many years past, owing largely to the inefficient labour on the beggar colonies and the heavy cost, 8750. 8755, 8756. 8851–8859.

Extracts from report by Count Arrivabene, who inspected the Dutch colonies in 1829, and from report by Sir John MacNeill, who visited them about thirty years later; unsatisfactory conclusions arrived at as to the working of the colonies and the bad financial results, 8755–8760.

Original intention to make both the free and the beggar colonies agricultural, whereas the labour coming mainly from towns was found to be unsuitable, so that manufactures, schools, and model farms were established, entailing great expense, 8759–8761. 8820. 8830–8843.

Summary of the leading changes and improvements which have been made as regards the Dutch free colonies since 1859; conclusion as to the very limited extent to which the system deals with the question of poverty in Holland, though the administration is now very efficient, 8760–8772. 8844–8862. 8867–8870.

Limited opportunities of witness for observing the working of the beggar colonies; several respects in which they have not been a success, whilst they have been very costly and are now a considerable burden upon the State, 8773–8780. 8784, 8785. 8792. 8856–8861. 8874–8881.

Opinion that neither the system of the free colonies or of the beggar colonies is applicable to this country; similar view of the director of the free colonies, 8779. 8817–8820. 8844–8866——Belief that as regards competition with outside producers the free colonies are not looked upon as any grievance; competition of the beggar colonies as regards manufactured articles, 8781–8783.

Several causes which have led to the greater success of the free colonies than of the beggar colonies, though even in the former case the colonists seem unable to save anything, 8786–8791. 8856——Compulsory constitution of the beggar colonies, beggars being now rarely seen about the streets, 8793, 8794. 8905–8907.

Visit of witness to the Belgian labour colonies in 1880, his report having been based upon a short inspection, and upon information supplied by the director, 8796, 8797——Total of three of these colonies, which are in the nature of penal institutions for able-bodied vagabonds above the age of fourteen, and for some other

Willink, Henry George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

vagrants or mendicants, the several communes paying so much per head per day, as fixed yearly by Government, 8798–8811.

Admission of some inmates to the Belgian colonies who come voluntarily, whilst the same vagrants are sent there again and again, 8806. 8812. 8816——Extremely good discipline enforced, the inmates working much better than in the Dutch beggar colonies, 8814–8816.

Contention that State labour farms in this country are not expedient, and would probably be failures, private enterprise in this direction being more likely to succeed, 8820–8823. 8865, 8866.

Statement to the effect that the free and beggar colonies in Holland would hardly have been started if a Poor Law or workhouse system were in force there as in this country, 8824–8829——Examination as to the poor land used for the Dutch colonies, and the small yield in comparison with the superior land and the larger yield in England, 8830–8883.

Admission that in some respects the Dutch free colonies, as philanthropic institutions, have worked usefully, though neither this system nor that of the beggar colonies would answer in this country, 8844–8882——Belief that the beggar colonies are conducted on total abstinence principles, 8883–8887.

Further information respecting the system of out-door relief in Bradfield Union, the class of persons relieved, and the varying amount given under different conditions, 8888–8895——Constitution of the Board adverted to in connection with the policy pursued as regards out-door relief; large majority in favour of the present practice, 8896–8899.

Examination with further reference to the operation of beggar colonies in Holland, and the extent to which they dispose of the whole class of tramps and beggars in the country, in the absence of a Poor Law system, 8900–8934——Discussion upon the question whether penal colonies in this country for tramps and vagrants would not be an improvement upon the present system; difficulty in ascertaining whether this class are idle from choice, and will not work, 8901–8912. 8935–8947.

Statement as to the amount of accommodation in the Dutch penal colonies, the number of beggars and vagrants sent to them, and the duration of their stay, 8915–8928——System of relief in Holland through the clergy, the funds coming from charitable and voluntary sources, 8929–8934.

Several difficulties and expenses in working the colonies in Holland and Belgium, which would militate against their success in this country, 8948–8962.

Further explanation that in Bradfield Union relief is granted by way of loan, the loans, however, being for the most part unrecovered, 8963–8971——Question considered whether the Bradfield guardians are acting in accordance with certain instructions issued by the central board to the effect that when relief is lent the loans should in due time be duly recovered, 8967–8973.

Wiltshire. Information supplied in report by Inspectors as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 26–28.

Wimbledon. Exceptional distress in the urban district in February, due to the severity of the weather; measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 287, 288.

Winchester. Explanations, in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the local distress in the urban district, and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 145——Absence of exceptional distress in the rural district in February, *ib.* 322.

Windsor. Limited amount of distress in this urban district at the end of February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 380——Absence of exceptional distress in March in New Windsor rural district, *ib.* 458——Relief during the distress by voluntary agencies, *ib.*

Winslow (*Bucks*). No exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 302.

Wirksworth (*Derby*). Absence of exceptional distress in this district, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 111.

Wirral (*Chester*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 435.

Wisbech. Letter from the mayor of Wisbech, dated 20th February 1895, as to the extent and character of the local distress, the relief provided, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 80.

Wishaw (*Lanark*). Letter from the town clerk respecting the amount of distress and the relief measures adopted, *App.* (*3rd Rep.*) 611.

Withington (*Lancaster*). Amount of distress in this district; character of the employment provided, and of the relief given, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 180, 181.

Reports, 1895—*continued.*

Wolstanton (*Stafford*). Absence of exceptional distress in this rural district in February, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 302.

Wolverhampton (*County Borough*). Particulars supplied by the mayor, in letter dated 20th February 1895, respecting the amount of local distress from want of employment, the relief afforded by public authorities and voluntary agencies, respectively, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 63, 64.

Women and Children. Information to be supplied by witness as to the relative employment of female labour and male labour, and as to the displacement of women by boys and girls, *Smith* 4842–4846. 4935–4942.

Advisability not only of improving the status and pay of the working man as much as possible, but of bringing the children up to some skilled work, and of not allowing them to shirk their schools as they now do, *Martineau* 6849-6851. 6894–6919. 6933–6940.

Memorandum prepared by Miss Collet, one of the labour correspondents of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, respecting the employment of women and children in occupations in which they compete with men and boys, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 505–507.

Table showing, for the whole of England and Wales, the number of males and females per 10,000 of each sex, respectively, above ten years of age, engaged in certain occupations, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 506.

Number of males and females occupied in 1891, per 10,000 of each sex, respectively, at each age period, with the decrease or increase on the previous census, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 507.

Table showing, for the whole of England and Wales, the number of females and males per 100,000 of each sex, respectively, above ten years of age, engaged in certain occupations, according to the census of 1891, with the increase upon the previous census, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 507.

Woodbridge (*Suffolk*). Statement showing the action taken, or proposed to be taken, as regards the provision of work or of relief for the unemployed, *Sir H. Owen* 181.

Woodford Urban District (*Essex*). Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in this district, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 428.

Woolwich. Normal amount of relief and of distress in Woolwich Union, *Sir H. Owen* 141——Return showing for each of the years 1884–85 to 1893–94 the number of indoor and out-door paupers, respectively, and the cost of in-maintenance and out-door relief, *App.* (3*rd Rep.*) 524–533.

Worcester. Letter from the mayor, in February, explanatory of the extent and character of relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 344.

Worcestershire. Information supplied in report by Inspector as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 26, 27.

Workhouses. Necessity of a more efficient inspection of workhouses if the temporarily unemployed are to be treated by indoor relief, *Dodd* 7593, 7594——Opinion that in country districts generally the workhouse test (or indoor relief) is sufficient in times of ordinary distress, *Willink* 8701–8705.

Experience to the effect that the inmates of workhouses should be classified, and each class provided with a different home, *Hunt* 10179. 10270–10274——Disapproval of the system of keeping men in the workhouse who are able and willing to work, *ib.* 10179. 10275.

See also *Boards of Guardians.* *Labour Test.* *Out-door Relief.* *Pauperism.* *Poor Law System.*

Workington (*Cumberland*). Extent and character of the distress in the municipal borough in February 1895; relief measures adopted, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 266.

Workshops. Absence of any proposal for opening a workshop as a means of employment in times of distress, *Sir H. Owen* 286, 287.

See also *Farm and Labour Colonies.* *Relief Works.*

Worksop (*Notts*). Very little local distress from want of employment; relief works provided by the district council, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 450.

Worthing. Amount and cause of the distress in this district; steps taken for its relief by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 468, 469.

Wrexham (*Denbigh*). Explanations, in February 1895, respecting the extent and character of the distress in the urban district and the employment and relief provided, *App.* (2*nd Rep.*) 145——Absence of necessity for any special measures of relief in the rural district, *ib.* 435. 455.

Wycombe (*Bucks*). Sufficiency of voluntary agencies during the severe weather, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 466.

Y.

Yardley (*Worcester*). Exceptional distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities for its relief, as well as by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 384.

Yarmouth. Slight increase at Great Yarmouth in the number of applications for relief; work proposed for the able-bodied cases, *Sir H. Owen* 24.

Information respecting the extent of the distress in the county borough, and the remedial measures adopted in the form of employment and relief, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 127.

Yeovil. Letter from the mayor, in February, explanatory of the extent and character of the distress in Yeovil, and showing the measures of relief provided, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 330——Amount of distress in the rural district in February; relief measures provided, *ib.* 358.

York County Borough. Amount of distress in this district; steps taken by the local authorities and by voluntary agencies, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 375.

Yorkshire. Information supplied in reports by inspectors as to the amount of local distress, the remedial measures adopted, &c., *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 21, 22. 33-52.

Statistics of out-door pauperism in various unions in the East and West Ridings in the first week of February 1895, and the corresponding week of 1894, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 34, 35.

Comparative statement of vagrancy in the several unions in 1894 and 1895, *App.* (*2nd Rep.*) 36.

Ystradyfodwg Urban District (*Glamorgan*). Limited extent of distress in this district in February; relief provided by voluntary agency, *App* (*2nd Rep.*) 239.

BIBL. LOADIN.

K 2 6 JUN 1969